

# DYSTOCIA DUE TO EMPHYSEMATOUS DICEPHALIC MONSTER IN A SHE BUFFALO

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Received : 27.04.14

**ABSTRACT**

Accepted : 30.12.14

A non-descript buffalo suffering with dystocia due to enlarged emphysematous dicephalic monster and its successful management with laparohysterotomy has been discussed.

**Keywords:** Buffalo, Fetus, Dystocia, Emphysematous, Monster

## INTRODUCTION

The non-genetic anomalies or monsters may be of innumerable types and degrees and are caused by a variety of environmental causes or agents called teratogens (Roberts, 1971). Fetal monsters are a variety of malformations resulting in specific fetal phenotypes and conjoined twins have been described as sporadic causes of dystocia in cattle (Youngquist and Threlfae, 2007). Fetal emphysema is also a frequent complication of parturition and a primary cause of dystocia in farm animals (Arthur *et al.*, 2001).

The present communication describes a case of dystocia due to enlarged fetus having double head with separate neck, four limbs, further complicated by fetal emphysema in a she buffalo.

## CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A non-descript she buffalo of 4<sup>th</sup> parity of about nine years age was presented after full term to Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex with history of

labour pain since 48 hours, ruptured water bag at least 12 hours and handled by paravet for almost 4-5 hours before being brought to the clinic.

On general examination, buffalo appeared dull and depressed with pale mucous membrane and moderately sunken eyes. Udder engorgement and relaxation of sacrosciatic ligament were evident.

Per-vaginal examination revealed dilated birth canal and loss of fluids. Further examination revealed a dead foul smelling fetus with emphysema in anterior longitudinal presentation and dorso-sacral position having two heads each with separate neck.

## TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

As the fetus was emphysematous, it was decided to perform laparohysterotomy described by Robert (1971) by giving oblique incision parallel to milk vein. A dead male enlarged emphysematous fetus of 40.560 kg weight having two heads each with separate neck (Figure), four limbs and curved vertebral column was removed.

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Following laparohysterotomy, the buffalo was treated with injection Streptopenicillin 2.5 gm b.i.d for 5 days by I.M. route, inj. Ringer's lactate 5 liters as I.V. infusion for 3 days and injection Meloxicam 25 ml I.M for 5 days. Inj. Calcium borogluconate 450 ml (300 ml slow I.V. and 150 ml S.C.) was given only once. Inj. Metronidazole was given 20 mg/kg body weight in divided doses for 5 days. The buffalo was discharged after 7 days with uneventful recovery.

There is putrefaction characterized by formation of gases in the subcutaneous tissue within 24-72 hours subsequent to the death of the foetus and the foetus becomes soft, decomposed and distended with gases (Sane *et al.*, 1994). Srinivas *et al.* (2007) reported that 40.84 per cent of dystocia in graded Murrah buffalo are due to fetal causes. Dystocia, twins, uterine torsion and fetal monsters are common indications for caesarean operation (Arthur *et al.*, 2001).

Post-mortem examination revealed two oesophaguses, two pharynxes, one anus and a set of visceral organ duplicated upto neck.

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Fig. Anterior view of emphysematous fetus having two heads each with separate neck