



Management of Fetal Maceration in A Buffalo

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ABSTRACT

A six year old Murrah buffalo was presented to Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, College of Veterinary science and Animal Husbandry, NDUA&T Kumarganj Faizabad with a putrefied fetus. Successful management of fetal maceration in a Murrah buffalo is reported.

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INTRODUCTION

Fetal death, putrefication, luteolysis and failure of abortion are known as maceration. Fetal maceration may occur at any stage of gestation and has been reported in all species of animals [6]. Putrefication of dead fetus start due to microbes present in uterus or may be introduced by ascending infection. Incomplete abortion after the 3rd month of gestation is the main reason for a retained fetal bony mass in the uterus of cows and buffaloes [7]. Maceration is common in cattle and buffaloes [5] but may be rarely encountered in mares [2], small ruminants [1, 3] and companion animals. Usually these cases have a history of intermittent/frequent straining for several days accompanied by fetid reddish grey vulval discharge. This condition is noticed by the owners when foul smelling pus is discharged by a pregnant animal, some time pyrexia and anorexia but rarely, it may be diagnosed during pregnancy examination. This condition can also be diagnosed by the history, finding of a piece of bone lodged in the cervix, rectal palpation.

HISTORY AND CLINICAL OBSERVATION

A six year old Murrah buffalo was presented to Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, College of Veterinary science and Animal Husbandry, NDUA&T Kumarganj Faizabad. According to owner animal was come in repeat estrus after 5 month of AI and that time AI was done by quack before 17 days but animal was dull depress, off feed, frequent straining with foul smelling reddish vulval discharge from 3 days. On per-rectal examination, doughy thick uterine wall with fetal bones palpable in crepitating sound and fetal bones on the ventral aspect protruding out of the compact mass were found in the pelvic cavity. The placentomes were not palpable and fremitus was absent. After per-vaginal examination revealed partial dilatation of cervix with foul smelling discharge. On the basis of history & Gynaecological examination, this case was diagnosed as fetal maceration.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

It was macerated fetus with incomplete cervical dilation. For cervical dilation animal was administered with 48 mg of Valethamate bromide (Epidosin), 25 mg of Dinoprost tromethamine (Lutalyse), intramuscularly for inducing involution of corpus luteum with subsequent termination of pregnancy. After 24 hours, there is complete dilatation of cervix with evacuation of pus completely. Under Epidural anaesthesia with 5 ml of Lignocaine hydrochloride, pervaginal approached protruding mass of fetal bones

was removed, completely by gentle traction with sufficient lubrication. The expelled mass was a macerated with partial autolysis of soft tissues (Figure 1). The uterus was lavaged with 3 liters warm normal saline. Symptomatically, the animal was treated with antibiotic, antihistamine, anti-inflammatory drugs and intravenous fluids and was continued for three days. The buffalo came to estrus 60 days after treatment. The delayed cases of fetal maceration causes severe damage to the endometrium, became adhered to the uterine wall and are difficult to remove other than hysterectomy [4, 7].



Figure 1: Bones of macerated fetus removed per vaginum

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