

DYSTOCIA DUE TO VENTRAL HERNIA WITH MACERATED FETAL BONE PROTRUDED THROUGH UDDER IN A SALEM BLACK DOE- A CASE REPORT

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Received: 30.04.2025; Accepted: 15.11.2025

SUMMARY

A pluriparous doe was presented with the history of swelling in the right-side ventral abdomen, foul smelling serous discharge and small fetal bones being protruded from the swollen area of the udder. On vaginal examination, the cervix was full hand dilated but was not able to reach the uterus. Radiographic examination showed irregular mass of fetal bones in the uterine horns. Conclusively, the condition was reported to be a hysterocoele sequel to maceration of fetus. Local anaesthesia obtained by 2% Lignocaine hydrochloride on the surgical site and exposed portion was incised which showed ruptured uterus and maceration of fetus. The macerated fetus was carefully removed. The uterus was cleaned and closed as per standard surgical procedure. The animal showed uneventful recovery after 10 days of post-operative care.

Keywords: Caesarean section, Maceration, Salem black doe, Ventral hernia

How to cite: Manokaran, S., Shanmathi, S., Sarath, T., Reshma, A., Thangamani, A. and Rajkumar, R. (2026). Dystocia due to ventral hernia with macerated fetal bone protruded through udder in a Salem black doe- A case report. *Haryana Veterinarian*. 65(1): 131-132.

Ventral hernia is the protrusion of viscera pass through the abdominal wall and it can occur abdominal cavity from iliac crest to lateral side of abdominal cavity above the stifle joint (Al-Sobayil and Ahmed, 2007; Jettennavar *et al.*, 2010). Ventral hernia of gravid uterus is generally due to blunt trauma, abdominal wall abscesses, extreme abdominal distension of gravid uterus due to multiple fetus, weakening of abdominal muscles during labour due to rupture of prepubic tendon in advance stage of gestation. The ventral hernia is generally not considered as the obstetrical emergency by the farmers unless they result in serious symptoms (Rangasamy *et al.*, 2021). The ventral hernia during late gestation leads to trapping of gravid uterine horn into the herniated sac and are prone for difficulty of kidding. Moreover, culminate to adhesions of uterine horns to the abdominal muscles and other viscera (Kalaiyaran *et al.*, 2024). Long standing case of herniation uterus may result in dead of fetuses (Vijayanand *et al.*, 2012) and moreover failure of expulsion of dead fetus through cervix may leads to either mummification (Monica *et al.*, 2018a) or maceration (Monica *et al.*, 2018b) in small ruminants. In this case report, ruptured ventral hysterocoele with progressive maceration of fetus in a Salem black doe was described.

A 4 year old pluriparous Salem Black Doe was presented to emergency unit of Veterinary Clinical, VCRI, Salem with a history of in appetite since last 3 days. The owner reported that the doe was met with an automobile accident one month ago. Since then, a swelling has been present near to the udder region. However, no veterinary attention was sought, as the animal's feeding habits were

normal. Fetal bones began protruding near the udder region through the opening, accompanied by a foul-smelling purulent discharge from the vagina (Fig. 1). On general physical investigation the goat appeared dull and congestion of conjunctival mucous membrane. A large ventral hernia was palpable in the right caudal abdominal region with fistula near the udder through which fetal bones were protruding. Radiographic examination revealed irregular mass of fetal bones in the uterine horn and fistulous tract was also clearly visualized. (Fig. 2). Based on the history, clinical, vaginal and radiographic examination the case was diagnosed as ventral hernia complicated with maceration of foetus.

The animal was placed in the left lateral recumbency. The operative site was prepared aseptically. Epidural anaesthesia of 1.5 ml of 2% lignocaine hydrochloride was injected into lumbosacral region along with local infiltration of 2% lignocaine hydrochloride injection to the surgical site. An oblique skin incision of about 12cm was made over the swollen region and the abdominal muscles and peritoneum was incised and then the gravid uterine horn was exposed. After careful incision of the uterus, the macerated fetus embedded to the uterus along with disintegrated fetal bones was separated and removed carefully (Fig. 3). The uterus was thoroughly cleaned and sutured with Cushing followed by Lembert pattern by using PGA1 suture material. After that peritoneal lavage with 2 litres of NS and 100 ml of Metrogyl® was performed. The muscle and skin were sutured by using PGA-1, Polyamide 2-0, respectively. Post-operative care included fluid therapy with Ringers Lactate 200 ml for 3 days, ampicillin and cloxacillin @ 10 mg/kg b.wt, meloxicam

