

FETAL HYDROPERITONEUM AS A CAUSE OF DYSTOCIA IN A BUFFALO

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ABSTRACT

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A rare case of dystocia due to fetal hydroperitoneum and its successful delivery through vagina is described.

Key words: Buffalo, Dystocia, Hydroperitoneum

INTRODUCTION

Fetal dropsical condition is a rare cause of dystocia in bovines (Arthur *et al.*, 1989). Fetal hydroperitoneum represents excessive accumulation of fluid in the peritoneum which leads to oversize of the fetus and hence, reducing size of fetus through evacuation of fluid or caesarean operation is recommended for its delivery. Present report puts on record fetal hydroperitoneum and its successful per-vaginal delivery in Murrah buffalo.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A full term pregnant, primiparous Murrah buffalo was brought to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, LLRUVAS, Hisar, with history of abdominal straining since 7 hours. Both posterior limbs and tail were visible in the birth canal. Per-vaginum examination revealed complete dilatation of cervix and distention of fetal abdomen due to accumulation of excessive fluid.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Traction on both posterior limbs failed to deliver the fetus per-vaginum. Therefore, fetal abdomen was incised approximately 5 inches long through embryotomy knife. On incision, clear transparent fluid oozed out from distended abdomen. Following reduction in the size of distended abdomen, the fetus was delivered with traction. Post-operative antibiotics and

fluid therapy was administered to prevent shock and infection. The animal had uneventful recovery.

The dead male fetus was the normal on structural appearance with the distended abdomen due to accumulation of approximately 14 litres clear transparent fluid. On postmortem examination revealed enlarged liver, however, other internal organs were normal.

Dystocia due to accumulation of fluid in peritoneal cavity have been reported in crossbred cattle (Honparkhe *et al.*, 2003) and buffalo (Phogat *et al.*, 1991 and Srinivas and Sreenu, 2006). The fetal hydroperitoneum may be consequences of infectious disease and developmental defects of the fetus (Arthur *et al.*, 1989).

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