

Instructions for the assembly and operation of the SCA Shepherdess Orphan Lamb Feeder

The Elements

- 1 fully insulated outer unit
- 2 white plastic 12 litre buckets (each will be referred to as a "Milk Feed Bucket")
- 1 lid and waterproof polystyrene insert
- 1 heater fitted with lead and fused plug
- 2 bayonet type teat holders
- 4 teats (2 white for young lambs and 2 red for older lambs)
- 2 non-return valves
- 1 thermometer
- 1 elastic strap for securing feeder to hurdle or similar anchorage

Preparation for use

1. Positioning and securing

Place the unit on a firm flat surface in the required location and secure it to a hurdle or similar support by threading the elastic strap through the handles.

2. Installing the heater

The heater supplied with your Shepherdess Feeder conforms to international standards and has an excellent reputation for quality and reliability.

Every unit is factory sealed, quality controlled and has been tested throughout its manufacturing process.

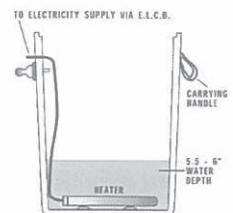
Only the highest quality materials are used; toughened glass tubes, porcelain formers and 80/20 nickel leads for heating sections.

The heater comes complete with its three pin plug and supply lead.

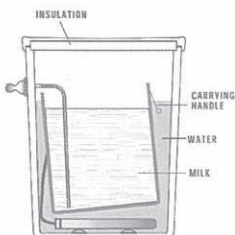
The plug is fitted with a three ampere fuse, and any replacement for that fuse must not exceed that three ampere rating.

Fit one clip / sucker as close to the head of the heater as possible with the second clip / sucker along the tube but clear of the area of the heating element itself.

Rotate the heater within the clips so that the lead entry and the control knob are side by side. With the suckers in this position press them on to the floor of the unit so that the heater is clear of the unit wall at either end.



The heater operates within a temperature range approximately 22 to 32 degrees C. The temperature to which the heater is pre-set should suit the needs of the feeder. The neon light within the heater lights up when the heater is functioning and will light intermittently when the operating temperature is reached. The thermometer provided with the feeder may be used to check the water temperature.



It will take the feeder 12 hours to reach operating temperature from cold and about four hours to respond to an adjustment, if warm water has been used to fill it, check the temperature after one hour.

If adjustment is required move the control knob in the appropriate direction - clockwise to increase the temperature, and anti-clockwise to decrease it. Do not try to turn the control knob beyond the + and - marks on the dial. As a rough guide the temperature control knob needs 1/8 of a turn for a rise or fall of 5 degrees.

ALWAYS switch off, unplug the heater, and allow to cool before removing the heater or emptying the water surrounding it. **DO NOT** plug in the heater until it is in position and fully immersed in the water.

3. Loading the main unit with water

Using the plastic milk feed bucket as a measure, fill it with water to approximately 2.5 inches from the rim and pour into the unit submerging the heater. To save time this water may be pre-warmed to the correct temperature before loading.

Allow at least five minutes for the glass of the heater to adjust to the water then plug into the supply through a circuit-breaker and only then, switch on.

4. Preparing the feed and locating the Milk Feed Bucket

When you are satisfied that the water in the unit is at the desired temperature (depending on the age of the lambs), prepare the milk in the milk-feed bucket according to the manufacturers instructions and lower gently into the unit where it will float on the water. The lip of the bucket should rest under the bayonet fitting on which the tubing is located with the bucket handle at rest on the opposite side.

Note: The air vent in the lid may be adjusted to reduce condensation on the inner surface of the lid. The air vent may also be used as access for an additional teat and tube serving as a feeding point in a second pen.

When in use

To ensure that the lamb or lambs have available to them a continuous supply of milk at the desired temperature, the unit needs to be checked from time to time and some degree of maintenance is required.

1. A warmer temperature will encourage weaker lambs to take to the teat more readily, so a temperature of 30 to 31 degrees C is appropriate in the first week following birth. In week 2 and onwards the temperature may be lowered to 25 to 28 degrees C. Note that overheating will cause milk to curdle.
2. For best results the milk feed should be renewed every 12 hours and MUST be totally replaced every 24 hours.
3. The water in the base of the unit should be changed weekly. In doing so the operator must observe the instructions on heater use always unplugging and allowing to cool etc. Please read again and observe all precautions.

Health and Safety

Wherever electricity is used there is an element of danger. The unit itself is as harmless as the average appliance in the kitchen but because of the nature of the location in which it is required to operate, attention must be given to the supply lines between the unit and the permanent source, through plugs and sockets to and within the unit.

Dryness is compatible with the care of orphan lambs and any water or moisture increases an electricity hazard. Do keep all plugs and socket, particularly those associated with extension leads, off the ground and dry.

A further hazard may be caused by cables crossing walkways etc. where there is a danger of tripping.

Do fit a safety circuit breaker between the permanent source of supply and the feeding unit.

Do ensure that the heater is always fully immersed in the water and never separate the two without first isolating the unit from the electricity supply.

Remember the sequence:

Power off, cool water, remove heater, empty water, position heater, fill, power on.

In use the unit must be entirely stable and not in any position where it might be knocked over and its contents split. Observe the instructions on the securing of the unit to a hurdle or other fixed barrier.

The feeder unit must not be used for any purpose other than that for which it has been designed.

In the event of a power failure remember that the unit's highly effective insulation will enable it to function satisfactorily for some time. When the level of the milk, or its temperature is falling dangerously low it can be supplemented or replaced by milk warmed by another source. Water cooling in the chamber can be replaced by water heated elsewhere. Apart from this, or hand-feeding the lamb no further action can be taken until the power supply is resumed.

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