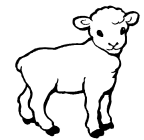




# LAMBS

Preparing Your Lamb for Calf Club Day.



**Lambs must be born between 1 June and 31 August 2011**

A great website on caring for your animals and some helpful tips is: [www.lifestyle.co.nz](http://www.lifestyle.co.nz)

Lambs are not too difficult to obtain if you are keen on rearing one for Calf Club day. Some sheep farmers have a few motherless lambs each season. Some of these will be given to foster ewes to feed, while others will need to be hand reared.

**The stronger the lamb, the more suitable it is likely to be for the Calf Club day ahead.**

## **FEEDING:**

\* Check with the breeder what to get to feed the lamb before you collect it and make sure you stick to the same brand of milk substitute powder to feed it with. Anlamb does very well and is easily obtained. Be sure to follow the formula instructions as it is important to get the right balance of powder to water. Mum and Dad can be of help to you here for a start.

*It is best not to feed cow's milk or calf powder substitute milk but only because it has a lower fat content. It will not kill your lamb if you do feed it calf's milk – you may be able to use this when the lamb is older.*

\* For the first 24 hours, feed colostrum milk from its mother if possible. Young lambs need small feeds, little and often. It is important not to over feed at this stage. **(50 – 80 mls per feed and then build up).**

**How much to feed** - the lamb may not be used to a bottle and teat, so remember to be patient for a few days.

**Approximate quantities: (depending on the size of your lamb) – if lamb has been well fed before you get it,**

1 – 2 days	80 - 150 mls 6 times per day	<b>it may not drink from the bottle till it is really</b>
3 – 7 days	up to 100 – 150 ml 6 times per day	<b>thirsty – up to 24 hours – <u>no longer</u></b>
1 – 3 weeks	150 – 200 ml 5 times per day	
4 – 6 weeks	300 – 350mls 4 times per day	
6 + weeks	350 – 450 mls 3 times per day	

**TIP: Your lamb likes to be fed little & often**

Lambs must be able to nibble grass at about 10 days old – three weeks on they need lots of grass each day.

If your animal is unable to have mothers milk for the first 24 hours use the following colostrum replacement recipe (*or try and milk a new lambed ewe*). This is to be fed to the animal for the first 48 hours and then transferred to Anlamb.

800 mls of milk (blue top)	1 beaten egg
1 tsp cod liver oil	1 dsp sugar

Heat 150mls at a time and keep the rest refrigerated – or phone Karen Barr (ph: 2321455), she may have some)

- \* When you are at school perhaps a parent would feed it for you. The milk should be body temperature, so it feels warm on your skin when you test it.
- \* *Please remember these are only approximate amounts.*
- \* 10 Kgs body weight is the recommended weaning weight or about 3 - 4 months age, although this varies with sex, age and breed. Wean your lamb slowly over 4 to 6 weeks. Start by reducing one feed at a time.
- \* You will notice that at about 2 weeks of age your lamb will start to nibble at things. Offer small pieces of hay and your lamb must have fresh grass available at all times. This helps encourage and develop the digestive system. If the lamb is outside it will nibble at grass and trees. Always make sure it has fresh water available. Some trees are poisonous to lambs and can kill them or make them very ill. Plants like camellia, cestrum, oleander, rhododendron, rhubarb, potato leaves or ***lawn mowing are all poisonous to lambs – fresh hand picked grass is OK.***
- \* Pellets and meal can be purchased from a farm supplies store. (*You may like to share with someone else as 1 bag is too much for 1 lamb*). They are a useful addition to the lamb's diet.

**Lambs must not be coloured with food colouring of any kind.**

## **Other Points to Remember**

Keep your lambs sleeping area clean and dry. Make sure it is situated in a warm place especially at night. One of the major causes of death with hand reared lambs is pneumonia caused by sudden changes in temperature. If your pet does begin to suffer from exposure, get it warm quickly. A good way to do this is to towel dry the lamb immediately then get a cardboard box with a hot water bottle in it (wrapped in a towel) and then place the lamb on top. Place the lamb in front of a heater or fire to dry off (but not too close). This helps to off set the loss of body heat caused by evaporation from the wet coat. You may also like to cut the side of the box out so the heat gets to the lamb easier. Feed the lamb a warm feed if this is due. If you put your finger in the lambs mouth and it does not feel warm your lamb is not warm enough.

- ♥ Wash feeding utensils after every feed. That is the jug, bottle, teat etc.
- ♥ Provide shade in hot sunny weather
- ♥ Never force your lamb to drink too much.
- ♥ Do not wash your lamb. This can cause loss of body heat.
- ♥ Docking can be done by the farmer and is best during the first month. Discuss this with the farmer when you get your lamb. The simplest way is to use a very small rubber ring (elastator.) Karen Barr is also willing to do this up until the lamb is 3 weeks old (see over for her details)
- ♥ It is advisable to vaccinate against pulpy kidney, a disease which always seems to affect the fattest and strongest lambs – also see Karen (small cost involved).
- ♥ IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO TEACH YOU LAMB TO LEAD BEFORE YOU TIE IT UP.

