

PRACTICE TIPS

When performing minor surgery on the bovine teat such as surgically relieving teat sphincter stenosis, a local anesthetic can be easily utilized. This is best accomplished by inserting a teat canula just through the streak canal and into the tip of the teat cistern. Following the gentle infusion of three to five ml. of local anesthetic solution, withdraw the canula. Do not massage the teat because the objective is to concentrate the anesthetic solution at the teat end. Allow several minutes for maximum anesthetic effect.

James B. Gates, Jr., D.V.M., Auburn, Ala.

Many so-called downer cows have muscle damage which is usually the result of slipping on slippery cement floors. A useful device for moving recumbent cows to a box stall or an area where they can get good footing is a piece of thick plywood about 30 inches by 95 inches supported on 2½-3 inch swivel type caster wheels (heavy duty type). A cow is loaded on this fairly easily just by rolling her on and once on the stretcher it rolls easily. One can be made very easily with about a half hour's labor.

D. Atkinson, D.V.M., Kirkton, Ont., Can.

I have had very good luck treating bovine respiratory infections with tylosin i.v. Used intramuscularly, however, my luck has not been at all good. I feel that the route of administration is very important in this drug.

Anon.

Question: I would like to know for what digestive disturbances in cattle have vinegar drenches been recommended?

Ronald L. Cundall, D.V.M., Fairfax, Mo.

Answer: A practical approach to treat acute urea poisoning marked by sudden onset of signs 15-30 minutes following the feeding of improperly mixed feed is the following three step method. Early signs include excessive salivation, trembling of muscles, ataxia, and bloat. Death can occur as early as 60-90 minutes from the time of feeding. First remove any remaining feed and administer a calcium-magnesium sol. i.v. to help control signs. Second, perform a rumenotomy as quickly as possible and empty the rumen. Third, put about 2-3 qts. of

vinegar into rumen and mix in to lower pH. Close up and follow with normal post-operative treatments. (Ed.)

In replacing a prolapse of the uterus with the cow down, extend the hind legs out behind the cow to elevate the pelvis and relieve pressure on the abdomen. This will greatly facilitate the replacing of the uterus.

William V. McElroy, D.V.M., Lamoni, Iowa

When repairing a uterine prolapse on a down animal, pull both hind legs straight behind the cow so she lies on her brisket, udder, and stifles. This elevates the perineal area and makes replacement as easy as if she were standing. It also insures bilateral epidural anesthesia.

Patrick D. Hatfield, D.V.M., Victor, Mont.

I find that using Tylan and Azium mixed, 400 mg Tylan and 2 mg Azium, is very effective in treating many cases of pneumonia, calf scours and foot rot.

John J. Talsma, D.V.M., Caledonia, Mich.

As a recent graduate with my own practice I encounter many questions concerning pinkeye in cattle — both beef and feedlot. What are the practitioners' suggestions for treatment, prevention to an extent, and also related conditions, i.e., vitamin A deficiency, dust, pollen, etc., to be on the lookout for?

Eric J. Hollen, D.V.M., Villisca, Iowa

Answer: There is no known specific cure for this condition. Try injecting 0.5 ml penicillin and 0.5 ml steroid subconjunctivally. Apply antiseptic eye ointment. If only one eye is affected, the third eyelid may be pulled across the eye and sutured to the outer canthus. Remove the suture in about 10 days. Recently, special eye pads are available to protect the eye. (Ed.)

“Plank in the Flank” for Relief of Uterine Torsion

In cases of uterine torsion where it is possible to get through the cervix, the employment of a plank to immobilize the fetus and uterus while rolling the cow has been very effective. After determining the direction of the torsion by vaginal and/or rectal

examination, the cow is squeezed down and placed in lateral recumbency on the side to which the torsion has occurred, i.e. a cow with a torsion to the left is placed in left lateral recumbency. A plank (approximately 2" x 10" x 10 ft.) is placed with one end on the flank and the other end resting on the ground. Weight is applied to the plank (I stand on it and shout orders!) while the cow is gently rolled to her opposite side. Usually a single rolling is adequate to relieve the torsion so that the calf can be delivered.

This procedure is effective in that it holds the fetus and uterus still while the body of the cow is rotated around the immobilized reproductive tract. It alleviates the need for rapidly jerking the cow from one side to the other as is necessary in the rolling method relying on inertia to keep the uterus in place. It also saves wear and tear on the arm and shoulder of the veterinarian that sometimes attempts to immobilize the calf and uterus by applying pressure via vagina or rectum while the cow is being rolled.

This method has been used successfully in approximately 25 cases and the only time it was unsuccessful was when twin emphysematous fetuses were present, making rotation of the reproductive tract impossible.

Robert B. Hillman, D.V.M., Ithaca, New York

To stimulate respiration in newborn calves that are depressed, give 2 ccs Doprom-V in the tongue.

C. Dean Birthoff, D.V.M., Attica, Kansas

How do you handle cases of grain overload seen in older dairy cows turned out in cornstalk fields after picking? What percent do you expect to save? (Assume they can still stand, although wobbly.)

Barbara H. Miller, D.V.M., Richland, Wisc.

Answer: Grain overload causes an overproduction of lactic acid in the rumen, resulting in acidosis, dehydration and shock. Perform a rumenotomy and reinoculate the rumen with fresh ruminal contents or give magnesium carbonate and Anamas (Haver-Lockhart) by stomach tubes. Several liters of normal electrolytes and anti-histaminics should be given intravenously. (Ed.)

