

Paddock Card - Neonatals



PREMATURE CRIA CARE

Premature cria should be treated like sick babies. They are not mature internally or externally, so can not be expected to run, digest milk as other cria do, nor will they grow quickly. Our intervention is only to sustain life until the cria starts acting as a normal, healthy cria. If possible NEVER SEPARATE cria from the dam, even when you are responsible for feeding the cria. Cria should be encouraged to nurse from the dam and this can only be achieved by not overfeeding. Do not feed them during the night, 7am till 11pm is sufficient, unless they need more intensive care. Bottle feeding will *not* or seldom affect the willingness of the cria to feed from the dam and is better for cria that can suck than tube feeding. Cria that are born on time can still have problems (difficult or prolonged birth), or be dysmature. If this is the case they should be treated like premature cria. **ALSO CHECK PADDOCK CARD "BIRTH/UNPAKING"**

BORN	SIGNS Any OR All of these:	COMPLICATIONS	SOLUTIONS
6 weeks Prem P6	Weak, unable to stand, down on pasterns Raspy/wet breathing Body temp. <37 No teeth. Tremor in legs. Low birth weight Extremely sleepy Floppy ears Crouching Shallow breathing Sunken eyes, appears not to see consciously Very short fleece Birth membrane attached to orifices (nose, mouth, anus etc)	Lungs not developed, or not drained properly, infection Low body temperature <37 (normal 37-39C) NOT shivering when born Not sitting No sucking reflex Can't hold up head Retained meconium, Constipation Large umbilical defect, risk of infection, beware of herniation. Overfeeding with bottle or tube No urine output or defaecation Not willing to drink if it can suck: overfeeding/indigestion High mortality risk Don't expect too much if sucking reflex has not occurred at 2 days old Infected umbilical cord -> high dose antibiotics (vet), Bleeding from umbilical cord (clamp for bleeding) Monitor Temp daily; over 39 can indicate infection, contact vet for blood samples	Hold cria upside down to drain lungs. Keep warm. Rub body gently Stomach tube feeding Colostrum Or Plasma infusion when unable to suck, still feed colostrum! Bottle feeding Glucose Electrolytes Vit B complex injection Monitor urine output (weigh dry and wet nappy) If still not sucking at day 3, there may be no way to help this cria survive Add liquid paraffin for constipation or give as enema. Give only glucose water if diarrhoea. Spray umbilical cord with iodine directly after birth to prevent infection. Keep cria on clean hay and/or wrap the cord in tissue and secure around belly with wide bandage until dry
5 weeks Prem P5	As 6 weeks prem	As above. Chances get better of surviving if now 1 week old, beware of overfeeding Constipation alternated with diarrhoea when trying to swap to other milk replacement	Expect slow weight gain only
4 weeks Prem P4	As 5 weeks prem	As above. Good chance of survival if now 2 weeks old, but still at high risk	Vit B Complex
3 weeks Prem P3	As 4 weeks prem	Good chance of survival Keep warm, monitor nursing Check for full, round soft belly. If 3 weeks old now, cria is out of immediate danger.	Vit B complex to help muscles
2 weeks Prem P2	Floppy ears, can't straighten legs, shaky	No different from being born on time, unless having severe signs of dysmaturity, see above	
1 week Prem P1	As 2 Weeks Prem	No different from being born on time, unless having severe signs of dysmaturity, see above	
DUE DATE	Some cria look premature when born on time. They should be treated as premature according to the signs, go back to P1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 for instructions, depending on severity of signs		

Colostrum should be provided within the first 6 hours of being born, but the sooner the better. A cria will drink when only 30 minutes old. Always administer colostrum first before any other sort of milk or milk substitute. Giving ordinary milk first prevents the uptake of the vital components of colostrum later. Plasma will not affect colostrum take-up.

! Never warm up or defrost Colostrum in a Microwave Oven!

BOTTLE FEEDING – Is required if the cria is not able to hold up the head to suck, or the dam has no milk, (tube feeding the first 48 hours if the neonatal can't suck). Cria that receive plasma still require Colostrum!

What & How much? In *all* newborns, always start at half (4%) of that required by body weight.

Normally feed 8% of bodyweight per day.

