



Our vision is to deliver superior animal health management solutions for our patients while providing value to our clients, a rewarding working experience for our practice team and support for our community

Our team is committed to delivering the highest quality of veterinary medicine and exceptional customer service with integrity, compassion and accountability. We strive to keep up to date with advances in veterinary medicine that will enable us to stay leaders in the deliverance of high quality veterinary services to our clients and their animals.

Ontario Goat Producers

Great resources are only a click away!

Be sure to check out the Ontario Goat website – where they have launched a new newsletter to be distributed to producers across the country. It is a free resource! You can sign up for it at:

<http://www.ontariogoat.ca/goat-gazette/>

Best wishes for a great grazing season!

Sincerely,

The CVS Team



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**Guest Author Dr. Amanda Topp*

WAGE THE WAR **ON PARASITES**

Internal parasites are silent killers. They can cause extensive internal damage, and you may not even realize your horses are heavily infected. At the very least, parasites can lower resistance, rob the horse of valuable nutrients, and cause gastrointestinal irritation and unthriftiness. At their worst, they can lead to colic, intestinal ruptures, and death.

Using deworming agents on a regular schedule in combination with good management procedures is critical to relieving your horse of most parasites. Since parasites are primarily transferred through manure, good management is key. In terms of management priorities, establishing a parasite control program is probably second only to supplying the horse with clean, plentiful water and high quality feed.

To get rid of parasites before they attack your horse, follow these suggestions from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP):

- 1. Pick up and dispose of manure droppings in the pasture at least twice weekly.**
- 2. Mow and harrow pastures regularly to break up manure piles and expose parasite eggs and larvae to the elements.**
- 3. Rotate pastures by allowing other livestock, such as sheep or cattle, to graze them, thereby interrupting the life cycles of parasites.**
- 4. Group horses by age to reduce exposure to certain parasites and maximize the deworming program geared to that group.**
- 5. Keep the number of horses per acre to a minimum to prevent overgrazing and reduce the fecal contamination per acre.**
- 6. Use a feeder for hay and grain rather than feeding on the ground.**
- 7. Remove bot eggs quickly and regularly from the horse's haircoat to prevent ingestion.**
- 8. Rotate deworming agents, not just brand names, to prevent chemical resistance.**
- 9. Consult your veterinarian to set up an effective and regular deworming schedule. Collect fecals for routine monitoring at your stable.**

With limited ingredients available it is important that we use these products with respect. Anthelmintic resistance is a growing concern. Different stables will require different regimes. Discuss a plan with your veterinarian and implement it without delay. A good parasite control program will go a long way toward maximizing your horse's appearance, performance and comfort. The net result will be an animal that is as healthy on the inside as it appears on the outside.

Information about equine parasites also can be found on the AAEP's website www.aaep.org/horseowner.

Cited with permission from aaep.org



CALVING – 101

The majority of calvings occur without assistance and without problems resulting in a healthy, live calf and cow. But what about the calvings requiring assistance? Up to 50% of first calf heifers require assistance and 10-20% of multiparous cows require assistance. Can we, both farmers and veterinarians, work together to make assisted calvings as successful as possible?

Calves who needed 'severe' assistance at birth, are 6 times more likely to die compared to calves born with minimal or no assistance. Thus, knowing when and how to intervene is key. To understand when things are headed in the wrong direction we first must understand the normal calving process.

The normal calving process is traditionally broken down into 3 stages. Stage 1, 2 and 3. It is the fetus which initiates the calving process, by releasing fetal cortisol. This triggers a hormone cascade, which results in stretching of the pelvic ligament, increased lubrication, cervical dilation and uterine contractions. Fetal cortisol is released when the calf becomes stressed, often when uterine space becomes limited.

Stage 1 (2-6 hours in duration): This stage begins with the cervix closed. Uterine contractions push the calf towards the birth canal, fetal rotation into the proper position occurs and pressure and uterine contractions cause dilation of the cervix. Behaviour exhibited by the cow at this time, may include: restlessness, back arching, mild straining, separation from herd mates. Many cows continue to eat and drink normally at this stage. Stage 1 is concluded

Stage 2 (1-2 hours in duration): This stage begins with the water bag being visible and ends with the delivery of the calf. Often the cow will lie down and contractions are clearly evident. Generally, this stage lasts about 1 hour in multiparous cows and 2-3 hours in first calf heifers. Forward progress of the calf should be evident every 15 minutes or so.

Stage 3 (up to 12 hours): Expulsion of placenta.

It is important to note that first calf heifers generally take longer to proceed through the stages of calving.

Normal presentation for delivery is either, a calf coming forwards with two front legs and a head (95% of normal deliveries) or a calf coming backwards with two back legs and a tail.

When to Intervene?

Human intervention when dealing with calvings is all about timing. Assisting too early or too late can cause many problems. Pulling a calf too early can result in improper cervical and vaginal dilation, trauma to the calf and/or cow, which can result in decreased productivity or death. Intervening too late can lead to death of the calf, uterine infections, improper dilation and difficulty resolving the dystocia. Reasons for slow or halted progress of stage 1 can include uterine torsions, malposition of the fetus or a dead fetus. Intervention in stage 2 should occur if no forward progress is noted within 1 hour for multiparous cows or no forward progress noted within 2 hours in first calf heifers. Reasons for slow or halted progress in stage 2 include malposition, large calves in relation to dam (malproportion) or milk fever.

When to call the vet?

Everyone has their own level of abilities and comfort when it comes to assisting difficult calvings. By recognizing if there is a problem, assessing the situation and making a decision in a timely manner to intervene you can decrease stillbirths, trauma to the cow and ultimately improve your bottom line.

***Dr. Topp grew up on a dairy farm and is a large animal veterinarian practicing out of Linwood, Ont.*