TREATMENT OF DEHYDRATION:

* **Depends on stage of dehydration-**

Oral rehydration is done when the animal is less than 8% dehydrated. Water can be enhanced with glucose and nutrients for oral rehydration. However the formulation for the rehydration solution should depend on the age of the animal as young animals often suffer from acidemia while adult animals often suffer from alkalemia. For young animals acetate, citrate or bicarbonate can be added as alkalizing agents. It should be noted that bicarbonate interferes with milk digestion hence milk should be withheld for at least 4 hours after an oral solution containing bicarbonate is given.

Jugular rehydration is done at 20ml/kg for animals that are over 8% dehydrated until they appear to brighten up, after which oral rehydration can be done. Hypertonic saline can be given intravenously to animals that are mildly dehydrated at a dose of 4-5ml/kg at 1ml/kg/min. It acts by drawing osmotically drawing extravascular fluid into blood vessels hence it should not be given to animals that are severely dehydrated animals.