# DURATION OF THE LACERATION

* Teat lacerations are categorized as acute or chronic (> 12 hours old).
* Surgical intervention on the teat is best performed during the first 12 hours following the injury. Later, swelling of the teat can be too severe to permit adequate reconstruction of the tissue.
* These injuries benefit from medical therapy (hydrotherapy and a NSAID before attempting primary closure of the defect (delayed first intention healing).
* However, with complex lacerations (inverted “Y” or “U”), it is recommended to try primary closure even if the laceration is older than 12 hours. The repair may partially dehisce but the portion that heals will facilitate the surgical revision performed later in the healing process.