

In this practical book, you will find the essential features that need to be taken into consideration during gestation, calving and the postpartum period in order to deal with calving successfully.

3 Physiology of calving: normal delivery

Stages of normal delivery

Calving takes place in three well-defined stages:

1. Distress stage
2. Partial expulsive stage
3. Effortful expulsive stage

Stage	Duration	Signs	Actions
Distress	6-18 hours	Restlessness, reduced feed intake. Usually, the foetal membranes can be seen in the vulva.	Gradually becomes propped up in the pelvic canal.
Partial expulsion	Usually 1-3 hours (Rarely 30 minutes-4 hours)	Abdominal contractions that increase in frequency, intensity, regularity, rupture of the foetal membranes and rupture of the foetal sac.	Pushes foetus partly out.
Effortful expulsion	Within 15-20 minutes	Rupture of the placenta.	Pushes foetus out.

1. Distress stage



Distress stage: a cow with a red, swollen vulva, indicating the start of the distress stage.

- Cow progressively shows signs of distress, usually the start of it is the start of the distress stage.
- The duration of the distress stage is 6-18 hours, before the foetus is born.
- Characterised by a specific behaviour, restlessness, reduced feed intake, reduced water intake, reduced rumination.
- Repeated series of abdominal contractions, which are usually of 10-20 minutes.
- During contractions, which are usually of 10-20 minutes, the cow usually shows the following signs:
- When the cervix is sufficiently dilated, the foetus can be seen through it and the calf will be pushed into the pelvic canal.

2. Partial expulsive stage

- Abdominal contractions start as the calf's head passes up in the uterus.
- Contractions last about 10-20 minutes, but longer and more intense in intensity.
- Cow usually, especially before, starts to lie on her side.
- Cow usually, especially before, starts to lie on her side.



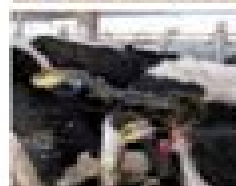
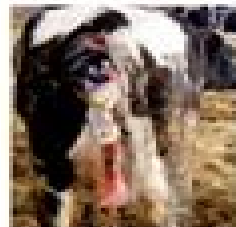
3 Physiology of calving: normal delivery

Presentations

Definitions

- **Presentation** indicates the relation between the long axis of the foetus and the plane of the pelvic canal.
- **Position** indicates which surface of the foetus is in contact with the pelvic canal (dorsal, ventral or lateral).
- **Posture** indicates the position of the limbs and head, i.e. extension or flexion.

In a normal spontaneous delivery, two presentations are possible:



Normal

This is the most common position of the calf.

- **Normal presentation:** 1 is born "head first".
- **Normal position:** the calf's head is born in the pelvic canal.
- **Normal posture:** the calf's head is born in the pelvic canal.

Abnormal

- **Abnormal presentation:** 1 is born "tail first".
- **Abnormal position:** the calf's head is born in the pelvic canal.
- **Abnormal posture:** the calf's head is born in the pelvic canal.

Normal presentation



Abnormal presentation



Essential Guide To Calving

SJ Ball



Essential Guide To Calving:

Essential Guide to Calving Heather Smith Thomas, 2008-01-01 Every cattle farmer from the keeper of a family milk cow to the rancher overseeing a large herd will gain confidence and control by becoming more knowledgeable about calving. Healthy pregnancies, safe births, and thriving calves are critical to every cattle operation, and in remote farm locations the veterinarian is not always readily available. Even if the vet is nearby, the farm's finances will be healthier if the farmer can oversee most of the calving process. Heather Smith Thomas, an expert on livestock with decades of firsthand experience, covers every routine situation likely to arise before, during, and after calving. And when the calving process is out of the ordinary, Thomas guides the farmer through pregnancy problems, difficult deliveries, recognizing when to call in a vet, and postpartum complications. Her thorough coverage of what to expect in every situation gives farmers the knowledge they need to care personally for their cows. The second half of the book is dedicated to ensuring that every calf gets off to a healthy start. Thomas helps farmers work with cows reluctant to nurse, substitute mothers, and frail calves. A complete chapter on calfhood illnesses explains warning signs and offers tips on prevention and treatment. As people return to farming in growing numbers, the demand for safe, humane livestock knowledge continues to increase. Farmers will turn to this reliable volume again and again as they welcome each new calf.

Essential Guide to Calving J. V. González-Martín, 2013

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Poor management practices can lead to low growth rates delayed breeding stock diseases and even deaths among imported stock both before and after first calving Managing High Grade Dairy Cows in the Tropics addresses the entire range of management practices found on tropical small holder dairy farms highlighting those which are likely to adversely impact on heifer and cow performance hence farm profitability It is a companion volume to two previous manuals written by John Moran Tropical Dairy Farming and Business Management for Tropical Dairy Farmers **Your Calf** Heather Smith Thomas,1997-01-01 Offers information and advice on selecting feeding housing caring for breeding and showing both beef and dairy cattle *National Range and Pasture Handbook* United States. Natural Resources Conservation Service,1997
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