

Obstetrical care for dam and offspring before and after parturition

➤ *Care for dam before parturition:-*

Examination of body temperature, pulse and respiration which is increase slightly before birth in most of animals.

- Noticed the feeding of mather where is in gestation period must be take a good belanced ration where is any distubance in nutrition leads to some disease which affected pregnancy and parturition such as paraplasia antopartum which is manily caused by deficincy of calcium and phosphorus.
- Examination occure of bony and soft birth way and rectal examination occur to avoid torsion of uterus.
- At the time of birth the extrnal genitalia must be wash with worm water and soap and give the animal tranquilizer or sedative and put under the animal a lot of straw.
- The veterinarian must be wear glove with longe sleeve in both hands to examine the cervix of the dam.

There are 3 degrees of dilated cervix:

1- First degree:

Open cervix to allow passage of the head of the foetus and one limb.

2- Second degree:

Open cervix to allow hand of veterinarian.

3- Third degree:

Opended cervix passes only one or two or three fingers.

Requirments for normal parturition:

- 1- Good physical health of dam.
- 2- Normal soft and bony birth way.
- 3- Normal relaxation of the ligments.
- 4- Normal uterine contraction and abdominal pressure.

➤ **Care of foetus befor parturition.**

- It is examined to detect the foetus alive or dead and detect the size of it.
- Clinical diagnosis (foetal over size) includes relative over size in which the foetus is of normal dimentions but the maternal pelvis is too small or absolute over size in which the maternal pelvis is normal but the foetus abnormally large.

To determine the viability of foetus to detect alive or dead used one of the following methods

1- digital reflex

By pinching of claws of the fetus bitween the thamb and forefinger, a live fetus **withdraws** its limbe.

2- The eye reflex

By pressing on eye ball followed by movement of head of fetus in a live case.

3- The sucking reflex

This occure by introduce the finger into mouth of foetus alive foetus suckling it.

4- Anal reflex

This case when foetus come in posterior presentation where introduce the finger on the anus of foetus contraction of the anal sphincter will be felt.

In normal parturition not need to outside help, the first stage of parturition in cow and ewe is 6-12 hours but in mare 4 hours only while in bitch and sow over 6-12 hours.

The second stage of parturition in cow and ewe 2-3 hours while in mare 20 -30 minutes and in bitch and sow in over 6-12 hours.

➤ **Care of calf after birth**

- 1- Vigorous rubbing of the skin of calf with straw.
- 2- Pour cold water on the head of calf.
- 3- Press on the breast of calf with 2 hands.
- 4- Try to raise the calf from its hind limbs with the head downwards.
- 5- Removal of mucous from nostrils and mouth of calf.

➤ **Treatment of the navel after birth**

In cattle, the navel is about 30 to 40 cm long, there is no ring in the navel as in case of foal, so there is no chance for inner or outer bleeding.

In cattle pour inside the cavity of the navel amount of tr.iodine.

In bitch the mother animal cuts itself the navels of her newborns.

➤ **Care of dam after birth**

The dam should be allowed to lick and nurse her calf.

In case of normal parturition veterinarian must be introduce his hand in the reproductive tract to be examined. It against presence of another foetus in case of twins. Presence of any haemorrhage or injury in genital tract then put about 2 gm terramycin tablets as a prophylactic dose then inject of 20-30 i.u oxytocin to hasten the drop of placenta and involution of the uterus then give calcium, saline and dextrose as a supportive treatment.

Suckle of newborn:-

The udder of dam must be examined for mastitis, and then newborn calf suck the collustral milk which contains minerals and antibodies for 4 days takes about 1/3 liter three times daily for 4 days. Then take 1/2 to one liter three times daily for 12 days then one liter 3 times daily.

Foal suckles his mother two hours after birth at first few days take small amount of milk every 2 hours. Foal need for 5 times daily feeding every time need for 200 – 300 ml milk for 3 days then increase the amount of milk 750 ml 5 times daily them increased to one or two liters everh days. The suckling period about 2-3 months in foal days.

In lamb suck their mother just after birth or required for 60 minutes and take small amount of milk, while puppies start to suck their mother after birth with 30-60 minutes.

THE PRESENTATION, POSITION AND POSTURE OF THE FOETUS

A. The presentation:

It is the relationship between the longitudinal axis of the foetus and long axis of the mother animal. It also includes the portion of the foetus entering the birth canal. The normal presentation is the longitudinal one, and we have either the anterior or the posterior presentation in cattle, the anterior longitudinal presentation forms, 95% of cases, while the posterior presentation forms, 5%.

In the mare, 99% of the births are in the anterior presentation in small ruminats, 10% are in the anterior presentation.

The transverse presentation (faulty presentation): in this case the long axis of the foetus is transverse to the long axis of the mother animal, and it may be either abdominal transverse, or back transverse presentation.

B. The position:

It is the relationship between the dorsum the foetus and the walls of the mother pelvis.

Normal position:

Is dorso – sacral position is the vertebral column of the foetus lies against the sacral vertebrae of the mother animal.

Faulty positions:-

May be right or left dorsa- iliac position, or dorso –pubic position. In transverse presentation, it may be right or left cephalo- iliac position.

C. The posture:

It is the relationship between the movable parts of the foetus (head and two forelimbs, head and neck in ant. presentation. Or the two hindlimbs in post. presentation) to the body of the foetus.

Normal posture:

a- *In anterior presentation*, the two forelimbs are extended, the head and neck being extended, and the head is resting on the metacarpal bones.

Usually one forelimb preceeds the other by about 15 cm.

b- *In posterior presentation*, both hind limbs are extended.

Abnormal postures:

The head and neck may be deviated upwards, downwards, or laterally. One or both limbs may be abnormally flexed on one or more joints.