

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Topic of the Month The Madigan Squeeze

With spring calving season upon us, I think it is a good time to review a technique known as the Madigan squeeze. The idea is that sometimes sluggish calves can be reset, if you will, by simulating the birthing process all over again.

All you need is a length of soft rope about 20-30 feet. Tie a loop in one end of the rope. Hold the loop over the calf's withers and run the other end under the calf's brisket, between its front legs, and through the loop. Continuing to move the rope in the same direction, go around the calf's rib cage and through itself and then do that one more time. At this point, there should be three loops around the calf's rib cage. Pull out the slack, being careful not to prevent the calf from breathing, and pull the free end of the rope straight back over its top line. At this point, it is helpful to have a second person because the calf will want to lay down and the other person can ease the calf to the ground.

Keep the pressure on the rope and keep the calf down for about twenty minutes. This is in keeping with the birthing idea- in most calvings, a calf might spend about that amount of time having pressure applied to its rib cage as it is born.

After that, release the rope and hopefully the calf hops right up. There are many causes for calves and foals that are sluggish newborns. This technique is not going to correct all of them. But it is simple, easy, and inexpensive, and that makes it worth a try.

The best time to do the technique is within the first day or two after birth. Sometimes it even helps to repeat it if it doesn't work entirely the first time.

If you're interested in learning the squeeze, I would suggest looking it up on the internet. There are lots of videos and I realize my description is probably hard to follow without a picture or a diagram. It would be well worth the time to learn it and add it to your calving season toolbox.

Practice News

- Our condolences to the family of Dr. Albert Barnett, a longtime veterinarian in Somerset and surrounding counties. Dr. Barnett passed away on March 25th.
- Zoetis is running a rebate program on purchases of Draxxin. The program is retroactive to 1/1/2021 and extends until 12/31/2021. Producers can earn a rebate of \$50 on 50mL size and \$100 on 100mL size bottles of Draxxin. Call the office for details on the program.
- We have upgraded our credit card processing software. With the new system, we have the ability to complete credit card payment transactions on-farm for anyone who is interested.

In the News

- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has decided to take no action at present, resulting in a temporary halt to a previous plan regarding RFID tagging for interstate movement of cattle. A 2019 proposal would have required RFID tags, including retagging of cattle identified by USDA metal tag by 2023. That proposal was replaced by a 2020 proposal transitioning to RFID tags but allowing cattle currently with USDA metal tags to be grandfathered in. This proposal has also lapsed, meaning that while RFID tagging is encouraged, all currently approved methods of USDA identification will still be accepted for interstate movement of cattle.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of March 31, 2021

Corn	\$5.64/bu
Soybean Meal	\$423.20/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$17.60/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$120.98/cwt