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Case Report

Dystocia due to dicephalus distomus monster in a crossbred Jersey cow

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ABSTRACT

Relieving of dystocia due to Dicephalus distomus monster with forced extraction in a crossbred Jersey Cow is discussed.

Key Words: Monster, Dicephalus distomus, Dystocia, Cow.

Fetal monster is an important fetal cause of dystocia in animals. Occurrence of Dicephalus with distomus or monostomus is very rare (Roberts, 2004). Dicephalus is a malformation of the head resulting from incomplete twinning in humans and animals (Jenkins *et al.*, 1968). Information on monsters is important to know the frequency of various types of monsters in animals that usually caused dystocia, which cannot be easily removed and demands cesarean section most of the time (Patil *et al,*. 2004). The present communication records a rare case of Dicephalus distomus monster causing dystocia and its successful obstetrical management in a crossbred Jersey cow

Case history: A Crossbred Jersey cow with the history of active labor since five hours was presented for treatment. The cow had two normal previous parturitions without any complications and produced normal calf. The cow had been inseminated with frozen semen and was due for calving.

Clinical findings, Treatment and Discussion: The cow was exhausted and straining mildly . The tail of the calf was protuding out side of the vulva. Uterine discharge was normal. The cow was shifted to a clean area over a tarpaulin sheet and its outside genetelia cleaned with mild potassium permanganate solution (1:10,000). Per-vaginal examination revealed that the calf was in breech presentation and dorso-sacral position.

First of all the abnormal posture of the hind legs was corrected with standard mutation technique (Roberts, 2004). Traction was applied by grasping both the hind legs and by the two hands of the assistant, placed over the back of the calf. The calf could be removed upto the thoracic region only as the fetus was interlocked with the pelvic cavity. Per-vaginal examination at this stage revealed that the calf had two heads. Severe downward and ventro-lateral traction in an oblique manner resulted in delivery of the calf.

Description of the monster: The well developed female calf was alive for half an hour after expulsion. Both the heads were united dorsoventrally, behind the ears, just near the base of the two external ears (right ear of the left head and left ear of the right head) and ventrally, the ventro-lateral aspect of the two heads were attached at the posterior portion of the mandibular region of both sides forming an angle of 90° with each other. The base of both the heads were attached to a common neck. Each head of the calf had a mouth and nasal orifices, two ears, two eyes, two horn buds, normal teeth and tongue. The muzzle of the right

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head was partially deformed at the left nostril and the nostril was absent. No deformity was observed in any part of the body. The case was diagnosed as 'Dicephalus distomus' monster as mentioned by Roberts (2004).

Chandrahasan *et al.* (2003) reported Dicephalus monostomus monster in a crossbred cow, in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position with extended fore limbs but in the present case it was in breech presentation. Dicephalus diphus dibrachius monster with two separate necks in anterior longitudinal presentation had been relieved with cesarean section (Patil *et al.*, 2003). However, the monster fetus in breech presentation causing dystocia in the present case was relieved successfully with the help of mutation and forced extraction obstetrical manoeuvres as per Roberts (2004).

The cow was normal and yielded 5-6 liters milk/ day during post partum period and showed first post partum estrus after 3 months.

Fig. 1 : Dicephalus distomus monster

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