

### Long-Term Care and Maintenance of Animals with Permanent Rumen Cannulas

In addition to the required at least daily (unless on pasture, then can be weekly) animal observation checks, any animals with cannulas should also have the following:

Cannulas are to be inspected at least monthly to ensure that the cannula is intact and functioning properly. This inspection involves pulling the external flanges away from the body wall so the outside of the fistula can be observed and cleanliness can be assessed. If necessary, to properly view the cannula, the area between the animal and cannula is cleaned.

Any significant problems with the cannula, or the fistulation site, should be referred to a veterinarian. Examples would be if a cannula is in poor condition (such as those with cracks), a sudden increase in leakage or observation of skin scald.

Fly spray should be applied regularly when flies are present.

Records of these inspections, cleanings, observations, treatment plans, etc. must be documented, and documentation should be separate from the daily/weekly animal observation checks.