

Retention of placenta in she camel (*Camelus dromedarius*)

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ABSTRACT

A case of retention of placenta rare of its kind has been reported in she camel.

Key words: Retention, placenta, camel

The incidence of retention of fetal membranes is reported to occur with low frequency and if animal is not immediately treated it may prove fatal (Arthur *et al.*, 1986).

An eight year old pluriparous she camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) was brought to the Govt. Veterinary Hospital, Dheerwas (Churu, Rajasthan) with history of retention of foetal membranes. The process of parturition started early in the morning but the she camel failed to deliver the calf. The parturition was assisted by the owner and a live calf which was in normal presentation, position and posture was delivered by forced traction. After the removal of the calf large retention sacs of allantochorionic fluids was observed, which ruptured immediately when the female stood up after the removal of the calf. However, the foetal membranes were not expelled since evening and when the case was brought to the hospital, no part of the fetal membranes were hanging from vulva.

The temperature, pulse and respiration rates were normal and per-vaginum examination revealed fetal membranes lying in the uterus. Immediately after clinical examination 60 IU of Oxytocin placed in one liter of 5% DNS was administered in a slow iv drip over an hour. However, the fetal membranes could not be expelled till morning following the treatment. Next morning when the animal again brought to the hospital, still no

part of the fetal membranes was hanging from the vulva. After washing the perineal region with soap and water, 500 ml of Povidone-Iodine solution (Betadine) mixed with 500 ml of Metronidazole (Benzole 500 mg/ 100 ml) was infused into the uterus with help of a pipette and syringe and this treatment was continued daily for three consecutive days. Along with this intrauterine treatment the animal also received 200 ml Exapar (Dabur Ayurvet Limited) and 100 ml of Ostocalcium (Glaxo Agrivet Limited) given orally twice daily for three days. The fetal membranes were spontaneously passed, 24 hr after the start of treatment and the animal recovered without any complication.

Retention of afterbirth is uncommon in camel (Arthur *et al.*, 1986). Normally following normal parturition, the foetal membranes of the she camel (*Camelus dromedarius*) may be completely expelled soon after the expulsion of foetus or more commonly within about half an hour (Arthur *et al.*, 1986). In the present case the foetal membranes were not expelled spontaneously until 12 hr after the calving. It has been reported that normally the foetal membranes progressively emerges out of the vulva along with formation of large retention sacs containing about 5 liters of fluid which presumably exert a gravitational pull on that part of the after birth still attached and consequently the fetal membranes are expelled (Arthur *et al.*, 1986).

In the present case, although the retention sacs were observed but these got ruptured immediately after formation, thus probably failing to exert a gravitational

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pull which perhaps is essential for expulsion of foetal membranes. Another reason for failure of expulsion of foetal membranes in the present case may perhaps be the uterine inertia, since abdominal contraction and restlessness after calving were not observed, however, the incidence of uterine inertia has been reported to be very low (Arthur *et al.*, 1986). Like equines, the placenta in the camel is of diffused epitheliochorial type (Ghazi *et al.*, 1994) and if the foetal membranes are retained for a longer period, it may lead to fatal metritis (Arthur *et al.*,

1986), therefore the treatment should be immediately instituted.

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