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## Acute salmonellosis

Typically, an acute diarrhoea is seen, often with fresh blood and mucus in the faeces. These calves also have a fever and dehydration. The faeces are foul smelling and vary in consistency, with the most virulent salmonella producing a profuse, watery diarrhoea. Infected calves often become bacteraemic with pneumonia, arthritis, meningitis and/or bone growth plate inflammation following soon thereafter.

Morbidity for acute salmonellosis is high, but mortality tends to reflect the strain of salmonella involved.

Faecal contamination of the environment with salmonella is an issue that should not be overlooked. It is especially a problem when group housing of calves occurs or when the sick pen doubles up as the maternity pen.

Using milk from salmonella carriers can cause salmonella problems in the calves.

## Chronic salmonellosis

Chronic salmonellosis is often seen as a chronic or intermittent diarrhoea with calves failing to thrive, weight loss and hypoproteinaemia. Chronic cases tend to arise from epidemics of acute salmonellosis in dairy calves and survivors can become carriers and a risk to other animals later on.

## Acute Salmonella dublin infection

Diarrhoea may not be seen in cases of acute infection with *S. dublin* and the most obvious signs are fever, depression and respiratory signs. This condition is typically seen in 4-8 week old calves.

It is not unknown for acute infection due to *S. dublin* in calves to be misdiagnosed as pneumonia. Fever and depression that do not respond to antibiotic therapy may be encountered.

## Laboratory testing

Haemoconcentration tends to mask mild anaemias on blood test.

Acute *S. dublin* infections can result in serious acid-base abnormalities, but can also result in mild loss of electrolytes and hypoproteinaemia.