

MIRACLE OF BIRTH CENTER

LAMBING PROTOCOL INFORMATION For VOLUNTEER VETERINARIANS AND STUDENTS

Our Policy on Lambing is:

1. The ewes will not be induced but have an estimated window that they may lamb. They have been ultrasounded and the fetal number and estimated due date will be in a book in the office. Labor in these ewes tends to have a sudden onset and the whole birthing occurs quickly compared to the cows and sows. Assistance is not usually necessary although if no progress is made within an hour after the water breaks(and between lambs) you should examine her. Allow the veterinary students to assist as much as you feel is safe. The most common assistance needed is for elbow locks. Once the nose and both feet are protruding and she has labored well, pull the legs to unhook the elbows off the pelvis. Other causes for dystocia are usually routine and rare – heads back, caudal presentation, etc.
 - a. Do not interfere more than necessary so the ewes will bond to the lambs.
 - b. Immediately after lambs are delivered, clear airway if necessary, place in front of ewe and let her lick them off. Apply 7% iodine to navels.
 - c. Strip teats to clear of clots. Allow lambs to nurse on their own. Triplets may be tubed with extra colostrum if necessary. This should be an educational moment for both the veterinary students and the audience.
 - d. If ewe is rejecting a lamb, a stanchion pen can be made or the ewe and lambs can be removed from the exhibit.
 - e. If a lamb appears weak, first step is to rule out hunger by offering a bottle or stomach tubing it.
 - f. Feel free to call Holly Neaton with questions at any time: 952-240-2192
2. Please examine ewe for another lamb after you think she might be done. The ultrasound is not always correct. Passing of the placenta is a sure sign she is done. The placentas are fascinating to the audience and description of its function is a good topic for discussion. Dispose of when through in a plastic sleeve in the office.
3. In case of emergency and C-Section is needed, ewes will be transferred to CVM for surgery. Other emergencies such as bleeding, eversions, ewes will be moved to curtained area in the wash rack.