

TREATING HYPOTHERMIA IN LAMBS

Lambs can lose body heat very quickly & unless they are well fed they can become hypothermic. Hypothermic lambs are lethargic, tucked up, tend not to follow the ewe readily & may show signs of distress. These lambs can quickly deteriorate & die. Early, mild hypothermia is difficult to detect without taking the lamb's temperature & will quickly develop into severe hypothermia if not treated.

Any lamb showing signs of lethargy or distress should have its temperature taken.

TEMP	CLINICAL SITUATION
Above 40°C	INFECTION LIKELY – DISCUSS SUITABLE RESPONSE WITH YOUR VET
39 - 40°C	NORMAL
37 - 39°C	MILD HYPOTHERMIA
Below 37°C	SEVERE HYPOTHERMIA

The action you must take to help a hypothermic lamb then depends on its **TEMPERATURE** and **AGE**. The flow diagram (on reverse) takes you through the steps required. Followed correctly, your chances of successfully saving the lamb are high.

FEEDING COLOSTRUM USING A STOMACH TUBE:

Do not use a stomach tube on very weak or unconscious lambs (high risk of the tube entering the wind-pipe).

1. Thaw frozen colostrum gradually (**NOT in a microwave**) & warm to body temp (**SLOWLY**).
2. Sit down and hold the lamb making sure your tube and colostrum are to hand.
3. Slide tube into the side of the mouth (**DO NOT FORCE**), soften plastic tube in warm water.
4. Slide tube down until 50–75mm (2–3") remain, or until resistance is felt.
5. If the lamb shows signs of distress remove and try again.
6. When the tube is in place, attach syringe and **SLOWLY** administer colostrum over 25 seconds.
7. Leave the tube in place until all colostrum is given. **Lambs must be fed 4-5 times in first 24hrs.**
8. Remove tube and syringe.
9. Wash & clean tube and syringes.

AMOUNT OF COLOSTRUM:

LAMB SIZE/WEIGHT	PER FEED	PER 24 HRS
SINGLE 5.5kg (large)	250ml	1000ml
TWIN 4.0kg (medium)	200ml	800ml
TRIPLLET 2.5kg (small)	150ml	600ml

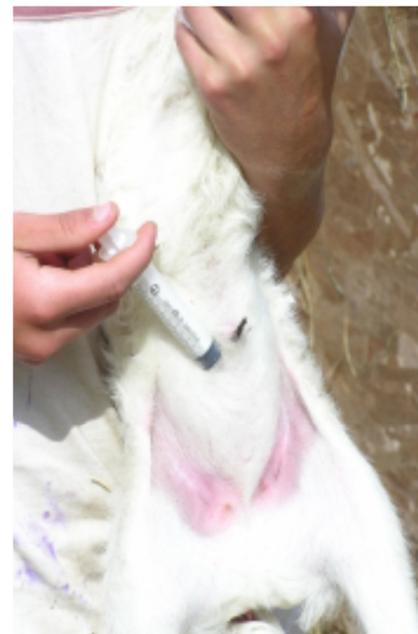
*Increase by 20–30% if outdoors in cold, wet, windy conditions.

GIVING A GLUCOSE INJECTION:

