Kato & Her Umbilicus

Kato (Katrina’s daughter), born on March 24th, had a large and unusual umbilicus from Day 1. Her umbilicus had been dipped with 7% iodine—as a demonstration to Herd Health students—but on Day 3 it was somewhat sensitive to the touch, and remained larger than normal. Over the next few days both the sensitivity and size decreased, although in retrospect, it occurred at a slower rate than normal. On Day 6, Dave found her early in the morning (around milking time) in lateral recumbency. She had a temperature of 104.3°F, and when I arrived a short time later she had no discernable pulse as I put her in my car and drove to the VMTH (without honoring any traffic signals, I might add). Dave called ahead to the VMTH, and they were ready to receive Kato at the door.

Ase Riesberg (LAIM resident) and LAIM students (Brooke Lowenstein and others) immediately began diagnostics to determine what the problem was and how it should be treated. Lucky for us Dr. Semrad (also on hand that morning) has quite a bit of experience with calves in septic shock/septicemia, and now, 5 days later, Kato is making a nice recovery—although she will have to have surgery once she has gained enough strength to safely make it through the procedure.

Side note: In the past eight years we have had many calves born out here at Charmany, and yet until now, we haven’t seen any umbilical problems. Keep in mind, however, that we have never kept them very long. While Kato’s TPR’s were normal through Day 5, an ultrasound of the umbilical abdominal area may have demonstrated early what we could not ascertain with TPR’s and external examination. All we knew was that it was abnormal and large. Also, earlier intervention with antibiotics may have altered the near fatal course that occurred although maybe this experience will add to the daily knowledge that calf raising is teaching us. As we have said before, the teaching herd continues to be a great laboratory, not only for students, but for faculty as well.

Calves come when they are ready, so what do we do to make sure we’re prepared?

The average gestation in the teaching herd is 278 days, +/- 7 days. Swash calved 12 days early, while Cookie is now 3 days late. How do we approach such cases clinically?

In Swash’s case, because she ran with a bull to get pregnant, it is difficult to assess when conception occurred. We have to depend on the palpation findings of the veterinarian to estimate the age of the fetus (which is not always very accurate). However, her heifer weighed 93 lbs at birth, nursed readily early on, and was on her feet soon after delivery. In addition, Swash’s production is quite normal for a heifer. All of these findings support a gestation length within the normal range above.

In Cookie’s case, while she is late, on rectal exam the calf is viable and not in the birth canal. Her pelvic ligaments are softening somewhat, her udder is enlarged but not blooming, she is eating, seems a little uncomfortable, has very little edema, and is not leaking milk. Taking all of this into consideration, and because we are within the 278 +/- 7 day range, we wait.
A Lesson Learned

Saturday night we learned a little lesson about the milking system.

Just after milking began, as I went by the mini-milk house I noticed that milk was draining out of the drain hose that is connected near the milk receiver jar—which is used to drain the wash water after the system is washed—and onto the floor, and out the drain on its way to Madison Metro Sewer System.

I had Molly Schroeder (pre-vet) and Ann Hagen (1st year) shut the system down so we could make sure it was setup properly. Once we determined that Molly and Ann had indeed set the system up properly, I called Buomatic service to get some direction. I decided the directions they provided may have been a little over my head, and since two heads are better than one, I called Chris Eisele, who immediately came out to the barn.

We decided to take the plunger (usually sealed by the milk vacuum) apart, as it sits adjacent to the milk pipe that runs from the receiver jar to the bulk tank. Much to our amazement a large, 1.5" x 0.5" piece of wood was lodged in the milk pipe and would not allow the plunger to seal completely, thus allowing milk to be diverted to the drain.

I guess the moral of the story is that once the problem area in the system is isolated, it may be time to use good 'ol fashioned veterinary ingenuity and start taking that part of the milk system apart. Afterall...you never know what you are going to find!

It takes work to maintain a herd of this quality...

Maintaining a herd with a 26,000 RHA and a 164,000 SCC requires one to pay close attention and make sure that our cows have the best care possible in both a preventive/therapeutic approach, which is exactly what the students working the milking shift, our Herd Health and Calf Health management students provide, along with Dave, our Herdsmen.

Here is a synopsis of patient care that occurred last week by these incredible people:

Shelby: sole abscess. Feet were trimmed and a shoe applied by Dr. Cook, then assessed and treated daily using 4% tetracycline spray.

Merry: cracked heels. Right front foot was trimmed by Dr. Cook, then assessed and treated daily using 4% tetracycline spray.

Tootsie: stepped on RR teat. This injury occurred high up the barrel of the teat. It required special attention during milking, followed by an antibiotic and the application of a “French” emollient for damaged/dry skin.

Swash: slight laceration in vulva from calving, being treated with triple antibiotic ointment.

Sheila: broken tail (at the base). Requires evaluation by LAS. In the meantime, we have to clean manure from the rectal/vaginal area.

Red: new swelling over left hock caused by her laying on that side. Required bandaging the other hock so she would lay on the bandaged leg allowing the left hock to heal.

