

Chilled Newborns

Our first inclination when finding a chilled kid is to get some colostrum or milk into it. **Never feed a chilled newborn kid.** Check body temperature with a rectal thermometer. If you don't own a digital rectal thermometer, now is the time to call Jeffers Livestock (1-800-533-3377) and order one **before** you need it. No producer should ever be without one. I've had kids so cold that their body temperature would not register on a thermometer. It **is** possible to save these kids.



Step one for warming a chilled baby:

- 1) Check body temperature with rectal thermometer.
- 2) Fill a deep sink with warm water and immerse baby, keeping head safely out of the water. You can either put the baby in a large ziplock bag to keep it dry, or immerse the baby without a bag. I prefer immersing baby without the bag on it.
- 3) Get some Karo syrup (not honey) and dip your finger into the syrup, gently rubbing the syrup along the kid's gums. No more than a finger tip covered with syrup. His body will absorb the sugars, giving him the needed energy to aid his body in warming up. Do this 3-4 times and then continue rubbing the syrup along his gum line every 15-20 minutes.
- 4) Add more warm water to the sink as needed. This needs to be body temp warm. If it is comfortable enough for you to bathe in, the temperature is right.
- 5) You will notice the baby's mouth warming up. When you feel that the mouth is warming up to normal body temperature, remove baby from the water and wrap in a towel that you have warmed in your dryer. Buff the kid as dry as possible and check body temperature with the thermometer. If the body temperature is at **LEAST 100°F** degrees (no less than 100°F) you can start thinking about preparing some colostrum (or milk, if it is an older kid). The kid should start fussing once it warms up. Continue the Karo syrup along the gum lines until the baby is talking and calling out for something to eat. You can offer the colostrum or milk in a bottle or tube feed them. The ideal situation would be for the kid to suck.
- 6) Once the kid starts fussing and you have made sure that its body temperature hasn't dropped below 100°F, you can feed the baby the much needed colostrum (or milk, if it is an older kid). Keep the baby wrapped in the towel and lay it on a heating pad set on "low."
- 7) If the baby is strong enough to nurse, you can carry it out to its dam to nurse, but not until its body temperature has climbed back to the normal 101.5°F.

8) One thing to keep in mind with chilled newborns or very young kids is that once they are chilled they don't always expel their solid body wastes (feces) without the help of a warm soapy enema.



To make an enema, use warm water and add a drop or two of liquid dishwashing liquid. Get a 3 cc luer slip syringe without a needle attached and draw up 3 cc's of the warm soapy water. Gently insert the tip of the luer slip syringe into the anus, slowly pressing the plunger to insert the water. Continue inserting water until it squirts back out. Gently rub the kid's belly and continue adding water until the solid wastes come out. You will need to continue this process until you are sure that all solid waste has been flushed out. You will be surprised at how much baby poop comes out.

Watch the baby closely for the next day or two or until you are positive that it is maintaining its body temperature. Also watch for signs of constipation. I rarely have to repeat an enema once the baby has cleaned out well.

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