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## Safe Use Of Cattle Drenching Set

Cattle can be drowned if fluid introduced with the drenching set is pumped into the trachea (wind pipe) rather than into the rumen via the oesophagus. The following is a procedure for the safe use of the drenching set.

1. Put the cow into a crush or headlock if available or if she is down then try not to move her.
2. Slowly insert the gag into her mouth along the top of her tongue and fasten the nose clip (pump should be detached from the hose at this stage).
3. Turn the cow's head slightly to the right and start to push the hose through the gag slowly to allow her to swallow (remember if we are drenching a sick cow then her reflexes will be sluggish and hence this is when the hose can be inserted into the trachea).
4. As the hose is being passed down the oesophagus it is possible to see the bulb of the hose moving down the **left** jugular groove.
5. The correct placement of the hose can be confirmed by smelling the free gas of the rumen liquor which is normally expelled once the end of the hose reaches the rumen. If the rumen is still contracting normally then gas will be belched up through the hose about every 40 seconds.
6. Once you are happy with the hose placement then use the locking device (by turning it clockwise) to ensure that the hose is not displaced by the cow during the pumping process.
7. Once you are happy that the hose is in the correct position the pump can be attached and fluids introduced into the rumen. It must be remembered that each sachet of powder is designed to work with at least 20 litres of water with the exception being the Glycerol Plus which can be pumped in with a smaller amount of fluid if necessary.

If you have any questions regarding the use of the pump then please phone the surgery to ask for advice.