

Dystocia due to hydrocephalic monster in a local cow

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ABSTRACT

Dystocia due to congenital hydrocephalic monster has been reported in a pluriparous local cow.

Key words: Treatment, dystocia, hydrocephalus, congenital, cow

Incidence of congenital hydrocephalic monster has been reported in the exotic breeds of cattle (McEntee, 1990; Buergett, 1997). The present communication records an incidence of hydrocephalic monster leading to dystokia in a local non-descript cow for the first time in this region.

An 8 years old local non-descript cow in her third gestation was presented to the hospital with the complaint of dystokia. The vaginal examination revealed double the normal size of the head of the foetus obstructing the birth canal with retention of left fore limb. The animal was administered with 8 ml of 2 % xylocain epidurally. With profuse lubrication of birth canal and episiotomy incision the foetus was removed alive by traction which died after 10 minutes. The incision was closed with two nylon stitches followed by routine analgesic and antibiotic treatment. The animal recovered within a week and sutures were removed. The weight of the foetus was about 8 kg with shoulder to rump length being 14 inches. The mass on the foetal head was of the same size as that of head and was fluctuating because of the presence of fluid. The frontal, temporal and parital bones were thin, perforated and deformed. The skin over the mass was intact bearing long hair (Fig. 1). The ventricles of the head were distended with accumulation of straw colored excessive cerebrospinal fluid amounting to about a liter. Robert (1986) described that the malady may be due to a simple autosomal recessive gene. Craig (2000) described that the death of such foetus results due to the pressure on the vital centers in the brain.



Fig. 1. Dystocia due to hydrocephalic monster in a local cow

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