

# SMR 11: Welfare Standards for the Protection of Calves



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

December 2014

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

The aim of these requirements is to protect the welfare of calves by setting a minimum standard for their care and husbandry. They apply to all keepers of calves, in addition to the requirements for the welfare of farmed animals (please note SMR 13)

## Main requirements

The following minimum standards have to be met when rearing or fattening calves:

- All housed calves must be inspected at least twice a day, and outdoor calves at least once a day;
- Calves must not be tethered unless for a short period to facilitate feeding of milk/milk substitute;
- For individual calf pens:
  - Pen length shall be at least equal to the body length of the calf when standing, to allow it to stand, turn, lie down and groom itself;
  - Pen width shall be at least equal to the height of the calf when standing.
- Calves older than 8 weeks should not be penned singly, unless a vet has advised that it needs to remain in isolation or is under treatment;
- Calf accommodation must be clean and disinfected as appropriate, have bedding and be lit by natural or artificial means;
- Calves should have:
  - Colostrum within 6 hours of life;
  - Sufficient feed appropriate to their age;
  - Access to clean drinking water at all times.

## Field checks

- Check that calf housing meets the requirements above.
- Check the farmer has a copy or access to the Welfare Code for cattle.

## Good Practice

- Follow guidelines given in the Welfare Code for housing calves.

## For further information please contact:

Animal and Plant Health Agency

See 'Useful Contacts' factsheet within this pack

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/livestockwelfare/?lang=en>