

DYSTOCIA DUE TO ABNORMAL CALF IN A MURRAH BUFFALO: A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

The fetal abnormalities are one of the protagonist causes for causing parturient related issues ultimately resulting in dystocias. Several congenital deformities observed in cattle and buffaloes and among those hydrocephalus, bulldog calf conditions are common. In this case report the handling, obstetrical correction, its post-delivery care and therapeutic medications are discussed.

Keywords: *Bubalus bubalis*, buffalo, hydrocephalus, congenital defect, dystocia

INTRODUCTION

There are several developmental abnormalities have been reported in domestic animals from time to time (Christopher, 1971; Jena *et al.*, 2016) leading to the dystocia condition and other peri and post parturient conditions and hydrocephalus anomaly is one amongst them. Hydrocephalus anomaly occurs due to accumulation of fluids causes dilatation of subarachnoid space

and ventricular system (Noakes *et al.*, 2009). During the foetal development, any obstruction in cerebrospinal fluid passage causes excessive accumulation in arachnoid space leads to over swelling of cranial cavity (Salunke *et al.*, 2001). This condition also caused due to environmental nutritional and genetic factors (Kalman, 1989). This condition most commonly observed in cattle (Jana and Ghosh, 2005; Purohit *et al.*, 2006). Calves with pronounced cranial enlargement usually die within 48 h but less severely affected calves may survive for several weeks or longer (Leech *et al.*, 1978). The Bulldog condition common in foetuses showing hydrocephalus condition. The bulldog appearance due to shortened upper jaw, compressed skull and nose divided by furrows, as per Noakes (*loc. cit.*), this condition is uncommon in buffaloes.

CASE HISTORY

A full term pregnant Murrah buffalo in its first parity presented to Veterinary hospital with history of labour pain for one 28 h. Ten to sixteen hours before water bag had ruptured and one foetal

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leg was protruded out of the vulva. The animal was exhausted due to severe straining. On per vaginal examination the foetus positioned in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position with one fore-limb protruded from vulva and other leg was flexed from shoulder joint. The head of the foetus felt deformed, foetal movements and other reflexes were absent.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The animal was prepared for the manual correction of the postural defect. After sufficient lubrication, the flexed limb was brought to the passage in the normal posture manually. With using of obstetrical chains limbs were snared and traction was applied to deliver the fetus. A dead male foetus was delivered. The calf showed typical

bulldog facial features (Figure 1) of shortened upper jaw, nose divided by furrows, protruding tongue, prolonged lower jaw and shortened upper jaw so this foetus was diagnosed as “bulldog calf” as described by Noakes, 2009. Moreover, the fetus was also affected with hydrocephalus condition as shown in Figure 1. Following delivery, dam treated with ecboic agents to hasten the expulsion of placenta, antihistaminic preparation, a dose of antibiotics and anti inflammatory drugs for treatment and prophylactic measure.

A simple, autosomal recessive defects with some modifiers may cause the bull dog condition in animals (Roberts, 1986). Dystocia due to bull dog calf condition is uncommon in domestic animals but very few cases have been reported in cattle (Roberts, 1986; Harper *et al.*, 1998) and in buffaloes (Christopher, 2000); Shukla *et al.*, 2007).



Figure 1. Bulldog buffalo calf with hydrocephalus.

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