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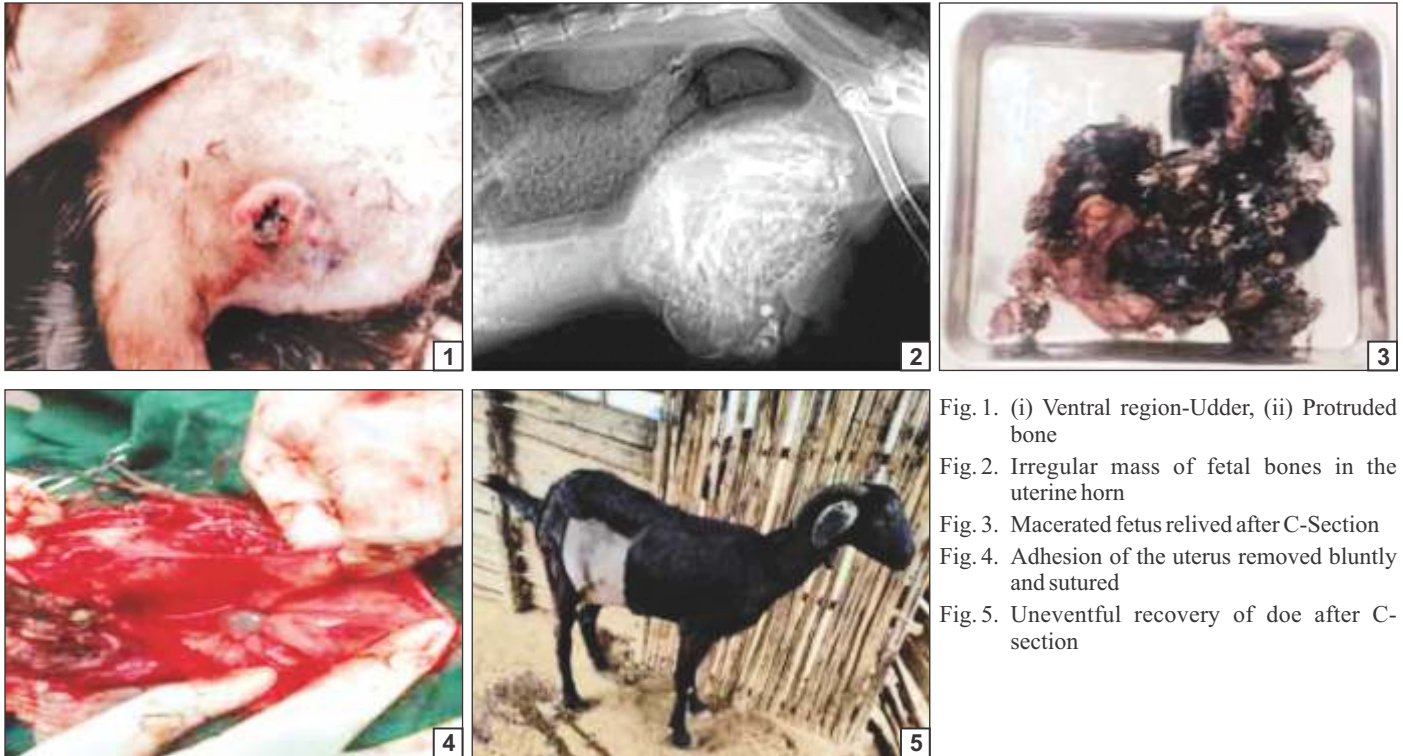


Fig. 1. (i) Ventral region-Udder, (ii) Protruded bone
 Fig. 2. Irregular mass of fetal bones in the uterine horn
 Fig. 3. Macerated fetus relived after C-Section
 Fig. 4. Adhesion of the uterus removed bluntly and sutured
 Fig. 5. Uneventful recovery of doe after C-section

@0.5 mg/kg b.wt, chloropheneramine @ 0.5 mg/kg b.wt for 7 days. Animal had an uneventful recovery.

Ventral hernia of gravid uterus is rare in case of goats. Extreme abdominal distension due to pregnancy, weakness of the abdominal muscles in advanced with age and accidental trauma are the predisposing factors for development of herniation of uterus (Singh *et al.*, 2022). Hernia is not considered as emergency in ewes as they may give birth spontaneously but in delayed cases it may leads to loss of muscle mobility, adhesion between other visceral organs or subcutaneous tissue (Peker *et al.*, 2019). Hysterocele condition should be addressed immediately to save the life of dam as well as fetues and further herniorhaphy is useful in case of large hernial opening (Vijayanand *et al.*, 2012). In advanced pregnancy caesarean section is considered as the best treatment for ventral hysterocele. In the present case, goat met with automobile accident during late gestation which might be the reason for hysterocele and progressive to fetal maceration due to death of the fetus.

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