Dystocia Due to Bulldog Calf in a Cow

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Abstract

A bulldog monster calf which caused dystocia in a Jersey crossbred cow was successfully delivered by cephalotomy and forced traction and is reported.

Key words: Bulldog, Cephalotomy, Forced Traction

Introduction

Teratological development or arrest in development of ovum may result in the death or malformations of the antenatal individual, resulting in dystocia (Roberts, 1971). Foetal anomalies and monstrosities of various types have been reported in cows (Janna and Ghosh, 2002 and Shukla and Chauhan, 2004). Fetal anomalies are believed to occur due to adverse factors affecting the fetus during early stages of development. These include physical, chemical and viral factors. Dystocia due to bull dog calf though uncommon have been reported in cow (Kumbhar et al., 2011) and in buffaloes (Pandey et al., 2010). Even though the dystocia due to bull dog calf is rare, it has been reported in cow (Harper et al., 1998) and in buffaloes (Shukla et al., 2007). The present report records an uncommon case of dystocia due to a bulldog calf in a Jersey crossbred cow.

Case History and Clinical Examination

A full term pregnant pleuriparous Jersey crossbred cow on its 4th gestation was brought with the history of dystocia to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal. The water bag had ruptured 9 hours back but the cow was unable to deliver the fetus. Attempt
was made by a practicing veterinarian to remove the fetus by forced traction but failed to deliver. At the time of admission the cow was able to stand and walk. On gross examination, the fetus head was slightly protruding at vulval lips and no fetal limbs were visible. The animal was having continuous straining. The snares applied during earlier attempt to deliver the fetus were hanging outside the vulva. Both the inner canthus of the eye was damaged due to the attempts made to deliver the fetus. Per vaginal examination revealed that the fetus was in anterior presentation and dorso - sacral position and it was unable to decide the posture as the head was tightly packed in the birth canal. Fetal movement and reflexes were absent.

**Treatment**

The perineal region of the cow was washed with 0.1% potassium permanganate solution. Before starting the obstetrical procedure, the straining was reduced by administering 5 ml of 2% lignocaine epidurally. The birth canal was dry and the head was tightly packed in the vaginal passage. It was not able pass the hand beyond the fetal head and it was not able to palpate the limbs and other parts of fetus. Hence it was decided to amputate the fetal head to create sufficient space for further handling. The obstetrical snare was applied on the lower jaw and long obstetrical hook over the cervical bones. The traction was applied over head by pulling snare and hook and the head was amputated with a BP blade. After the amputation of head, the vaginal passage was lubricated with cetrimide cream and the fetus was examined per vaginally. Careful examination of the fetus revealed that the fetal limbs were very small and was insufficient in length to extend through birth canal. Since there was sufficient space, decision was made to deliver the fetus by traction. Two long obstetrical hooks were passed on either side of the fetus, applied over ribs and by slow and careful traction delivered a dead female bulldog calf. The gross examination of the fetus revealed that the fetus was fully developed and weighed 29.0 kgs. The skin was fully developed all over body. It had bulging forehead with normal trunk and abdomen. The fore and hind limbs were stunted (Figure 1). On post mortem examination, the thoracic and visceral organs were normal. The animal was clinically treated with inj. Enrofloxacin (1500 mg, I/M), inj. Meloxicam (200 mg, I/V), inj. Chlorpheniramine maleate (200 mg, I/M), inj. Oxytocin (30 IU, I/V) and inj. DNS (5 liters, I/V).
Discussion

Developmental abnormalities have been reported in domestic animals from time to time (Christopher and Singh, 1997 and Shukla et al., 2007). A bull dog calf is a deformed fetus, compressed skull, flat head with a short nose and sloping fore head with short and stumpy limbs, a nose divided by furrows and a shortened upper jaw, giving a bulldog facial appearance (Noakes et al., 2009). The condition is very rare and develops due to autosomal recessive defects with some modifiers (Roberts, 1971). In the present case since there is no sufficient space for handling of the dead fetus, the fetotomy was performed and the fetus was delivered.

References