

Foetal Maceration in Goat- A Case Report

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ABSTRACT

A case of foetal maceration in a goat is placed on record

Key Words: Maceration, Goat

Foetal maceration usually occurs as a consequence of failure of expulsion of the foetus from the uterus. The bacteria that invade through the dilated cervix act upon the dead foetus and by a combination of putrefaction and autolysis, the soft tissues are digested leaving a mass of foetal bones within the uterus. Foetal maceration can occur in any species but more frequent in cattle (Arthur *et al.*, 1998). Hetherington and Matthews (1992) have reported foetal maceration in goats. A case of foetal maceration in a non-descript goat is communicated.

A three year old non-descript nanny goat was presented at the Artificial Insemination Centre ancillary to University Veterinary Hospital, Kakkalai with a history of behavioural signs of oestrus. On examination, the vulva was found to be oedematous with hyperaemia of vestibular mucous membrane. To ascertain the condition of internal genitalia a lubricated vaginal speculum was introduced. On examination of the anterior vagina, whitish material was found lying on the floor of vagina. Recovery of the material was effected with the help of an artery forceps. A detailed examination revealed it to be a piece of foetal bone. On thorough examination of the anterior vagina, more number of bone pieces of varying size and shape were identified, recovered and presented (Fig. I). The identified bone pieces were as that of a foetus. The condition was diagnosed as a case of foetal maceration.



Fig I. Bone pieces of macerated caprine foetus

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