When kneeling to do surgery in an area which might become wet, cut the ends off a couple of plastic gloves and slide them up over your pants. This will protect your legs from getting wet when your coveralls have soaked through.

Gene R. Bengston, D.V.M., Cheyenne, Wyo.

Good material for FA diagnosis of Bovine Virus Respiratory Disease may be obtained by vigorous rubbing of a dry swab on the medial canthus of the eye and the nasal mucosa. Swab the mucous which should contain surface cells onto clean dry slides. Immerse the slides for 10 minutes in acetone kept under 40 degrees. Allow slides to dry and send to a diagnostic laboratory for FA study.

S. B. Guss, V.M.D., Penn. State Univ.

When it is impossible to get a recumbent cow with a uterine prolapse standing, I place a sheet of corrugated metal under the prolapse and raise one end of the metal sheet with a concrete block or stone. The prolapse then can be cleaned; excess liquid is carried to the lower end of the sheet metal by the corrugations, keeping the working area drier and the uterus cleaner.

Terry Schmitt, D.V.M., Hoisington, Ks.

When treating cattle for mastitis, I add to 200 ml. of sterile water my choice of antibiotic. This is infused into the infected quarter by means of a gravity intravenous tube and allowed to remain in the quarter for 24 hours. Since treating mastitis by this method during the past three years, I have been able to save more cows and quarters than ever before.

D. F. Chapel, D.V.M., Grass Lake, Mich.

After replacing the bovine uterus, don't overlook the benefits of infusing several gallons of 120 to 130 degree warm water into the uterus and following with oxytocin IV. It's an excellent guide in making your prognosis as an unperforated uterus will expell the water promptly — also reduces shock and balloons the uterus (prior to the water expulsion.)

Herbert M. Fisch, D.V.M., Spring Valley, Minn.

I see quite a number of omasal impactions, mostly because of nutritional problems. Recently, a fat cow under good management was brought into the clinic. Toxicology of rumen content revealed arsenic. Any comments regarding omasal impactions, early diagnosis, treatment, etc., would be appreciated. Also, any discussion on the role of arsenic as a possible etiology.

Robert H. Potter, D.V.M., Columbus, Texas

I have had excellent client response to dehorning cows with a hand saw and anaesthetic and stopping bleeding with hemostats. We charge \$5-7 and clients say cows do not drop in production at all.

Edward G. Clark, D.V.M., Rosthern, Sask., Can.

Use of Equithesion (Jen-Sal) has proved very beneficial as an anesthetic in bovine c-sections — it is good for any situation in my experience. I have delivered live calves successfully on each occasion when possible; usual dosage was 20 cc / 100 lbs. body weight. The animal usually will rise after surgery is completed with little difficulty. No local anesthesia is necessary with this method.

D. A. Rybolt, *D. V.M.*, Barnard, Mo.

Question: I would like suggestions on methods of handling prolapsed cervix problems in Santa Gertrudis and Brahma breeds of cattle since they differ from the typical prolapse of the vagina in English breeds. Also, some possible etiologies of some of these problems which occur in more or less of an outbreak form, causing some doubt in my mind of heredity as a sole cause.

Charlie A. Davis, *D. V.M.*, Littleton, Colo.

In implementing a herd health program in your practice, several methods or plans must be made available. No one plan is suitable for all dairymen. One client may require a very detailed arrangement, whereas another will need the simplest one possible. This is especially true in the type of

records one keeps. This one consideration is the reason for failure in many practices.

Be sure to consider hormone therapy in treating pneumo-vagina of cows before resorting to stitches or surgery. Many individuals with this condition have a cystic follicle malady. Progesterone is considered the drug of choice in the absence of acute metritis. If infection is found, uterine infusion with parental chorionic-gonadotropic should be used.

L. C. Allenstein, *D. V.M.*, Whitewater, Wisconsin

For treating stubborn cases of foot-rot or necrotic laryngitis that have failed to respond to penicillin or sulfas, we usually get excellent results with high levels (5 mg/lb. b.w.) of oxytetracycline for seven days plus a vial of Varizyme (streptokinase-streptodionase) on each of the first and second days.

Dr. Frank P. Baker, Nanton, Alberta, Canada

Two and one-half to three cc's of vitamin E and selenium (BoSe) often is helpful in baby calf scours when administered with other supportive treatment.

R. D. Niedfeldt, *D. V.M.*, Wisconsin

A carpenter's stud finder makes a simple way to determine whether a cow has a magnet and where it is. The stud finder is an inexpensive plastic device similar to a compass. It is passed along the left side of the reticulum at the level of the elbow and its magnet responds to the one in the reticulum. I use it to be sure I do not give a magnet to a cow that already has one.

Sam Hutchins, III, *D. V.M.*, South Barre, Vermont

Acknowledgement

I very much enjoyed receiving your Journal and it sounds very much like your organization may be the best thing to happen to the large animal practitioner in the last 25 years.

Dr. Thomas J. Love, Watkins Glen, N. Y.

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Dairy Housing is the Focus of National Meeting

One of the most intensive looks at dairy farm facilities, systems, and equipment will be taken February 6, 7, and 8, 1973, at a National Dairy Housing Conference. This meeting, the first of its kind, will be held at the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University campus, East Lansing.