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Case report: Dystocia in goat due to foetal mummification

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Abstract

Dystocia usually occurs when the first or second stages of parturition are delayed or when the first stage fail to progress to the next stage within 30 minutes. An adult 3 year-old doe weighing around 25 kg and in advanced pregnancy was presented to Veterinary Hospital Chhuriya with a history of straining and restlessness indicative of dystocia. The external examination revealed swelling vulva and a string of clear to whitish yellow mucus hanging from vulva.

Keywords: Doe, dystocia, mummified fetus

Introduction

Dystocia is a major cause in goats leading to loss of kids and/ or dam, hence causing economic loss to the goat farmers (Odedara *et al.*, 2017) ^[4]. Dystocia is commonly encountered obstetric disorder in small ruminants, occurring when the first or second stage of parturition is markedly prolonged or the dam is unable to parturate (Noakes *et al.*, 2009) ^[3]. While various factors can contribute to dystocia, one unusual and rare condition that can lead to this problem is foetal mummification. Foetal mummification is a condition where there is death of the conceptus followed by resorption of fetal fluids and the uterus wraps around the fetus tightly giving an impression of 'mummy'. The incidence of foetal mummification is commonly observed in domestic animals but it is less frequently encountered in doe and ewe (Roberts, 1971) ^[5]. In doe, fetal mummification is associated with four major conditions viz., Toxoplasmosis, Chlamydia, border disease and Coxiella burnetti infection (Edmondson *et al.*, 2012) ^[2].

Case History and Clinical Observation

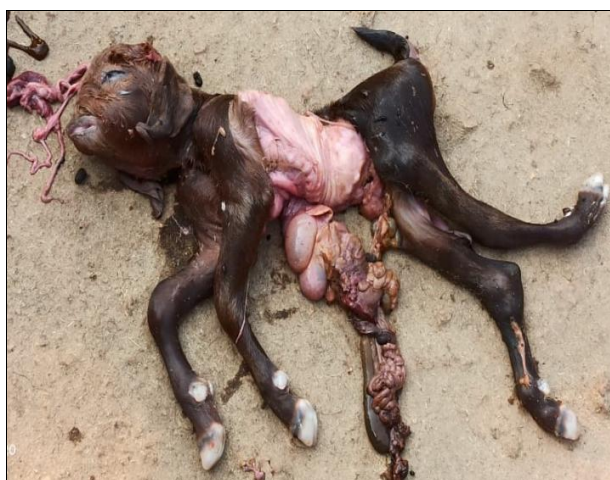
An adult 3-year-old doe weighing around 25 kg and in advanced pregnancy was presented to Veterinary Hospital Chhuriya with a history of straining and restlessness indicative of dystocia. The external examination revealed swelling vulva and a string of clear to whitish yellow mucus hanging from vulva. Appetite of the animal was also normal. Physiological parameters like temperature, respiration, pulse were measured and were found within normal range. Per-vaginal examination revealed two finger dilation of cervix but texture of cervix was soft. Fetus was also palpable on per-vaginal examination.

Treatment

Obstetric manipulation involved careful manual correction of the foetal malposition. After complete obstetric manipulation mummified fetus was removed. The doe was treated with Inj Intacef Tazo 500 mg i/m, Meloxicam 4mg/Kg BW. Oral antibiotic, NSAID and oral ecobolic were given for five days. The animal made smooth recovery.

Discussion

Fetal mummification is characterized by death of the fetus and fetus being retained in uterus owing to the failure of normal parturition or abortion mechanisms (Arthur *et al.*, 1989) ^[1]. Fetal mummification is reported to be rare in goats but appears to be more associated with twin pregnancy (Tutt, 1991) ^[6]. The present case study, one mummified fetus was delivered.



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Conclusion

Fetal mummification in a doe was successfully managed per-vaginally and doe recovered without any complication.

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

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