

Placenta Failed to be expelled within 24 hours

Retained fetal membranes (RFM) in dairy cows, where the placenta fails to be expelled within 24 hours post-calving, is a condition that requires prompt treatment to avoid complications. Here are the best approaches to managing RFM:

1. Manual Removal: In some cases, veterinarians may attempt manual removal if the membranes are not expelled naturally. This should be done carefully to avoid damage to the uterus.

2. Hormonal Therapy:

- Oxytocin: This hormone can stimulate uterine contractions and help in the expulsion of retained membranes.
- Prostaglandins: These can also help in uterine contractions and are sometimes used in the management of RFM.

3. Antibiotic Therapy: Infection is a common concern with RFM. Systemic antibiotics may be prescribed to prevent or treat uterine infections (metritis). It's essential to use antibiotics judiciously to avoid resistance issues.

4. Anti-inflammatory Drugs: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can help manage pain and inflammation associated with RFM.

5. Supportive Care:

- Hydration and Nutrition: Ensuring the cow is well-hydrated and has access to high-quality feed can support her overall health and recovery.

- Monitoring: Close monitoring for signs of systemic illness or pyrexia (fever) is crucial.

6. Uterine Lavage: This procedure involves flushing the uterus with a sterile solution to help remove debris and reduce bacterial load. It should be performed under veterinary guidance.

7. Observation: Sometimes, an expectant approach is taken, where the cow is monitored closely, and the membranes are allowed to pass naturally, provided there are no signs of systemic illness.

In case the placenta is not expelled within 3 days

If a dairy cow has retained fetal membranes (RFM) that have not been expelled after 3 days, it becomes more critical to address the situation due to the increased risk of infection and other complications. Here's what you should do:

1. Veterinary Consultation: Contact your veterinarian for a thorough examination and guidance. They can assess the severity of the condition and recommend appropriate treatment options.

2. Systemic Antibiotics: If not already initiated, systemic antibiotics may be prescribed to prevent or treat infection. Common choices include penicillin or other broad-spectrum antibiotics, but the specific choice should be guided by your veterinarian.

3. Anti-inflammatory Medication: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can help reduce inflammation, manage pain, and improve the cow's overall condition.

4. Uterine Lavage: Your veterinarian may recommend a uterine lavage to help remove any remaining tissue and reduce bacterial load. This procedure involves flushing the uterus with a sterile solution.

5. Hormonal Treatment: Hormonal therapy, such as administering prostaglandins, may still be beneficial to stimulate uterine contractions and help expel the retained membranes.

6. Supportive Care:

- Hydration and Nutrition: Continue to ensure the cow is well-hydrated and has access to high-quality, easily digestible feed. Proper nutrition supports the immune system and overall recovery.
- Comfort and Stress Reduction: Minimize stress and ensure the cow has a comfortable, clean, and dry environment.

7. Monitoring: Keep a close watch on the cow's condition, including:

- Body Temperature: Regularly check for signs of fever, which can indicate infection.
- Behavioral Changes: Look out for signs of discomfort, lethargy, decreased appetite, or any changes in behavior.
- Discharge: Monitor any uterine discharge for changes in color (such as becoming foul-smelling or purulent) that would suggest infection.

8. Manual Removal with Care: If the veterinarian deems it safe and appropriate, they may attempt a careful manual removal of the retained membranes. This should be done very cautiously to avoid causing trauma to the uterus.