

DYSTOCIA DUE TO SYNCEPHALUS TETRABRACHIUS TETRAPUS STERNOPAGUS DICAUDATUS MONSTER IN EWE: A CASE REPORT

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SUMMARY

A sheep suffering from fetal dystocia was examined and monster was diagnosed. Delivery of the the monster-fetus was possible per vaginum following partial subcutaneous foetotomy. The delivered monster was a conjoint twin monster which is a rare in sheep.

Key words: Conjoint twin, monster, ewe

Monstrosities often cause dystocia in farm animals (Bugalia et al., 1990) however incidence is low in sheep and goat (Roberts, 1986). Conjoint twins refer to monsters leading to dystocia which arise from a single ovum and are monozygotic in nature (Arthur, 1956), commonly seen in cattle but rarely in ewe (Roberts, 1986). The present report describes a case of dystocia with syncephalus tetrabrachius tetrapus sternopagus dicaudatus monster in ewe.

A pluriparous two and half years old ewe in its second parity was brought to clinics with dystocia. Two hind limbs of foetus were hanging outside from vulva. Per vaginal examination revealed a dead foetus in posterior presentation with two pelvic girdles joined with thorax and more than four limbs could be palpated in birth canal. Based on vaginal examination and history, it was diagnosed to be a case of monstrosities and decided to go for foetotomy to release the dystocia. Following partial foetotomy, a syncephalus tetrabrachius tetrapus thoracopagus dicaudatus monster was delivered (Fig). The Thygesen foetotome was fixed at lower abdomen to cut the foetus at thoraco-lumbar region. After securing each hind limb the cut portion was removed outside by traction. The second cut was given at atlanto-occipito joint of head and neck and the head was pulled outside which was having five ears. The remaining portion of the foetus was removed by forced traction on four forelimbs. To prevent the infection and other post handling complications, a suitable therapy including intramuscular injection of enrofloxacin and



Fig. Syncephalus tetrabrachius tetrapus sternopagus dicaudatus monster in ewe

meloxicam was prescribed. This type of foetus is due to congenital embryonic duplication of germinal layer arising from single ovum (Kumar and Reddy, 2008) that gives rise to monozygotic foetus with partial duplication of body structures. This condition is common in cattle and buffaloes (Bugalia et al., 1990) as compared to sheep (Roberts, 1986).

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