

# Are You Pulling Too Hard?

## Measurement of Foot Pounds of Pressure Applied to the Bovine Fetus During Forced Fetal Extraction

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Forced fetal extraction is a major contributor to perinatal calf mortality. During the calving seasons of 1992 and 1993, using a scale to measure foot pounds of pressure applied during forced fetal extraction, estimates of the foot pounds of pressure appropriate for the procedure were determined. These parameters were incorporated into a scale built into a bovine fetal extrac-

tor. My presentation will demonstrate the use of this equipment. This technology has applications to help establish limits on pressure applied to the fetus during forced fetal extraction for clients, new practitioners and veteran practitioners. It can be used as a visual aid to explain the need for a C-section or as a restraint on overzealous use of forced extraction.

# Po-Po Owie, or Fixing a Prolapsed Prepuce in Feedlot Steers

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Preputial ("po po") injuries ("owies") in feedlot steers is not an everyday occurrence, but is commonly seen. They are most common in Brahman cross cattle. When exposed to the feedlot environment, the prolapsed tissue frequently enlarges, is traumatized and is subject to further injury, such as being stepped on.

This problem can be corrected easily and economically. Supplies needed are a syringe casing that holds a 12 ml syringe (Monoject) and one that holds a 20 ml syringe (Monoject). You will also need a pocket knife, 1/8" umbilical tape, a large, curved cutting suture needle and a large rubber band. Elastrator pliers with the small, green elastrator bands can be substituted for the large rubber band. And, oh yes, you need a steer with a prolapsed prepuce.

With the steer restrained in the chute, try to insert the closed end of the 12 and 20 ml syringe case; use the largest that will slide into the prepuce. Take the

selected syringe case and cut off the closed end 1/2 way down the bevel, then scrape the cut edge with the knife to smooth out any rough edges. Then bore a hole with your knife in the other end of the syringe case, specifically where the cap was heat-sealed onto the case.

Next, slide the prepared syringe case into the prepuce. Then suture it to the prolapsed tissue using the large, curved suture needle and 1/8" umbilical tape. Run the suture through the hole in the distal end of the syringe case and take a big deep bite through the prolapse. Usually only one suture is necessary.

Then place a rubber band (or elastrator band) just proximal to the prolapsed tissue. Check that the prepuce is still patent. The prolapse with the syringe casing will fall off in about 7 days. No aftercare is generally required.

So now the steer who had an "owie" on his "po-po" will no longer be embarrassed when hanging around with his penmates.