Calf Scour:

Causes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viral:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotavirus</td>
<td>1 to 2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coronavirus</td>
<td>1 to 2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protozoal:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cryptosporidiosis</td>
<td>1-3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coccidia</td>
<td>&gt;3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.coli</td>
<td>&lt;5 days or 2 to 3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>1 to 12 weeks</td>
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</tbody>
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****Cryptosporidiosis and Salmonella are zoonotic****

Rotavirus and coronavirus both cause diarrhoea in calves 1 to 2 weeks of age. Both viruses can be carried by adult cattle.

Cryptosporidiosis causes self-limiting diarrhoea, which is very easily spread.

Coccidiosis and salmonella both cause bloody diarrhoea.

- With coccidiosis calves are often seen straining with raised tail heads.
- Salmonella often causes calves to be noticeably sick.

E.coli affects very young calves and is often fatal, prompt action is needed in these cases. E.coli (O157) is also potentially zoonotic.

*With any cause of diarrhoea in calves the main causes of death are dehydration and/or electrolyte imbalance.*
Control Factors:

- **Colostrum** intake is important in preventing calf scour:
  - ✓ Within the first 6 hours is critical
  - ✓ 10% body weight = 4-4.5L
  - ✓ Stomach tube to ensure full amount given.
  - ✓ Repeat 6 hours later
- **Hygiene** keeping calving pens and calf housing as clean as possible
- **Housing**
  - ✓ Keep in small batches once moved on from individual pens.
  - ✓ Adequate ventilation is important, without creating a draft
  - ✓ Hutches are often ideal as they can be moved
- **Stress** – any calf mixing or transport should be kept to a minimum and staggered with any other husbandry events.
- **Biosecurity** – Care should be taken when going from areas where adult cattle are kept into calf housing as this can spread many diseases including rotavirus, coronavirus and salmonella. *This is also very important for Johnes disease control*
- **Vaccinations** – are available for salmonella, rotavirus, corona virus and E.coli to aid in control of disease in addition to good management and husbandry practices.

*Improving colostrum intake and calf housing will also reduce the incidence of other calf diseases such as navel and joint ill*

**Treatment:**

Irrespective of the cause attention must be paid to the hydration status of the calf – particularly if the eyes are sunken.

**Re-hydration** can take the form of:

- **Oral fluids**: discuss with your vet what is the most appropriate solution
- **Intravenous Fluid Therapy**: may be necessary if the calf is collapsed, weak and/or severely hydrated.

*If you are concerned at all about the state of a calf with diarrhoea please consult your vet*

It is important to **isolate** any sick calves to reduce spread of disease; placing them in a clean pen where regular monitoring is possible.