PER-VAGINAL DELIVERY OF ANASARCOUS FOETUS IN A TELLICHERRY DOE

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Received : 28.12.14

ABSTRACT

Accepted : 11.03.15

A successful per-vaginal delivery of an anasarcous foetus with breech presentation was reported in a Tellicherry doe.

Key Words: Foetal anasarca, Per-vaginal delivery, Generalized edema, Tellicherry doe, Single foetus

INTRODUCTION

Foetal anasarca has been observed mainly in calf, but occasionally in kids and foals (Craig, 2000). Foetal skin and subcutis get accumulated with voluminous quantity of fluids which may land up in serious birth problem (Jackson, 2004). Present paper describes the per-vaginal delivery of breech presented anasarcous foetus, by forced traction in a Tellicherry doe.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATION

A Tellicherry doe of 2 years with the history of persistence straining after normal delivery of a live male kid was presented to Emergency Critical Care Unit, Madras Veterinary College and Teaching Hospital, Chennai-600 007 in afternoon time. General clinical examination revealed all the vital signs were within normal range. External examination of vulval region revealed edematous labia with slightly congested vaginal mucous membrane. Per-vaginal examination revealed an enlarged foetus with breech presentation, dorso-sacral position and both hind limbs extended into birth passage. Palpation of foetus revealed doughy skin on pelvic region with depression upon finger pressure and slight impaction in birth inlet. Obstetrical examination led to a conclusion that a distorted and enlarged foetus with generalized anasarca as the cause of dystocia. Per-vaginal delivery through forced traction was chosen for relieving the foetus.

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TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

Vaginal passage was thoroughly lubricated with liquid paraffin and traction was given with slight rotation of foetus in order to relieve the hip lock. Foetus was relieved by forced traction and evisceration of abdominal viscera was noticed after removal. Foetal examination revealed underdeveloped hair coat, round head and short neck with more subcutaneous accumulation of fluid. The forelimbs were enlarged and stumpy while hind limbs were slightly affected. The head had very thin skin with abnormal shape like Δbull dog«. Following routine post-parturient treatment the animal recovered uneventfully.

The present case was confirmed as anasarcous foetus and the extent of abnormality was rare in caprine species. The fluid effusion accumulation in sub-cutaneous space might be due to lack of lymph nodes and existence of autosomal recessive allele which affect the embryological development of normal lymph nodes (L.Monteagudo et al., 2002). Roberts (1971) reported that Forced traction is sufficient for

removal of large hydrops foetalis. Foetus was easily accessible in the present case and per-vaginal delivery through assisted parturition was accomplished. Peculiar appearance of the dead foetus like rounded head, short and thick neck, stumpy forelimbs, short jaws (brachygnathia) resembled like a Δbull dog kid«. Grotesque appearance like Δbull dog« was quite similar to appearance of bulldog calves which could be considered as rare in goats. Out of two foetus, only one foetus was affected in the present study which parallels with observation by Roberts, 1971.

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FIGURE 1. FETUS WITH ENLARGED BULL DOG LIKE HEAD, SHORT NECK AND CONSPICUOUS EDEMA IN THE FORELIMB