

## Evaluating hydration

To evaluate hydration using skin tenting, pinch a fold of skin (best done on the neck) and count the seconds it takes to flatten.

Fluid loss			
>5%	5%-10%	10%-12%	12%-15%
Diarrhoea only. Clinically undetectable. Flattening of skin in less than 2 seconds indicates normal hydration	Eyes slightly sunken, skin losing elasticity but calf still sucking.  If skin takes 2 to 6 seconds to flatten, the calf is about 8% dehydrated.	Eyes sunken, skin slow to flatten if pinched, gums sticky, calf depressed.  Over 6 seconds indicates severe dehydration above 10%.	Eyes very sunken, skin tents, (won't flatten if pinched) calf cannot stand.

## Calculating the Amount to Feed

- 1 Multiply the weight of the calf by % of dehydration to calculate electrolyte plus 10% of body weight to determine additional fluid intake as milk or milk replacer.

Example:

40kg x 7% = 2.8 litres of electrolytes.

40kg x 10% = 4 litres of additional fluid.

Total intake = 6.8 litres/day

Calf weight	Dehydration %	Electrolytes Litres	Milk/CMR litres	Total litres
40	7	2.8	4	6.8
40	11	4.4	4	8.4
40	13	5.2	4	9.2

- 2 Feed the required volume for rehydration and maintenance at no more than 2 litres per feed every 24hrs until the calf returns to normal. If scouring persists consult your vet.