

needed and properly applied this effect is compounded. Wrapping of a prolapsed cervix that is markedly enlarged with an elastic wrap and suspending it above the vulva will cause the cervix to shrink in size thus allowing it to be replaced with less effort. These and other things that we do regularly are applications of physics.

Dead cows at a veterinary clinic are always a bad situation. They remind us of our human limitations. They usually die in an area that is hard to get them out of. It usually occurs at a time when there are many curious onlookers. There is never a tractor with a front

end loader. We end up dragging them into a trailer that is at least a foot or more off the ground. Backing the trailer into a low spot to expedite the loading process often results in getting stuck in the mud. Apply physics to loading the dead cow. Put a halter on the cadaver and run the lead through the side of the trailer as high as possible. This should be close to the back of the trailer.

This will cause a lifting of the animal as well as a forward pull. This will reduce the problem associated with getting the head and the fore quarters to load into the trailer.

## The Overdue Calf Delivery

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In the typical bovine practice, the overdue calf delivery occurs all too often, with the calf having been dead from a few minutes to a few weeks when presented for delivery.

Since we are dealing with a salvage situation, the welfare of the heifer or cow and cost to the owner are of primary consideration.

Routine use of shoulder-length OB sleeves with exam gloves pulled on over the hands for added protection is a must in these cases and also makes cleaning up much easier.

Proper lubrication cannot be over-emphasized for the overdue calf delivery. The water-based lubricants are soon diluted by the uterine fluids and are not very effective. White petrolatum is the most lasting lubricant on a difficult delivery. Heavy mineral oil pumped in on a dry calf may also be very helpful.

I like to use a double-jack, butt-plate type calf puller, not so much for the extra power but for the extra options it gives me on a difficult delivery.

A thorough knowledge of and frequent use of fetotomy is essential in any bovine practice. Many C-sections can be avoided with a fetatome. An excellent book title *The Technique of Fetotomy in Large Animals* by Drs. Bierschwal and deBois is out of print but will be very helpful if one can be found.

In my experience, the overdue calf can be placed roughly in one of three categories:

### 1. The calf that is "relatively" fresh:

For the calf that is "relatively" fresh, the options

are fairly favorable:

- a) You may be able to lubricate and manipulate it and do a routine delivery.
- b) A partial or complete fetotomy may be required.
- c) If the calf is too big and still pretty fresh, a C-section may be best.

### 2. The dry, emphysematous calf:

The dry, emphysematous calf that is immovable, with any attempt at traction, mutation, or fetotomy at high risk of rupturing the uterus leaves us with a few good options:

- a) Salvage through slaughter
- b) A C-section with a very low survival rate
- c) Euthanasia
- d) If the owner does not buy a, b, or c, give the cow a few days for the calf to melt down and try her again, if she survives.

### 3. The remains of a calf:

The remains of a calf — hide, bones, and a greasy, putrid mush, with lubrication, manipulation, and gentle traction, (always with the owner's help), these can usually be delivered a piece at a time.

Aftercare should include antibiotics, oxytocin, tetanus antitoxin, and fluids if indicated.

Finally, if at your clinic, when it is all over, load EVERYTHING back into the owner's trailer and send him home.