

RiserTank Use Instructions by John Steinfort BVSc

General Overview

- Best results are always gained when you prioritize the Downer cow when she is known to be a Downer.
- The more you minimise the struggling when trying to get up when on the ground, generally shorter the recovery time once in the RiserTank.
- Cows and heifers are kept continually in the RiserTank and water height is adjusted to stand and then to rest them.
- When resting, generally have the warm water covering 3/4s of the animal so the cow's head is comfortably above the water.
- The RiserTank tends to be a very good diagnostic tool. The cows will generally show you their capacity to stand and will let you know when they can stand without the buoyancy of water indicating time to be released.
- The value of the warm water cannot be underestimated. Many dairy farmers have used the RiserTank to aid the recovery of appropriate sick cow cases.
- If a cow is unable to actually stand and bear some weight with in water in the RiserTank, then euthanasia is recommended, as her prognosis is poor.
- Always best to observe the cow well and make your assessments and judgments on length of standing time accordingly. Each case will be different.

General Methods of Use

- Fill the RiserTank with warm water to approximately 3/4s full.
- Lift and place the cow in the RiserTank and release the Pelvic lifting gear. Initially tie the brisket strap above the withers in case the cow needs to be lifted out (when fails to be able to stand). Otherwise remove strap.
- Generally, stand the cow in warm water up to 4 to 6 hours at a time. Recommend.... Stand for 2x 4-hour periods during the day with 2-hour daytime rest then full rest at night). Standing for longer than 6 hour period tends to weary the cow.
- Then release half the water and allow standing with less buoyancy for shorter half hour period. Assess her ability to stand.
- Then release water to her approximate knee level, which will then enable her to sit and rest in the RiserTank. Ensure this water level is adequate allowing appropriate head height above the water.
- Generally rest overnight and then run the heater system with warm water to replenish the water level to enable her to stand again the next morning.
- Each time, you should note a lower water level is required for her to stand.
- Ensure you run the water at full pressure for the heater system.
- Ensure water temperature does not go below 30 degrees C. A few buckets of hot water will lift the temperature adequately.
- Temperature from heater is an effective 35 degrees C.
- Use the RiserTank cover to limit evaporative heat loss.
- When ready, release the cow ensuring there are non-slip surfaces.
- We recommend feed best quality oaten or cereal hay when in the RT. Water intake via the Tank water is OK. Check for mastitis and other conditions. Mastitis is rarely seen due to time in the RiserTank.