In **Premature Cria**, only use colostrum, about 4% of its body weight for at least one week, with a slight increase in volume when adding yoghurt and milk replacement. In very premature cria (P6-4) use only colostrum for at least 2 weeks, then introduce yoghurt followed by milk replacement. When the cria appears to be doing well put it back with dam to feed, or start the HEALTHY CRIA schedule below, schedule 2, starting at day Four, using the weight it is at the time.

PREMATURE CRIA FEEDING SCHEDULE 1

DAY	FREQUENCY OF FEEDING	Each feeding contains	Number of feeds and volume for a 5kg cria
one	6 – 8 times	Colostrum with ½ tsp glucose, tip of a knife of kitchen salt	6 x 35ml or 8 x 25ml
two	6 – 8 times	As above	6 x 35ml or 8 x 25ml
three	6	As above	6 x 35ml
four	6	As above	6 x 35ml
five	6	Add one tablespoon of wholemilk aphidophilus yoghurt to each feed	6 x 40ml
six	6	As above	6 x 40ml
seven	6	As above	6 x 40ml
eight	6	Add to colostrum: 20ml yoghurt and 30ml of milk replacement	6 x 45ml
seven	6	As above	As above, check for signs of diarrhoea or constipation

In **healthy, on-time, cria**, feed 8% of its body weight after day 2. The first two days in life the cria has to adjust to digesting milk and the dam has to start lactation. There is need to give only colostrum to help stomach lining and build the immune system, without emphasis on weight gain. By Day Three start adding a little yoghurt (20ml) to introduce other healthy bacteria to the stomach, in preparation for lambs milk replacement on Day Four.

It is VERY TEMPTING to feed a cria more, because it is asking more. Especially in Premis. DO NOT be tempted, you will make it sick. Check fullness of the belly, roundness of the back (bodyscore 5) and liveliness of the cria. These are all good indicators of a thriving cria. Weighing should be carried out as well, but initially the former is more important than weight. Adjust milk replacement to weight gain. Usually no more than 2 litres of milk replacement is necessary as the total volume ever given. Cria should be starting to eat solids at week 2 and more so as it gets older, requiring less milk. If bottle raised, slowly work down to four bottles per day and eventually at 3 months old, two 500ml bottles should cover its milk requirement.

NEVER water down milk, use the highest solution on the package, e.g. 250g to make one litre milk (depending on brand).

HEALTHY CRIA SCHEDULE FOR BOTTLE FEEDING – or totally recovered prem cria being treated as newborn if the dam is not feeding it. This is a guideline only, the number of feedings can be easily adjusted.

The very first bottle for a healthy neonatal can be 200ml. This keeps them full for their first 4 hours in life. Then follow this schedule, taking this initial feeding volume into account!

HEALTHY CRIA FEEDING SCHEDULE 2

Birth weight	Colostrum Daily total First day	Day 1 Colostrum ½ tsp glucose Knife-tip salt	Day 2 Colostrum ½ tsp glucose Knife-tip salt	Day 3 Colostrum ½ tsp glucose Knife-tip salt Add 20ml yoghurt	Day 4 50%Colostrum Add 20ml yoghurt Fill up with milk replacement	Approx. Daily Total by Day 4-5	Day 5 etc Milk replacement only
5kg	200ml	7x30ml	7x30ml	7x50ml	7x60ml	400ml	6 x 65ml
6kg	240ml	7x35ml	7x40ml	7x60ml	7x70ml	480ml	6 x 80ml
7kg	280ml	7x40ml	7x50ml	7x70ml	7x80ml	560ml	6 x 95ml
8kg	320ml	7x45ml	7x60ml	7x80ml	7x90-95ml	640ml	6 x 105ml
9kg	360ml	7x50ml	7x65ml	7x85ml	7x100-110ml	720ml	6 x 120ml
10kg	400ml	7x60ml	7x80ml	7x90ml	7x110-115ml	800ml	6 x 135ml

If the cria is straining over the dung pile, add 10ml water to milk for each bottle or 2ml of liquid paraffin.

Make fresh batches of colostrum for each feeding with warm water. Do not microwave. Milk replacement can be made for a whole day and warmed up standing the bottle in hot water. Use only glucose, no honey, in neonatals because of the bacterial content of the honey.