

## PER VAGINAL DELIVERY OF A LIVE ASCITIC FETUS IN A MURRAH BUFFALO

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### SUMMARY

In a 6 ½ year old Murrah buffalo suffering from dystocia, a live ascitic fetus was successfully delivered by forced traction.

**Key words:** Ascitic fetus, buffalo, forced traction

Dystocia is one of the major reproductive disorders affecting buffaloes. Various dropsically conditions such as fetal ascites, fetal anasarca and hydrops of the amnion or allantois have been reported as one of the major causes of dystocia in cattle (Roberts, 1971). Fetal ascites has been observed as an occasional cause of dystocia in many species (Purohit and Mehta, 2006), however, its incidence is higher in cow (Arthur *et al.*, 1996). The exact etiology of most of the fetal gestational complications is poorly understood. The present report describes a case of dystocia due to fetal ascites in a Murrah buffalo.

A Murrah buffalo of third parity was presented at the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, with the complaint of severe straining for the last 12 hours and inability to deliver the fetus inspite of rupture of allantochorion. The buffalo also had an abnormally distended abdomen. Rectal examination revealed a large uterus with the presence of fetus. Per vaginal examination revealed a fully dilated cervix, fetus in posterior longitudinal presentation with an enlarged abdomen and extended hindlimbs. On this basis it was suspected as a case of dystocia due to fetal ascites.

After employing epidural anaesthesia and washing the perineal region, the fetus was tried to be removed per vaginum by manipulations but failed. Therefore, it was decided to incise the abdomen of the fetus with the help of embryotomy knife. Following this, a large amount of straw coloured fluid came out through the vagina (Fig. 1) and this resulted in a drastic

reduction in the size of the fetus. The fetus was then delivered by applying traction on both the hind limbs using snares. The fetus was live which died after 10 minutes. After delivering the fetus, intravenous fluid and parenteral antibiotics were administered to the animal and the owner was advised to continue the treatment for five days and the animal recovered uneventfully.

In the present case, a live fetus (Fig. 1) which died after 10 minutes was delivered per vaginum after



Fig 1. Photograph of a buffalo (A) and fetus (B) after delivery.

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incising the abdomen of the fetus. Gross examination of the fetus revealed an abnormally distended abdomen with no other gross abnormalities therefore, confirming the condition as fetal ascites. Ascitic fetuses with distended abdomen were delivered by forced traction after abdominal centesis in Marathwadi buffaloes (Patil *et al.*, 2009). However, other treatment option recommended in such cases is partial fetotomy to reduce the size of the abdomen (Hoparkhe *et al.*, 2003). Ascitic fetus has also been reported to be delivered by caesarean section in buffalo (Singh *et al.*, 2010; VidyaSagar *et al.*, 2010).

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