## SCOURING

- \* Another cause of death in hand reared lambs is scours. They become dehydrated and die.
- \* It is important to stop feeding milk for 24 hours and give instead 40 mls of boiled water (you can add a pinch of glucose for energy to this) cooled to body temperature every two or three hours. After the 24 hour starvation period, feed milk every two to three hours for a day. As the lamb starts to respond increase both the level and times of feeding back to normal. ½ the total amount for 1 day that you were feeding into twice as many feeds i.e. if normal feed was 4 @ 200ml feeds, this becomes 8 @ 50ml feeds, next day 6 @ 100ml and then the 3<sup>rd</sup> day back to normal.
- \* The recipe to feed your lamb is a mixture of 50% milk mix to 50% water – small amounts often, can be fed for a couple of days.

## PREPARATION AND CARING

1. Spend as much time as possible with your lamb, make it your pet.
2. Do not brush or comb your lamb as they bruise very easily.
3. Do not bath or wash your lamb. If they are very dirty they can be rinsed with cool water.
4. Keep your lamb's hooves and legs clean. If necessary snip off any dags.
5. Keep lamb under cover when the weather is wet so that it doesn't get too dirty and can keep warm.
6. Practice leading and calling your lamb as often as possible.



Also a good way to keep lambs clean and warm is to put them in an old tee shirt.

## JUDGING

- \* The judge will be looking for obvious effort made by you to care for your lamb and to keep it healthy and clean.
- \* You will be asked to CALL your lamb across the ring. The lamb is then expected to FOLLOW you back to the other side.
- \* You will have to lead your lamb through a weaving section to a peg, stop for the count of 3 or 4, and lead on again stepping over a log of wood. Try not to pull your lamb.
- \* Note: *Children are not to hold items of food in their hands when calling the lamb.*

## LEADING

- \* Use a collar to lead your animal, not a halter.
- \* Leading should start at an early age (approximately 3 – 4 weeks), but only when your animal has confidence in you. Use a collar with a lead clipped to it. Do not drag your animal. Your lamb must walk on your right side, in line with your leg.
- \* Walk at your animal's pace, but not too fast. Do NOT touch, slap or push your animal while leading.
- \* When your lamb or goat will walk beside you at a good pace in a straight line, it is time to try leading it around obstacles and over posts or timber. Be patient, your animal will learn quickly.

You could be penalised for the following actions:

▪ Releasing the grip with the right hand	▪ Touching the animal during leading
▪ Jerking the lead	▪ Pushing the animal with the child's leg.
▪ Slapping or hitting the lamb in anyway	



## THE MOST OBVIOUS PET SECTION

This section shows just how well your lamb responds to you and goes way back to when your pet was only a few days old, when you started looking after it.

## CALLING AND FOLLOWING

- \* You begin by feeding it, and as it becomes used to this it will respond to your call.
- \* You might have to begin by standing with a bottle of milk behind your back (about 3 metres away) and call it by name. As it responds you reward it with a gentle pat and feed it. Do not use biscuits as a reward. Lambs should not eat biscuits as they are bad for their teeth.
- \* Your relationship, based on trust and firm but gentle handling, will grow day by day as you get to know each other extremely well.
- \* As it grows you will have to supply it with fresh water and pasture each day. On Calf Club day your lamb will be ready to repay you for your good efforts.
- \* By now it will follow you anywhere, come when you call, whether or not you have a bottle. Practise also walking your lamb, not too fast, but at an even steady pace. The next stage is running with your lamb following behind. When you stop quietly but firmly catch it.
- \* On Calf Club Day act as naturally as possible so as not to upset your lamb. Try to relax and enjoy the day. Call in a loud clear voice.

Male lambs can be dangerous when older and should be rung when they are about 7 – 10 days old. It is a lot more painful if they are older than this, and the animals are also harder to control. Karen Barr is willing to ring your lamb so please phone her on 2321455 if you would like this done.

An ideal shelter is a simple a frame structure made of lightweight materials and set on skids, as shown on picture above. Oblong or square houses seem to be the best.

## After Calf Club:

Try to represent your school at Agricultural Group Day with your animal, if you wish. This is usually held on the Wednesday after our Calf Club day. The winning school receives a trophy and you have the chance to win more ribbons. **This year animals have to be entered for Group Day before our Calf Club Day so if interested please make sure you get your entries in early as they will NOT be accepting late entries.** If returning your lamb, please ring the breeder and check when it is all right to take the lamb back. If you are keeping your lamb at home for a pet, don't forget it still likes the care and attention you have already been giving it.