

# Attica Veterinary Associates

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Newsletter – January 2024

**Friendly reminder – please DO NOT call the text line – 585-356-3420. Also if you have a sick animal, emergency or want a vet to come out - please call the clinic, not a particular veterinarian’s cell phone. They may be busy for a few hours and not get your message, all the while we may have a vet that is driving by your place.**

## 2023 Year Summaries

A 2023 year end summary of services provided (labeled “Treatments”) and items purchased are included with your January 2024 statement. These summaries can be added to find the total veterinary cost billed for the year. If you did not receive one of these and would like one please e-mail Kathy - [ratticav@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ratticav@rochester.rr.com). *Please note this is NOT a separate bill to pay!*

## Refrigerator or Storage Cabinet?

### Summary:

1. **Monitor Internal Temperature**
2. **Avoid shock loading or pre-chill warm liquids to reduce impact.**
3. **Consider a separate refrigerator just for high value products.**

### **Monitor temperature: Not too warm and not too cold.**

The value of products stored in the refrigerator will likely drive the level of sophistication required for temperature monitoring. Add up the value of medications and vaccines stores in your fridge – does the total come anywhere close to \$500? Recall that in addition to vaccines, some medications require refrigerated storage (35-45°F, 2-7°C) as well. Many of these products can be damaged or inactivated by temperatures that fluctuate over 45°F or below freezing (32°F).

**Monitoring is inexpensive.** Refrigerator thermometers were priced as low as \$2 and there were many choices available for under \$10. Ideally, the thermometer should be easy to read when opening the door to add or remove contents from the fridge.

### **Avoid “shock loading”.**

“Shock loading” means adding a large enough heat source to raise the refrigerator’s internal temperature above 45°F and keeping the temperature there for an extended period of time. An example would be adding three or more gallons of warm colostrum.

Colostrum cooling research has shown that as little as three gallons of warm colostrum in two quart nursing bottles would bring internal refrigerator temperatures to over 50°F. One load of ten bottles of 90°F colostrum sustained a temperature above 45F (the upper level for storing vaccines) for 250 minutes. Not only will the vaccines be above the appropriate handling temperatures, the colostrum won't cool appropriately either.

### **Pre-chill warm liquids**

Pre-chilling means to cool colostrum to 60°F from body temperature, at which its collected, to shorten the time that the internal temperature of the fridge will be elevated above 45F.

### **Store high value products in their own refrigerator**

If temperature sensitive animal health products are stored on-farm, it may make sense to purchase a separate compact unit for them. This is especially true when the value of the products exceeds the price of the refrigerator. A typical dormitory-sized fridge costs between \$100-\$300.

### **Cold Weather Adaptations**

Winter finally showed up - complete with cold, wind, and snow. Animals, especially young calves and animals fed lean diets, are using more energy to maintain their normal body temperature. Energy contributes to maintenance or weight gain and immune system function. Shivering may be an indication that an animal is too cold and is a waste of precious energy. The following are some cold weather strategies to help maintain or gain weight in the face of extreme weather:

#### Feeding Strategies:

- Increase frequency – add a third feeding for calves
- Increase calories – feed calorie dense feeds such as extra grain or corn

#### Housing Strategies:

- Decrease drafts
- Bedding must be dry – wet bedding may actually wick heat from calves
- Provide deep bedding for nesting
- Remove snow accumulation from hutches

#### Supplemental Heat Strategies:

- Blankets help insulate calves. Blankets must be clean and dry and applied only to dry calves.
- Newborns lose heat the fastest due to their surface area to volume ratio. Heat lamps or warming rooms for newborn calves may reduce heat loss. Please be careful with heat sources and be sure they are not dusty and have adequate air flow to avoid fires.

Very important - always check waterers to ensure they are still flowing.

We now have Calf's Choice Hi-Cal Bronze available in a 37# bulk pail – call for pricing!

