

Case Study

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Fetal Mummification in Doe along with Live Fetus: A Rare Case Study

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ABSTRACT

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A mummified fetus was extracted out in a pleuriperous non-descript doe after delivery of one live fetus at full term pregnancy.

Introduction

In most of animals fetal mummification is characterized by death of conceptus subsequently resumption of fetal fluids and involution of uterus to an extent that it contracts tightly over the fetus and resembles to a contracted hard mass along with persistence of corpus luteum in most of times (Noakes *et al.*, 2009). Absorption of the amniotic and allantoic fluids results in to shriveled parchment-like fetal membranes in the case of 'papyraceous mummification' or

in viscous chocolate coloured deposits filled between the fetal membranes and fetus in 'haematic mummification' (Noakes *et al.*, 2009). Fetal mummification is commonly observed in all the domestic animals but less common in sheep and goat; mainly occurs in the middle or last third of gestation, (Roberts, 1971). Fetal mummification is a sterile process due to morphological changes of the retained dead fetus after the first third of the pregnancy with a mature fetal skin (resistant to autolysis) (Johnston and Raksil, 1987). The present case of fetal mummification along

with delivery of one live fetus at the term is placed on record.

Case history and clinical examination

A non-descript doe of about 2 year age on her 2nd parity brought to the Referral Veterinary Polyclinic, IVRI with a clinical history of full term gestation and delivery of one live fetus before 12 hours of presentation; as said by owner a small mass along with a membranous covering lodged into the vagina of dam just after the delivery of first fetus with continuous abdominal straining. Feed and water intake of animal were slightly reduced. In the previous parturition no such complication was observed and fetuses were delivered without any manual assistance.

Clinical examination

Clinical examinations revealed that a small hard mass was lodged in the dam's vagina which was also visible externally.

On per-vaginal examination (digitally) a hard mass with bony texture was felt with a membranous covering along with viscous chocolate color fluid filled.

Treatment and Discussion

After giving gentle traction with lubricated hand a contracted hard mass (mummified fetus) covered in slightly shriveled membranous structure (fetal membrane) along with chocolate colored viscous fluid, extracted out per-vaginally (Fig. 1 & 2).

Thorough examination of extracted hard mass was confirmed as mummified fetus in which all the parts of fetus were present in a contracted form.

The doe was uneventfully recovered after supportive therapy.

Fig.1&2



Fig :1

Mummified fetus after two month postpartum and also at the time of complete gestation following caesarean section have been



Fig :2

reported by Tutt (1997), Bhardwaj and Kumar (2014) and Ogbu *et al.*, (2011). In our case mummified fetus was observed at the time of

kidding along with one live fetus. Fetal mummification appears to be more common in twin pregnancies in the goats than singletons and carried upto the term (Ogbu *et al.*, 2011) as observed in present case. The present case is a type of 'haematic mummification' and rare of its kind due to one normal live fetus along with mummified fetus at full term gestation was delivered per-vaginally.

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