

## Successful Management of Spontaneous Expulsion of Mummified Fetus in a Cow and its Management

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### ABSTRACT

*Fetal mummification is one of the gestational accidents that occur due to intra-uterine death of fetus commonly at fourth, fifth and six months of gestation. This report describes the spontaneous expulsion of mummified foetus on its own and its successful management with antibiotic therapy was given to avoid any uterine infection.*

**Key words:** Bovine, *Corpus Luteum*, Cow, Gestation

### INTRODUCTION

Bovine fetal mummification results due to death of conceptus in the uterus between third to eighth months of gestation, without accompanying lysis of corpus luteum and opening of cervix, and is characterized by failure in expulsion of dead fetus, absorption of all fetal fluids, involution of fetal cotyledons and maternal caruncles, and presence of hard, firm fetus in the uterine horn as compact mass with no clinical signs. Persistent corpus luteum helps to maintain the dead fetus within uterus by secreting progesterone<sup>1</sup>. Fetal mummification has been reported to occur in many domestic species but this reproductive disorder affects the economy of dairy farms by increasing inter calving

period as well as fetal loss<sup>1</sup>. The incidence of fetal mummification in cattle is sporadic and found to be 0.13-1.8%<sup>2,3</sup>. The present case is spontaneously expelled and reported in a cow.

### Case Report

A five-year-old graded Holstein Friesian heifer, weighing 450 kg, was presented with the complaint of hanging placental membrane from the vulva (Figure-1). The owner of the cow told that she had been inseminated around 5 months before and now brought the cow with apparently normal clinical parameters of heart rate, pulse rate, temperature, respiratory rate and posture were normal.

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On vaginal examination, the fetus was engaged in the vaginal passage and able to be relieved by hand with mild traction was applied to take out the dead without any difficulty with moderate discharge (Figure-2). Based on clinical signs and observations cow was diagnosed to be having mummified fetus and decided to treat medically. The animal was given dicrysticin was started (for five days) as antibiotic therapy to prevent probable uterine infection with injection Flunixin and supportive treatment with B complex vitamins, Per vaginally, the cervix was found fully relaxed and no evidence of presence of foetal membranes

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Fetal mummification has been reported in several species but it is more common in cattle.<sup>1</sup> Several potential causes such as

infectious (including bovine viral diarrhea, leptospirosis and molds)<sup>1</sup> and mechanical (compression or torsion of umbilical cord<sup>3</sup> uterine torsion<sup>5</sup>, defective placentation<sup>6</sup> and genetic abnormalities<sup>7</sup> have been observed for causing this condition. Mummification of fetus in cattle usually occurs between 3-8 months of gestation and thereafter, the dead fetus is retained after absorption of all fetal and placental fluids into the uterus because of persistent corpus luteum however in this case the foetus was expelled spontaneously with no much difficulty. The physical examination of the dam reveals no abnormality; except for some rare cases in which reduced milk production and gradual weight loss has been recorded<sup>8</sup> Dabas and Chaudhari also delivered mummified fetus easily by mild traction after 72 hour of the prostaglandin therapy<sup>9</sup>.



Figure -1



Figure - 2

### CONCLUSION

Spontaneously expelled foetus was retrieved with application of mild traction and medically managed to avoid future complications.

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