



# GAMMA CHECK<sup>®</sup> B

## RAPID CALF-SIDE SCREENING FOR NEONATAL IgG

Newborn calves are immunologically naive, relying on the passive transfer of immunoglobulins from cow to calf via the colostrum. Calves fed an adequate amount of good quality colostrum will have high serum immunoglobulin levels. It is important for them to suckle good quality colostrum before they are 12 hours old (at least 3 good feeds). After 16-24 hours of age, immunoglobulin supplementation must occur parenterally.

### WHEN TO TEST FOR IgG LEVELS

Newborn calves ingesting good quality colostrum will have a blood IgG (gamma globulins, or antibodies) concentration of 800mg/DL or greater by 8 hours old. Testing calves as early as this age allows oral supplementation with colostrum from a colostrum bank. However, calves may be tested up to 48 hours of age to monitor the herd colostrum.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Use whole blood (fresh or with EDTA anticoagulant).
2. Add 1.5ml exactly in the Gamma Check B tube.
3. Swirl tube to ensure mixing and note time.
4. Tilt tube every two minutes.
5. End point is the formation of a firm clot. Note the time when the blood clots firmly.

If a firm clot has formed in less than five minutes, the calf has IgG levels of 800mg/DL or greater. A jelly-like clot that slips down the side of the tube is usually positive (OK), but should be retested.

**False Positive results** may occur with sick calves (due to elevated Fibrinogen) or dehydrated calves, or with hemolyzed samples. In these cases, repeat the Gamma Check B test using serum or use another test.

**When serum is used in the Gamma Check B, clot formation in five minutes indicates IgG of 800mg/DL or greater.**

\* Caution: The reagent (glutaraldehyde) inside the Gamma Check B tubes is caustic. If skin or eye contact occurs, wash with copious amounts of water and consult a physician.

\* Do not leave tubes in the hot sun.

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