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Abstract

Assessment of two devices for measuring tympanic membrane temperature in swine, dairy cattle, and dairy calves

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We compared tympanic membrane temperature readings obtained by 2 commercially available devices with rectal temperature readings obtained with a standard mercury thermometer in dairy cattle, dairy calves, and swine. Tympanic membrane temperature readings from both devices were lower than those obtained using a rectal thermometer. Repeated measurements of individual cattle resulted in consistent body temperature readings for both devices. Because all animals were visibly healthy, these results suggest that the tympanic membrane temperature readings obtained with either device may be an adequate assessment of health status.