ABSTRACT

There are several forms of the congenital deformity in the bovine fetus. Among them is bulldog calf, a rare case of dystocia in buffaloes that has been described here.

Keywords: dystocia, hydrocephalus, congenital defects, bulldog calf, buffalo

INTRODUCTION

Developmental abnormalities have been reported in domestic animals from time to time (Christopher, 1971; Christopher and Singh, 1997; Shukla et al., 2007). The bulldog (achondroplasia) has a compressed skull, a nose divided by furrows and a shortened upper jaw, giving a bulldog facial appearance (Noakes et al., 2009) is rarely reported in the buffaloes.

CASE HISTORY

A Surti buffalo in first parity, and full term pregnant was presented with a history of labour pain for 20 h. The water bag had ruptured 12-15 h before. One foetal leg was protruding out of the vulva without any progress, and the animal was straining severely. The animal appeared to be exhausted due to severe straining. Per vaginal examination after proper lubrication revealed that foetus was in anterior longitudinal presentation, dorso-sacral position with one fore-limb protruding from vulva and another one fore limb was flexed from shoulder joint. The fetal head felt deformed, fetal movements and other reflexes were found absent.

TREATMENT

Before manual correction of the postural defect, animal was treated with adequate intravenous fluid, corticosteroid and antibiotics. Following lubrication of hands with paraffin oil, a hand was inserted into the birth canal, and the flexed limb brought to the passage in the normal posture. The limbs were snared with the obstetrical chains and traction applied to deliver the foetus. A dead male foetus was delivered. Following delivery, the placenta was removed manually and dam treated with oxytocin and anti inflammatory drugs.
Figure 1. Bulldog buffalo calf.

Figure 2. Bulldog calf showing prognathism and hydrocephalus.
DESCRIPTION OF THE CALF

The dead male calf was with the appearance of shortened upper jaw, prolonged lower jaw (prognathism), protruding tongue, nose divided by furrows, giving it a bulldog facial appearance (Figure 1), so this foetus was diagnosed as “bulldog calf” as described by Noakes et al. (2009). The foetus was hydrocephalus (Figure 2) and the whole body was covered with the hairs. On postmortem examination, the internal organs were normal.

DISCUSSION

Bulldog calf is generally considered to be due to a simple, autosomal recessive defects with some modifiers (Roberts, 1986). Dystocia due to bulldog calf though uncommon have been reported in cow (Roberts, 1986; Harper et al., 1998) and in buffaloes (Christopher, 2000; Shukla et al., 2007).

REFERENCES