Macerated fetus in goat

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ABSTRACT

A rare case of macerated fetus in a goat is reported. The macerated fetus was placed in the distal end of vagina, which was removed, with help of sterilized swab holder through vaginal speculum. Prostaglandin and antimicrobial treatment was followed which resulted in removal of few left out bone pieces.

Key words : Macerated fetus, goat

Maceration may occur at any stage of gestation and has been observed in all species. It is described most often in the cow (Roberts, 1971). Fetal macerated in goat is uncommon and sporadic in nature. Early embryonic death and maceration are probably caused by a variety of miscellaneous organisms found in the uterus, the common being *Vibrio fetus* and *Trichomonas fetus* (Arthur, 1996). In this report a case of macerated fetus, its removal and after management in a goat is reported.

History : A goat of marwari breed aged 3 years was referred by Medicine Clinic, CVAS, Bikaner with a history of intermittent anorexia and abnormal foul smelling vaginal discharge for last four months. It parturited six months back giving birth to 3 normal kids, parturition was normal. The goat had been given symptomatic treatment earlier for the same in a local veterinary hospital.

Clinical examination : The rectal temperature was 101.6°F with anorexia and the animal was dull and depressed. The perineum of the animal was soiled with foul smelling vaginal discharge. Animal had not shown the signs of heat since last kidding and milk yield was dropped from 1.5 litres per day to nil. After securing the animal in a crate with hind legs uplifted, it was examined pervaginal with the help of illuminated vaginal speculum. there were pieces of bones seen just anterior to *os externus*, which gave indication of a macerated fetus.

Treatment : A sterilized swab holder was introduced into the vagina through speculum and the pieces of bones were removed one by one. First were the bones of forelimbs, then skull and then hind limbs. After assuring that there were no large bone pieces left, Matronidazole 10 ml with 0.5 gm Streptomycin was introduced intrauterine by sterilized glass catheter. Along with antimicrobials, injection iliren (Triaprost) 1.5 ml i/m was also administered. Antimicrobial treatment was continued for 2 more days. On 3rd day, owner reported about discharge of few small bone pieces along with foul smelling discharge. The antimicrobial therapy was continued for 3 more days. The anorexia disappeared and the animal had uneventful recovery within 7 days.

Fetal maceration is a condition caused when due to abortion or any other cause, fetus does not come out from uterus and infection gains entry. It is mostly seen in cattle and is uncommon in goats. Goats normally have twins in one pregnancy but in the present case, animal had 4 fetuses from which 3 came out normally but the process might have taken long time resulting in fatigue of uterine muscles and diminished strength of conraction; so 4th fetus could not come out. During involution infection gained entry into uterus, which could be the possible reason for maceration.

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