ALTERNATIVE VETERINARY MEDICINE CENTRE
Information Sheet WS006/07
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BIRTH DIFFICULTIES (DYSTOCIA) IN CATTLE

CLINICAL TRIAL

Work performed by Christopher Day MRCVS - 1984

This 'trial' was an accidental occurrence, during daily veterinary practice. A night call to a calving revealed the disastrous season that the farm had suffered. The offer of homeopathic treatment, to prevent further problems, yielded these data.

Number in group: 25 Pedigree British Friesian heifers

Table 1 - Data at outset of test:

Number calved to date	18	
Number needing assistance	18	100%
Number of caesarean operations performed	1	5.6%*
Number of calves dying at birth	7	38.9%
Number of maternal deaths	3	16.7%
Of the surviving 15 heifers:		
Number with subsequent metritis	10 (severe)	66.7%
Number with subsequent mastitis	9 (severe)	60%
Number eventually held in calf again	3	20%**

** Retrospective analysis suggests that too few of the heifers were given caesarian surgery.*

*** The number of heifers eventually pregnant again was only 16.7% of the original group.*

Table 2 – Data after homeopathic treatment (*Caulophyllum*):

Number calved	7	
Number assisted	2	28.6%*
Number of caesarean operations performed	0	0%
Number of calves dying at birth	0	0%
Number of maternal deaths	0	0%
Number with subsequent metritis	4 (slight)	57.1%**
Number with subsequent mastitis	0	0%
Number eventually held in calf again	7	100%

** Assistance in fact turned out to be unnecessary, as they both calved very easily. The data did not reveal whether these two contributed to the metritis** statistic.*

Table 3 – Comparative Data

Number calved	**18**	**7**
Number needing assistance	100%	28.6%
Number of caesarean operations performed	5.6%*	0%
Number of calves dying at birth	38.9%	0%
Number of maternal deaths	16.7%	0%
Number with subsequent metritis	66.7%	57.1%
Number with subsequent mastitis	60%	0%
Number eventually held in calf again	20%**	100%

Discussion

The initial data (Table 1) showed a disastrous situation, with only one in six of the original 18 (16.7%) returning to the herd the following year, as a result of the accumulated traumas.

After the 18th heifer had calved (it was yet another traumatic birth) the farmer agreed to homeopathic help and we administered homeopathic *Caulophyllum 30c***,** via the drinking water, to the remaining seven heifers. The following data were then collected (Table 2).

Sadly, in this case, the only information we have is before and after treatment. No proper statistical 'control' can therefore be applied. However, it is stretching the arm of coincidence too far to assume that another factor was involved in the dramatic turn-around in the disease situation in this heifer group. The lack of

difficulty in calving, the resultant saving of stress and injury to the dams and calves and the reduction in consequent disease, all seem to show very clearly that the administration of homeopathic *Caulophyllum* had a very positive effect.

This story appears to demonstrate (a) the ability of *Caulophyllum* to help in cases of calving difficulty and (b) the effect of the traumatic births on the dams, which brought on severe metritis and mastitis problems in the untreated animals. The problem may even have been presented as a mastitis problem in the first place, had the farmer not realised the cause for himself. This was not a mastitis problem, *per se*, but a manifestation of response to the 'dis-ease' situation, imposed upon the dams at calving. Removal of the stress situation removed the 'mastitis' problem.

Materia Medica development

A further benefit of this 'trial' is to add information to our Materia Medica knowledge of homeopathic *Caulophyllum*.

We are able to add this 'symptom', with confidence: *Mastitis (post-parturient).*

We are able to postulate this 'symptom': *Never well since difficult parturition.*

We are able to confirm these 'symptoms': *Acrid, exhausting leucorrhea, preventing pregnancy.* and: *Sub-involution following confinement.*

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