

## OBSERVE

### HEALTHY

### SICK

#### Appetite

Strong suckle  
Ready for meals, finished meals

Poor suckle response  
Unfinished meals, drinks slower

#### Manure

Newborn kids: dark and sticky (meconium)  
Kids drinking milk: yellow, formed, slightly soft  
Kids on milk and/ or solids: yellow to brown, small pellets

Increased frequency, increased quantity, watery, pasty, clay-like, yellow, white, green, bloody, contains mucous

#### Posture and demeanour

Reactive to people and other kids  
Lays with front legs tucked under its chest  
Stands upright, with equal weight in all legs

Depressed, lethargic, indifferent, slow to respond, cannot hold its head up, difficulty rising, stands with back arched, stands with hind feet well back, uncoordinated movement, swollen joints, lame

For more information:



#### Eyes, ears, nose, and coat

**Eyes:** Prominent, bright, clear  
**Ears:** Pricked position  
**Nose:** Clean, moist  
**Coat:** Shiny, smooth, clean, dry

**Eyes:** Dull, sunken, discharge  
**Ears:** Droopy, cold to touch  
**Nose:** Cold, wet, crusty, discharge, excess mucous  
**Coat:** Dull, matted, dirty, rough

#### Navel

Cord soft, thin and non-painful

Hot, hard, or painful (kicks at the navel, kicks or struggles when navel is touched)

## CHECK

#### Hydration

Skin flattens immediately when pinched

Skin is tented for two seconds or more

#### Rectal temperature

39 to 40°C (102.2 to 104°F)

Hypothermia: <39°C (102.2°F)  
High temperature: >40°C (104°F)

#### Breathing

Calm, even, respiratory rate  
20 to 40 breaths/minute

Coughing, grunting, flaring nostrils, extending head and neck, wheezing

## ACT

Work with a veterinarian to create protocols for monitoring and treating sick kids. Contact a veterinarian immediately if a kid is displaying severe signs of illness, or more than 10% of kids are sick.