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DIAGNOSIS AND CONTROL
OF CATTLE CALVES DIARRHOEA (Toxocara)
**Introduction**

Toxocara infection is a non-responsive diarrhea to treatment in suckling cattle calves. Recent research showed that most pastoralists believe that calves collect worms from the pasture during feeding. Some vegetation species e.g. Duosperma eremophilum are associated with worms. Further, pastoralists associate diarrhoea in suckling calves with excess milk. The cattle owners treat diarrhoea of in-house calves with antibiotics. The calves however do not recover but diarrhoea continues and may lead to death.

**What is the real cause of this non-responsive diarrhoea to treatment?**

- Calves are infected with worms from the mother
- Dormant eggs in the mother become active and larvae migrate to the mammary glands
- In-house calves are infected after suckling milk of the infected mothers.

**How do you treat the sick animals?**

- Treat the sick calves with a de-wormer (Use a safe, effective, metabolisable and economic de-wormer)
- Ensure that the cattle calves are well restrained to avoid choking

**Which are the signs of the diseases?**

- Diarrhoea
- Colic-abdominal pains
- Mucoid coloured and evil

**Laboratory diagnosis**

- Collect faecal sample for examination in the laboratory.
- On examination, eggs of the parasite are seen on the specimen.

- Treat the dams in the last trimester of pregnancy with a de-wormer.
- Treat in-house suckling cattle calves.
- Clean the bomas to avoid re-infection.
- Treat new animals before introducing them to your herd.
- Share the knowledge with other cattle owners to increase awareness of the disease in the community.