

PARTURIENT CARE OF DAM AND NEWBORN – II

(MARE, SHEEP, GOAT, SOW, BITCH, CAT)

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Mare

- Labour can be recognized by
 - ✓ degree of mammary hypertrophy,
 - ✓ waxing of the teats
 - ✓ escape of milk from the glands
 - ✓ Patchy sweating behind elbows and about the flanks

- Occurs 4 hrs before the birth of foal

- Body temperature slightly subnormal

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- As stage advances,
 - Restlessness
 - Wanders aimlessly
 - Tail frequently raised/held to one side
 - Swishing of tail
 - Kicking at the abdomen

- As the end of stage approaches,
 - Crouching
 - Straddling of the hindlimbs
 - Going down on knees/sternum and rising again
 - Glancing at the flank

- The stage terminates with rupture of the allantochorionic membrane and the escape of urine-like allantoic fluid from the vulva.

- Onset of second stage is abrupt.
- characterized by the appearance of the amnion or the commencement of forcible straining.
- Mare passes on to her side with limbs extended, and generally remains in this position until the foal is born.
- Second stage should complete in 30 minutes, if delayed, intervention is needed.

- Foal should stand within 1 hour after birth.
- Colostrum should be fed within 2 hours of birth.
- Udder should be cleaned before allowing foal to suckle.
- Placenta should be shed within 3 hours of foaling, care should be taken in case of ROP.
- Cleanliness and hygiene are must.

- Mare and foal should be allowed to bond, left undisturbed for some time.
- Umbilical cord is intact at birth, but generally ruptures 5-8 cm beneath the belly.
- Watch for passage of meconium.
- Prevention of infections.



Sheep and Goat

- Very similar to that of cow except that the incidence of twinning and triplets is high.
- Second stage is mostly complete in 1 hour and afterbirths are shed within 2 or 3 hours.
- Second fetus is born within 30 minutes after the first one.
- Colostrum should be fed within 20-30 min. of birth.
- All newborns should be kept with dam.
- Care should be taken to protect from stray dogs.



Sow

- 60 – 70% sows farrow at night.
- In late pregnancy, sows are quiet, resting and sleeping in lateral recumbency.
- 24 hours before the birth of first piglet, sow becomes.
- Conspicuous mammary growth during late gestation.
- 1-2 days before farrowing, individual glands become demarcated, turgid, tense and warm and full of milk.

- Progressive swelling of vulval lips from 4 days before farrowing and mucosa becomes reddened.
- Parturient sow usually remains in lateral recumbency.
- Intermittent straining along with paddling leg movements.
- Birth of first piglet requires greatest effort.

- Guard rails should be provided.
- Needle teeth should be clipped soon after birth.
- Iron supplementation to piglets is must to prevent “piglet anaemia”.



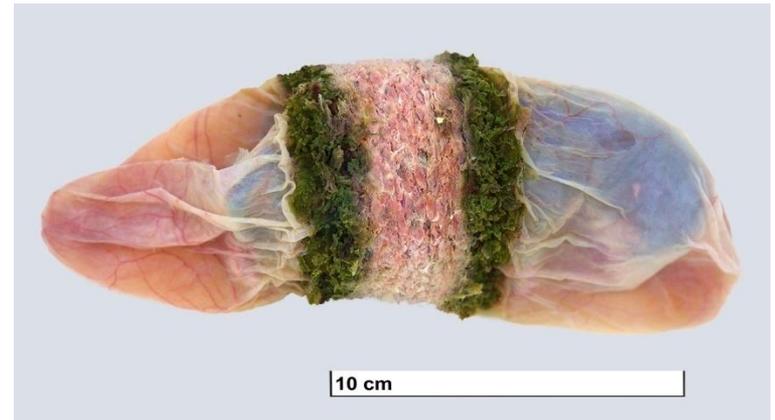


Bitch

- Imminence of parturition is indicated by the animal preparing her bed and becoming restless.
- Whelping box can be provided.
- In primigravidae, the onset of lactation more or less coincides with parturition but in multigravidae, milk may be expressed from the teats for several days prior to its onset.
- Transient fall in body temperature of at least 1.2°C.
- Vigorous licking of vulva.

- Changing of environment may delay whelping.
- After straining, generally first fetal expulsion occurs in an hour, if delayed, care must be taken.
- Placenta shed along with fetus and is promptly eaten up by bitch.
- Total time taken depends on no. of fetuses.
- For a litter of 4-8 pups, occupies 4-8 hours.

- Dark green uterine discharge is characteristic, due to breakdown of marginal haematoma and release of uteroverdine.



- Claws of pups should be trimmed every week.
- Deworming and vaccination schedule should be followed.



Cat

- Queen will seek out a suitable nesting area (quiet, undisturbed spot) for kitting.
- Mammary development is noticeable.
- During first stage, queen becomes restless, frequently visits the nesting area.
- Frequent licking of the vulval area and panting.
- Kittens are usually born after a shorter period of abdominal straining.
- Care of kittens is more or less like that of pups.