

Dicephalus monster in a non-descript cow - A case report

A.D. PATIL¹*, N.M. MARKANDEYA², V.B. SARWADE³ AND S.D. MOREGAONKAR²

College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Udgir, Dist. Latur - 413 517 (MS)

Received : March 29, 2003

Accepted : October 25, 2004

ABSTRACT

Present report records a rare case of foetal dystokia due to dicephalus monster in a non-descript cow.

Key words : Dicephalus, monster, cow

Roberts (1971) recorded various malformations due to abnormal duplication of the germinal area giving rise to fetuses whose body structures are partially but not completely duplicated. Similarly dicephalic monstrosities in cows have been reported by Adsul *et al.* (1992) and Bakshi *et al.* (1992). The present report records a rare case of dicephalus monster in a non-descript cow.

Case history : A nine years old multiparous cow due for calving was presented to the veterinary dispensary, Jalkot (MS). History revealed that the cow had completed previous three calving very smoothly. After smooth completion of normal gestation period, the labour pains were initiated 6 hours before reporting the animal to the dispensary and there was no rupture of any uterine bag.

Clinical observations, diagnosis and treatment : The cow showed symptom like continuous strainings, restlessness and discomfort. Per rectal examination revealed incomplete cervical dilatation, normal parturient position of the foetus and no fremitus. Per vaginal examination revealed that the foetus was in anterior longitudinal presentation. However, an extra head was available on right lateral side indicative of twin pregnancy. Considering the health and body condition of the cow, cesarean section was performed to relieve the pregnancy and a male dead dicephalus monster was delivered out. Surgical wound was closed as per routine manner. The animal was advised for seven days post operative care along with antibiotic, analgesic and antihistaminic treatment.

Examination of the foetus : The monster foetus was full grown and well developed. The two heads were united at the base



Fig.1 Dicephalus monster

of neck and the skin was intact and continuous. Both the head regions showed exactly similar development with regard to eyes, nostrils, muzzle, ear pinna and bony structures. Pectoral girdle was only one with single abdomen and normal developmentsw of abdominal and pelvic part (Fig. 1).

On post mortem examination, it was revealed that cervical vertebrae, esophagus, jugular veins, trachea were bifurcated and were normal in both the head portions. There was no duplication of thoracic vital organs like heart and lung. As per the classification of monstrosities given by Roberts (1971) the present case was diagnosed as "dicephalus diphus dibrachius".

On scanning the available literature, it was revealed that more number of monstrosities of duplication of foetal body parts have been reported in buffaloes than that of cows. Adsul *et al.* (1992) reported duplication of thoracic parts in dicephalic monster in a Dangi cow. Bakshi *et al.* (1992)

¹Asstt. Professor, Gynaecology & Obstetrics

²Assoc. Professors

³Livestock Development Officer, Jalkot Veterinary Dispensary (MS)

*Corresponding author

reported only duplication of cephalic parts with normal neck region in a crossbred cow. It is observed that the incidence of foetal monstrosities in non descript cow is very rarely reported in literature.

REFERENCES

Adsul, P.B., Velhankar, R.D. and Dhande, P.L. (1992). Dicephalic

dicardiac monster in Dangi cow. *Indian J. Anim. Reprod.*, 13: 20-202.

Bakshi, S.A., Tandale, M.D., Aher, V.D., Goswami, J.D., Moregaonkar, S.D. and Deshmukh, A.A. (1992). Dicephalic monster in a crossbred cow. *Indian J. Anim. Reprod.*, 13: 93.

Roberts, S.J. (1971). *Veterinary Obstetrics and Genital Diseases*. 2nd edn., CBS Publishers & Distributors, India, p. 70.

BOOK REVIEW

NOTES ON APPLIED ANIMAL REPRODUCTION - PART III : BOVINE GYNAECOLOGY (CATTLE AND BUFFALO)

Author : Dr. S.B. Kodagali
Ex-Head, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Vety. College, GAU, Anand
Published by : ISSAR, Gujrat Chapter
Price : Rs.200/-

P- 243811

"Notes on Applied Animal Reproduction" Part-III, Bovine Gynaecology (Cattle & Buffalo) is third in the series, authored by Dr. S.B. Kodagali, the earlier two being Andrology, Artificial Insemination and Bovine Obstetrics. This publication contains 22 chapters. The publication reflects the long and rich experiences of the author, specially dealing with the gynaecological problems, their symptoms and diagnosis. The author has tried to include all the possible problems in Veterinary Gynaecology encountered in the field, which will be of immense help of field veterinarians. The chapter on "Cervical secretion in relation to reproduction" provides practical tool for the field veterinarians and students for detection of heat as well identification of uterine infection. Similarly anoestrus and repeat breeding, two most common reproductive problems encountered by dairy farmers have been dealt together in one chapter. The recent advances in Animal Reproduction such as embryo transfer and immunological aspects of infertility have been dealt separately in two chapters in simple words with tables and charts. The chapter on health management of high-productive animals and andrological examination of bulls are of great value to the dairy farmers.

The language of the book is simple. The topics are more practical oriented and are dealt with the author's vast experience in this field. For student's point of view every chapter contains probable questions which will be very useful to them. The author has done a great job and taken pain in presenting the book which fulfils the long desire by field veterinarians and students. The author deserves appreciation and congratulations for his contribution to the profession.

L.P. Singh