How to take a calf's temperature

Clean and disinfect the thermometer. Lubricate the bulb end of the thermometer. Make sure the mercury is shaken down to the bottom of the thermometer.

Properly restrain the standing calf by backing the calf into a corner or holding the calf against a wall or fence.

Lift the calf's tail up. Place the bulb end of the thermometer on the anus of the calf. Gently add pressure as you push the thermometer through the anus and into the rectum. Leave about 1" of the thermometer outside the rectum (a piece of string at the top end of the thermometer is helpful).

Wait 1 minute.

Remove, clean off and read the thermometer.

A calf's temperature should be 101.5° F, with a range of 101°F to 102°F.

Record the temperature.