

# Common Metabolic Down Cow conditions and Treatment plans

Please talk with your vet to develop a specific plan for your herd's needs

Condition	Milk fever (low calcium)	Grass Tetany "Staggers" (low magnesium)	Ketosis (low energy)	Hypophos (low phosphorus)
				
<b>Main clinical signs</b> (not an exhaustive list)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak/Wobbly</li> <li>• Dull/depressed</li> <li>• S-bend in neck</li> <li>• Constipated</li> <li>• Dry nose</li> <li>• Low temperature</li> <li>• Fast, weak heartbeat</li> <li>• Bloat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excitability</li> <li>• Nervousness</li> <li>• Stiff gait (spastic)</li> <li>• Arched back and paddling when cast</li> <li>• Seizures</li> <li>• Hypersensitive when you touch them on the skin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excitability</li> <li>• Nervous or aggressive</li> <li>• Grinding teeth</li> <li>• Sickly sweet smell on breath &amp; milk</li> <li>• Licking rails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weakness</li> <li>• Licking dirt</li> <li>• May be able to get up on back legs but can't rise on front</li> <li>• Often bright and eating</li> <li>• Often called crawlers</li> </ul>
<b>Treatment</b> (under the skin treatments should be followed by oral treatment when cow can swallow safely)	<p>Glucalmag IV - <i>slowly!</i> or under the skin while waiting for vet to arrive if IV treatment not possible</p>  <p><b>Followed by</b> oral treatment once she can swallow (choose one product)</p> 	<p>Mag20 under the skin. NB: <b>NEVER</b> put Magnesium Sulfate 20% in the vein, this can kill the cow</p>  <p><b>Alternatively,</b> give Glucalmag under the skin or IV (<i>slowly!</i>) if no Mag20 available, <b>and</b> seek vet advice immediately</p>  <p><b>Followed by</b> oral treatment with Magnesium &amp; Calcium</p> 	<p>Glucalmag IV - <i>slowly!</i> (contains dextrose for energy)</p>  <p><b>Followed by</b> oral starter drench once she can swallow</p> <p><b>AND</b> 200ml Ketol for 3-5 days</p> 	<p>20ml Catosal IV <b>AND</b> Glucalmag IV - <i>slowly!</i></p>  <p><b>AND</b> oral treatment daily with phosphorus (200g MCP or DCP) for 5 days</p>  <p><b>AND</b> oral treatment with calcium</p> 

**Remember:** an animal may be 'mixed metabolic' i.e. suffering from more than one deficiency at a time. Metabolic diseases are not the only things that result in a cow not being able to get up; for example calving paralysis, mastitis, dislocated hip, broken leg, salmonella, nitrate poisoning etc.

**If you are unsure of the diagnosis or the animal does not respond to treatment please contact your local Anexa Vet, we're here to help.**



**Gordonton**  
P: 07 824 2103  
**Maramarua**  
P: 09 232 5891

**Matamata**  
P: 07 888 8068  
**Morrinsville**  
P: 07 889 5159

**Ngaruawahia**  
P: 07 824 8630  
**Ngatea**  
P: 07 867 7256

**Paeroa**  
P: 07 862 8815  
**Raglan**  
P: 07 825 8390

**Te Aroha**  
P: 07 884 8014  
**Te Kauwhata**  
P: 07 826 3581

**Thames**  
P: 07 868 7005  
**anexa.co.nz**  
0800 284 3838