

MIRACLE OF BIRTH CENTER CALVING PROTOCOL

For VOLUNTEER VETERINARIANS AND STUDENTS

Our Policy on Calving is:

1. Cows are brought to the MBC just before their due dates and are induced 24 hours before expected birth. Most of our births have been occurring in the afternoon or evening hours. As long as calving is progressing normally (normal labor patterns and progressive delivery) we do not interfere. Usually we try to have at least one rectal and/or vaginal exam in the morning for teaching purposes or to assess whether the presentation and fetus is normal. Once feet and nose are presented we attach the OB chains to the feet. If assistance is needed we manually assist and have other equipment available such as snares, hooks, and calf jacks. Try to have the veterinary student do as much of the procedure as possible but don't jeopardize the life of the calf or mother by delays.
2. Immediately after calf is delivered, clear the airway and use mechanical assistance if necessary if breathing is not normal. You can swing, pump chest, slap, lift up rear or whatever but please don't hang over a gate. We want to present what is normal on the farm and in nature. Dopram will be available if needed. If calf is born dead, we will remove it to office and dispose of there. This also applies to the placenta.
3. After delivery is complete make sure the cow has a vaginal exam to check for second fetus. Dip navel with 7% iodine. Allow cow to lick calf until calf is standing and ready to nurse. We do allow nursing until the next milking time at which time the calf is put in the adjacent calf pen. FFA students will milk the cow by hand if not close to milking time and feed calf 2 quarts of colostrums. This is a good time to talk about immune transfer to the public. All calves will also receive a colostrum by-product to assure immune transfer is optimum. Staff will test calf's blood for IGG during chore time or before.
4. In case of emergency and C-Section is needed, Cows will be transferred to CVM for surgery. Other emergencies such as bleeding, eversions, cows will be moved to curtained area in the wash rack.