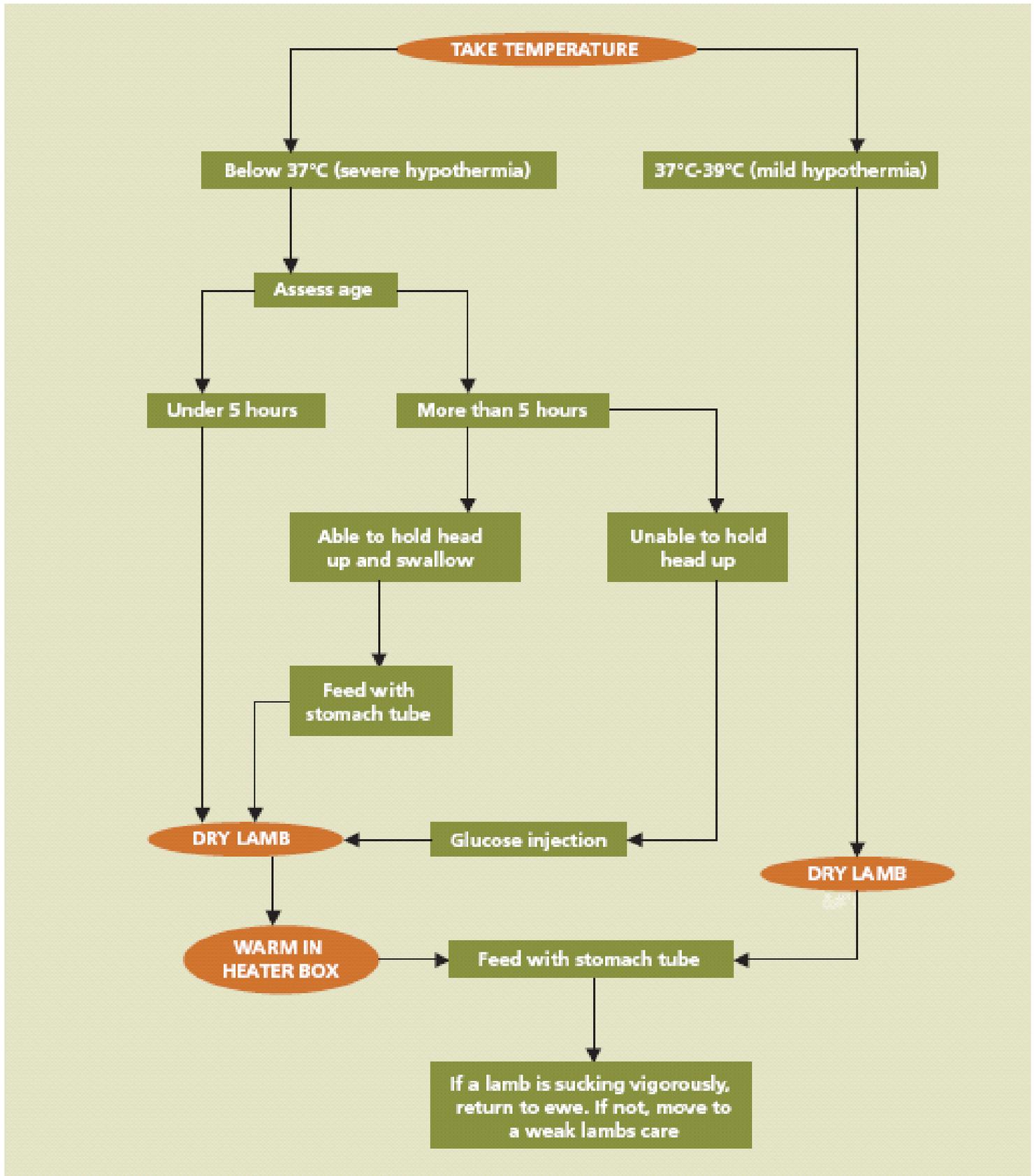
Glucose solution: 10ml of a 20% glucose solution/kg body weight.

Dilute 40% glucose with an equal volume of recently boiled cooled water and ensure the final solution is at body temp. **Good hygiene is essential.**

1. Dry the lamb & hold by front legs.
2. Identify **injection site 2.5cm to the side and 2.5cm below the navel** & swab injection site with antiseptic/iodine.
3. Insert **new, sterile, 19G 1inch needle** aiming it towards the tail head (approximately 45° angle).
4. Slowly inject **20% glucose solution** (10ml/kg bodyweight)
5. Put lamb in warmer box until temperature reaches 38°C.



HYPOTHERMIA DECISION TREE:



For more information on treating sick lambs or individual cases please ring us on 01539 722692/015242 71221 and speak to a member of the farm team for further advise.