



TOWN AND COUNTRY VETERINARY CLINIC P.C.

October 23, 2008

Dear Attendees,

We hope that this letter finds you well and in the middle of a productive fall birthing season. The purpose of this letter is to follow-up with you about the neonatology clinic that we conducted concurrent with ABR and CSU on October 4th. From our perspective, the clinic was a great success. We were impressed by your knowledge and experience, and by your ability to successfully complete the afternoon portion of the workshop. We invite you to ask us any questions that have arisen since the time of clinic, whether they are about the material presented during the clinic, or a recent experience you've had on your ranch.

As a brief review, remember that there are 3 stages of labor. Knowing the appropriate definition is important for describing the situation to a friend or veterinarian in the case that you need help.

Stage 1 is the dilation of the cervix, and most dams will appear anxious and colicky, and may frequently stand and lay down.

Stage 2 is when the fetus is within the birthing canal and the dam is actively pushing to expel the fetus.

Stage 3 is the passing of the placenta (i.e. cleaning).

When to intervene in the case of a dystocia, or difficult birth, is one of the most difficult decisions to make. The most important part of making this decision is having good information, which requires knowing normal behavior for each individual, having proper breeding dates and typical gestation length for each dam, and recognizing an obvious problem (breech presentation, etc). Having good information allows you to act decisively in resolving any problem.

Guidelines for intervening in the birthing process include:

Stage 1 labor is > 2 hrs long

Stage 2 labor does not progress in 20-30 min intervals or exceeds 2 hrs.

Stage 3 labor exceeds 4-6 hrs.

Obvious dystocia (breech presentation, head back, upside down cria).

Births occurring outside of 6 am – 12 pm time frame.

Colostrum intake is the most important factor in raising a healthy cria following birth. It is critical that each of you have a colostrum management strategy in place on your ranch in the case that you have a cria who is unable to nurse, or a dam that has not produced the quality and/or quantity necessary. Likewise, it is our opinion that Vitamin D supplementation is a critical part of every herd health program in that it reduces the risk of specific health conditions and optimizes your herd's production. Developing protocols specific to your herd is the most effective way to approach herd health. For this reason, we encourage you to contact us to set up an appointment to discuss these topics.

You can reach our clinic by telephone at (970) 785-2284, or our receptionist and technician, Peggy Ribich, at peggy@tcvc.net. As mentioned previously, we encourage you to ask any questions that have come up regarding material presented during the workshop, or a situation you have experienced on your ranch. We will answer these questions directly to the sender, as well as post the questions and answers on our website, www.tcvc.net.

It was a great pleasure to meet all of you, and we thank you for attending the workshop. It is our sincere hope that you have benefited from the experience, and that your participation will positively effect the future health and care of your herd.

Warm Regards,

Tyler Hotaling, VMD.

Tim Thompson, DVM

