

After a hard pull or birth, some calves need help to get going. Our veterinarians recently had a meeting to go over their preferences for resuscitating calves that I thought I would pass along.

They all agreed that they do not recommend producers swing calves in a circle or hang them upside down for a prolonged length of time. Dr. Katie likes to say, "Remember when you were little and your parents would hang you upside down? Remember how hard it was to breathe and the awful feeling of all your blood rushing to your head? It is the same for calves!" Hanging them might make us feel like we are really accomplishing something, because of the amount of fluid that comes out their mouths, but the majority of that is coming from their stomach, not their lungs.

What the Crazy Mountain veterinarians do recommend is the following:

Position the calf on its sternum, so that it can use both sides of its lungs and the entire diaphragm to move air. Cup your hands and firmly pat both sides of the rib cage, over the lungs to help dislodge fluid. The age old trick of using straw to tickle the nostrils is a great way to stimulate sneezing!

If you want to blow in the calf nose, extending the neck upwards will help the air travel to the lungs easier.

Calves with a swollen tongue should get a dose of dexamethasone 3-5 ml IM

Epinephrine can be given at a dose of 1 ml/100 #'s IM or under the tongue