

Case Report

A two-headed calf was born in Iraq-Case report

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A calf with two-headed was born in Iraq at July 2013, which is a rare congenital condition characterized by abnormal development of the body due to a genetic anomaly that occurs in rare cases, only one or two in the more than 35 millions calves born each year in the world come out with that kind of deformity. The location of the case: Near the company for drugs Arabian Company for Antibiotics Industries (ACAI) and unit providing electricity.

Keywords: Dicephaly, calves, deformity, Iraq

INTRODUCTION

There are few reported cases of two-headed in cattle (*Bos indicus*), Many of the two-headed creatures are born dead. Joseph Paschal, a livestock specialist at the Texas Agrilife Extension, said the two-headed cow could live if both of its head are fully attached to its body, meaning if food and water, as well as oxygen, can easily flow through the calf. If the calf's both heads are tied in physiologically, it could live a very long time "But typically, with something like that, there's something wrong." Cow in Georgia has given birth to a two-headed calf; cow is refusing to allow her strange offspring to suckle, so they are giving it milk from a bottle, the calf eats with both heads.

There are often two-headed cows, goats, camels, llamas and sheep, but very few are born alive. "Most that are born alive only live two or three days." Malformation of the head and face is a common phenomenon among sheep abnormalities (Dennis and Leipold, 1979). Most environmentally caused congenital defects will occur during a short period of the calving season, from cows that were managed as a group. After proper diagnosis, a change in management is necessary to correct these conditions (Schalles, R. R., Leipold, H.W. and McCraw, R. L., BCH-1900.)

Case presentation

A calf (Frisian X Local) in Al-Wehda village located 20 km south of Baghdad, which is near the Arab Company for

Antibiotics Industries (ACAI), was born with two heads that give it four eyes, three ears, two mouths and two nasals, attached to one body, calf was born with right-hand forehead distorted. The white – brown haired calf has to be bottle-fed by its owner, because its mother refuses to feed it. The calf was born in July 2013 and died after twenty days of birth. It belongs to the small herd (5 cows) which managed by private farmer with his family which was one of many small herds in that village, that case was the first one in all herds which managed there as farmers said.

Parturition: Ordinarily cow suffer from fetal cause of dystocia (fetal monster), calf head over size true 'Breech' orientation posterior presentation dorso-sacral position both hind limbs flexed at hip, labor was delayed from beginning a night till morning, manually helped parturition by rotating calf to hind limbs, 1st day from parturition dam was tired after that be in a good health but she refused here calf.

DISCUSSION

Conjoined twinning has been reported in most domestic animal species. It occurs extremely rarely in horses, occasionally in dogs and cats (Fisher et al., 1986; Saperstein, 1981), and more commonly in cattle than in the other ruminants (Leipold et al., 1972; Pal and Verma,

A Calf with two Headed was born in Iraq



1981; Ramadan, 1996). The cow is refusing to allow her strange offspring to suckle, so they are giving it milk from a bottle. Farmer says the calf eats with both heads. It is difficult to draw the line between what is considered "one animal with two heads" or "two animals that share a body". The calf is in stable condition, despite having weak legs from the difficult birth. Each head of a polycephalic animal has its own brain, and they somehow share control of the organs and limbs, though the specific structure of the connections varies. Many congenital defects are caused by environmental factors. These include the level of nutrition, excess or shortages of certain nutrients, toxic plants or other toxic substances, infectious diseases, and extremes in temperature during pregnancy, so our case occurred due to one or more of those factors.

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