The teaching herd congratulates Ann Zielinski and Stacy Garves (2nd years) on completing another week of the herd health rotation for the spring semester (and vaccinating Marie in the dry pen and living to tell about it).
Daily Events

MONDAY
AM: History, Physical Examination, and Restraint laboratory—Thorax and abdomen PE-623-570;
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Ann Zielinski) and 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild),
pre-vet soon to be a first year, Class of 2008 (Allison Wistrand). Calf Health Management: 3rd year
(Betsy Welty).

TUESDAY
AM: 4th year Theriogenology rotation (623-699) herd check: Harry Momont/Bill Bosu, 4th yr. students, &
pre-vet soon to be a first year, Class 2008 (Kerry Hagen).
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Ann Zielinski) and 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild).
Calf Health Management—pre-vet soon to be a first year, Class of 2008 (Allison Wistrand).

WEDNESDAY
AM: LAIM (a.k.a. Laura Lien) will be sending a 4th year student to tail bleed for Chuck Czuprynski’s and
laboratory and exam any sick cows.
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Ann Zielinski) and 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild).
Calf Health Management: 2nd year (Robin Gryskiewicz).

THURSDAY
AM:
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Ann Zielinski) and 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild).
Calf Health Management: 2nd year (Sara Rosek).

FRIDAY
AM: 7:30am: Management meeting for the teaching herd management team.
PM: Herd Health Management (623-675): Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Ann Zielinski) and 1st yr (Amelia Fairchild).
Calf Health Management: 2nd year (Stacy Garves).

SATURDAY
AM: Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief: 2nd year (Stacy Garves),
2nd yr (Ann Zielinski).
PM: Calf Health Management-2nd year (Stacy Garves).

SUNDAY
AM: Herd Health Management-623-675 for Crew Chief: 2nd yr (Ann Zielinski) and
1st yr (Amelia Fairchild).
PM: Calf Health Management- pre-vet soon to be a first year, Class of 2008 (Allison Wistrand).

Upcoming Events

Cows and heifers due in the next month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cow/Heifer</th>
<th>Due Date / Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tina</td>
<td>2/06 (Heifer - “Turner”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy</td>
<td>2/16 (Heifer - “Lucky”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greta</td>
<td>2/12 (Heifer - “Gina”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane</td>
<td>2/17 (Bull)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violet</td>
<td>2/18 (Bull)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>2/21 (Heifer - “Jewel”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poppy</td>
<td>2/27 (Heifer - “Patricia”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melody</td>
<td>3/01 (Bull)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica</td>
<td>3/01 (Bull)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katrina</td>
<td>3/26 (Heifer - “Kato”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cookie</td>
<td>4/02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swash (Swoosh’s daughter)</td>
<td>4/03 (Heifer - ???)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie (Morgan’s daughter)</td>
<td>4/29</td>
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Since the last Newsletter...

Swash calved on 4/03/04.
She had a heifer.
Production and Milk Quality Summary
(updated April 5, 2004)

- The herd continues to milk an average of 92 lbs/cow of Adjusted Corrected Milk (ACM).
  (ACM is a calculation that standardizes milk to 3.5% fat content, produced by a 3rd lactation cow at 150 DIM.)
- Approximately 48 cows are producing 3948 lbs/day (82 lbs/cow/day). This is approximately 86 lbs per stall—better than our breakeven production level of 68 lbs! (Good job!)
- The herd’s butterfat has averaged 3.48%. The protein has averaged 3.00%.
- Dry Matter intake is at 52 lbs per cow.
- Bulk tank SCC is at 164,000 with a SPC of 1000 for March.

Employment Opportunities

- If you are interested in gaining experience with dairy cows, we have the opportunity for you. You can join the milking crew at the Charmany Teaching Facility and work the AM or PM milking shifts. Weekday shifts are from 5:00 am to 7:00 am and from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Weekend shifts are from 5:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Interested students should contact Dr. Bill Goodger at 770-1448.
- Further note on employment is that we can save 50% in student salary expenses (about $20,000 per year) if students apply for work study (about 90% of veterinary students are probably eligible). These added funds would not only allow more students to access to the herd, but would also provide support for clinics, projects, and clinical upgrades to our facility which would enhance the experience for all students. Below is information about work study from the CAMPUS work study office in financial aid.

** The Work-Study Program does not determine where you work. It is up to you to determine where you’d like to work and what type of work you’d be interested in. The Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP) employee’s will be glad to discuss with you what your interests are and what employment options are available to you but you will need to contact the employers directly to inquire about job availabilities.

Having accepted Work-Study will benefit you primarily in two ways: first, since employers only pay .50 cents of every dollar earned by a student, work-study students are highly sought after employees and second, any work-study monies earned are not counted and considered as earned income when you apply for next year's financial aid. Normally a student's earnings are considered as earned income and your next year’s financial aid award is reduced by that amount.

If you decide to work On-Campus, ANY job at the UW automatically qualifies as a work-study position. You should always let a UW-employer know that you have accepted a work-study award, because again, it makes you an even more desirable hire to them. Having said this, some UW employers require that you have work-study. These listing can be found under the “UWWR” section.