

DELIVERY OF A DICEPHALUS-THORACO-STERNOPAGUS TETRABRACHIUS DICAUDATUS MONSTER IN BUFFALO

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ABSTRACT

A rare case of dystocia due to dicephalic-thoracopagus tetrabrachius dicaudatus monster was relieved by partial fetotomy.

INTRODUCTION

Fetal anomalies and monstrosities are the most common cause of dystocia in bovines. Diplopagus is a conjoined twin in which the component parts are symmetrical. Monsters are mostly encountered in cattle with an overall incidence of one in 100,000 bovine births. They are rare in other species (Roberts, 1971) but reports in buffaloes are meager.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A full term Murrah buffalo (Case no.8-1395/2010) aged about six and half years in her second parity was brought to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Hisar with history of unproductive straining for 10 -12 hrs. There was no previous history of dystocia. It was observed that both hind limbs along with pelvis were hanging outside the vulva. Per vaginal examination after epidural analgesia with proper lubrication revealed the monstrous condition of the fetus. Externally two fetuses were joined at sternal region having two head, four forelimbs, two pelvis, four hind limbs and two tails (Fig.). Post-mortem examination revealed that fetuses had a single enlarged liver and a gall bladder. However heart

and lungs were separate for each fetus. But both left and right kidneys of the individual fetus were fused. Since forced traction failed to relieve dystocia and the owner was unwilling for caesarean section, fetotomy was performed.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Both hind limbs along with pelvis of monster which were hanging through vulva were amputated at lumber region using by Thygeson's fetotome. The monster was pushed back into the abdominal cavity and brought into anterior presentation by applying traction on two fore limbs. Then both fore limbs and head of same side were amputated. Then rests of two fore limbs were tied with obstetrical chains and two eye hooks were applied in median canthus of eye of second head. Then the fetus was delivered by applying traction. External genitalia indicated sex of both fetuses as female. The dam was administered systemic antibiotics, anti-inflammatory, ecbolics, calcium boro-gluconate and multivitamins.

Dystocia due to conjoint twin monster (Selvaraju *et al.*, 2002; Prasad *et al.*, 2006) was reported as rare in buffaloes. Thoraco-sternophagus twin arises due to embryonic duplication of germinal area whose body structures are partially but not completely duplicated (Roberts, 1971). Normal per vaginal delivery of such type of conjoint twins is difficult due to its enlarged and abnormal size and results in dystocia. The present case study suggested that fetotomy may be an alternative to Caesarean in fetal monstrosity cases.

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Fig. Dicephalus-Thoraco-Sternopagus
Tetrabrachius Dicaudatus Monster

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