

DYSTOCIA DUE TO FETAL ASCITIS WITH WRY NECK IN A GRADED MURRAH BUFFALO: A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

This communication reports a case of dystocia due to multiple congenital abnormalities which include fetal ascitis, wry neck and arthogryposis in a graded Murrah buffalo.

Keywords: dystocia, fetal ascitis, wry neck

No fetal parts were observed in the birth canal. A detailed per vaginal examination revealed a dead calf with an abnormally distended abdomen with lateral deviation of head and neck. Attempts made to correct lateral deviation of head failed because of its rigidity. The animal was quite active and was taking feed and water. A slight elevation in temperature, pulse and respirations were noticed.

INTRODUCTION

Dropsical conditions such as fetal ascitis, fetal anasarca, and edema of the allanto chorion and hydrops of the amnion or allantois or both are reported causes of dystocia (Roberts, 1971). Fetal ascitis is seen as an occasional cause of dystocia in many species but occurs more frequently in the cow and is associated with a dropsical condition of the uterus, mesotheliomas of the fetal abdomen and brucellosis. The present report describes a case of dystocia due to fetal ascitis and wry neck in a graded murrah buffalo.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A 6-year-old graded Murrah buffalo in third calving was presented to the Veterinary Poly Clinic, Gudiwada, with difficulty in parturition for the previous 12 h after the rupture of allanto chorion.

TREATMENTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present case, caesarean section was considered to be appropriate to deliver the foetus. Caesarean section was performed through left paramedian approach as per the procedure under pre anesthetic medication with Triflupromazine (Siquil) and local infiltration with 2% lignocaine. The dead foetus was delivered and post operative care was followed. The animal had an uneventful recovery.

Gross examination of the fetus revealed multiple congenital abnormalities that include an abnormally distended abdomen (ascitis) with wry neck. The forelimbs were ankylosed and rigid at all the joints (arthogryposis). Muscular atrophy was noticed in all the limbs (Figure 1).

Exploration of the abdomen revealed straw colored fluid; no other abnormalities were found and confirmed the condition as ascitis. However, other treatment options recommended in such cases was

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Figure 1.

partial fetotomy to reduce the size of the abdomen. (Jackson, 1995 and Hoparkhe *et al.*, 2003). Wry neck is usually noticed in equines with transverse pregnancy but rarely observed in bovine fetuses. It is characterized by an ankylosis, atrophy and contracture of the neck muscles resulting the head and neck being fixed in lateral direction along the side of the body. Fetus was quite small, but the distended abdomen with wry neck caused it to become wedged in the pelvic inlet, and this was the primary reason for dystocia as observed in the present case.

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