

3. Better trained crew
4. Consistent and uniform treatment program
5. Good record system
6. Up to date research data
7. More involvement for the local veterinarian - not less

Concerns that a local veterinarian has when a consultant comes on board!

1. Loss of the account
2. Lost revenue, both service and drug sales
3. Feeling of being inadequate to participate in decision making

Make yourself available for the day to day tasks. The consulting veterinarian will pull all levels of man-

agement within the feedyard together. Do not be afraid to ask questions or give input about local problems or ideas. I have found most consultants are very willing to accept suggestions from all levels of the team. Don't be intimidated, use the consultant as a referral center. Request from management that you as a local veterinarian are included in the consultants' visit to some degree so that communication lines remain open and that you continue to know what direction the operation is headed.

Finally, one must always remember that the focus needs to remain on what is best for the cattle while at the same time bringing profitability to the client. There is definitely a place for both the local and consulting veterinarian on most management teams. By working together towards a common goal everyone's a winner.

Abstract

Chondrodysplasia in Australian Dexter cattle

P.A.W. Harper, M.R. Latter, F.W. Nicholas, R.W. Cook and P.A. Gill
Aust Vet J 1998; **76**:199-202

Objective To describe the occurrence of chondrodysplasia in Australian Dexter cattle.

Design A pathological and genetic case report.

Procedure Congenital lethal chondrodysplasia was studied in two female Dexter fetuses aborted mid to late gestation. Clinicopathological findings including histological changes in limb bones, and analysis of pedigree information were evaluated.

Results Characteristic features of congenital lethal chondrodysplasia (Dexter bulldog) include abortion, disproportionate dwarfism, a short vertebral column, marked micromelia, a relatively large head with retracted muzzle, cleft palate and protruding tongue and a large abdominal hernia. Histological changes in limb bones are consistent with failure of endochondral ossi-

fication. Dexter chondrodysplasia is considered to be inherited in an incompletely dominant manner with the homozygous form producing the congenital lethal condition. A preliminary minimum estimate of heterozygote frequency is 19% within the registered Australian Dexter herd, based on analysis of the contribution of three obligate heterozygotes whose semen has been widely used by artificial insemination in Australia.

Conclusion Dexter chondrodysplasia is present in Australian cattle and further cases of the homozygous form, congenital lethal chondrodysplasia, are likely to occur.

Recommendation It is requested that spleen and liver tissue from bulldog fetuses and blood from their parents be collected to assist research into Dexter chondrodysplasia.