

The first thing accomplished after an animal is restrained in the chute is to **TAKE ITS TEMPERATURE!** Next, the record card is pulled and checked to see why the animal was pulled as sick the first day. Then the new body temperature is recorded. At this point one should determine if the animal's **physical signs** have improved; that is, if the animal appears visibly less sick than the day before! Change in body temperature is not used to make this decision. It is based on the change in appetite, respiratory difficulty, fecal consistency or change in depression.

Next, **RATE THE SEVERITY OF ILLNESS:** (S=Slight, M=Moderate or V=Very ill) using the visual observations. Now the **RECORD** card for this day shows the date, body temperature and severity of illness, as well as the previous day's information and treatment. It is NOT necessary to change the "EXAMINATION" portion of the record filled out the first day the animal was sick. The "EXAMINATION" portion is used to *jog the memory* and remind you of why the animal was pulled in the first place. Changes in the physical signs can be noted in the "**REMARKS**" section of the treatment card.

When an animal starts on a medication, improvement must occur within 24 hours, or one should assume the medication is not effective.

DID THE SICK ANIMAL IMPROVE? The criteria for this decision are:

1. *An animal with a temperature of 104°F or greater on the first day it was pulled has to show a 2 degree reduction in fever or drop to less than 104°F body temperature within 24 hours following treatment to be designated as improved.*
2. *An animal with a rectal temperature of less than 104°F on the first day has to improve physically within 24 hours following treatment to be designated as improved (i.e., from Very ill to Moderately ill, Moderately ill to Slightly ill, or Slightly ill to less than Slightly ill).*

If an animal has improved, **REPEAT THE MEDICATION** administered the day before. In sick animals **WITHOUT** bloody diarrhea, TREATMENT NO. 1 is repeated (see Example 1). In animals pulled **WITH BLOODY DIARRHEA**, the AMPROLIUM - NEOMYCIN drench should be repeated even if a significant firming of the stool is noted (see Example 2). Even if the fever has dropped 2 degrees or below 104°F, or if a fever was not present the previous day, the injectable medication is repeated also. The treatment (injectable medication and amprolium - neomycin drench) should be continued for a total of four days. The treatment schedule for animals exhibiting **BLOODY DIARRHEA** is outlined in Table 3.

Changing Treatments

When an animal **DOES NOT IMPROVE**, the medication needs to be changed, following a set schedule of treatments. Changing treatments at daily intervals continues until the animal begins to improve (see Examples 3 and 4). The successful treatment is continued until fever, depression, lack of appetite and other clinical signs of illness are absent for two consecutive days. Tables 1 and 2 provide the producer and the veterinary practitioner with suggested medications to select a treatment schedule.

Using a predetermined sequence of treatments eliminates having to choose what drugs to use next if the previous treatment did not work. A change to the next treatment becomes systematic. The advantage of this procedure is that if a disease organism is resistant to certain drugs, medication is changed frequently until an effective treatment is found.

We are essentially using the sick animal as a laboratory test. If the treatment does not work.....then the animal will not improve; we must change treatment.

In cases of **BLOODY DIARRHEA** accompanied by a fever, the body temperature must drop 2 degrees or below 104°F, else a change in the injectable antibiotic is required. Note that ONLY the injectable portion of the treatment is changed; the drench medication remains the same.

Treatment sequences for medicating sick, newly-arrived and stressed cattle, with and without bloody diarrhea, are outlined in Tables 1 and 3. Remember, if an animal fails to improve within 24 hours after a treatment is administered, change to the next treatment on the treatment schedule.