



Willow Creek Veterinary Services, P.C.

‘It’s Calving Time’ by Kris Nelsen

“Betsy” would appreciate it if you are very prepared for her baby to arrive.

This article will give you a list of items to have on hand, help with knowing when and how to assist, when to call Dr. Pedersen or Dr. Merrill out, and all are very important to a live healthy calf.

We will start with a list of things to keep on hand:

- Willow creek Vet phone #-402-329-4805 *OB sleeves
- OB lube *Calf jack
- Antibiotics *ID tags
- Elastrator bands *Hot box
- Iodine *Disinfectants

When to assist with calving.....Normal delivery should be complete within 2 hours after the water sac appears. If “Betsy” appears to be in distress, if you see just one leg, just the head or possibly the tail, it is time to intervene.

- “Betsy” should be properly restrained, either in a chute/head gate or tied with a halter in a well lit area.
- An exam should be done on her to make sure she is dilated
- If she is dilated, then make sure the calf is not in an abnormal position, or too big to fit through the pelvis of the cow.
 - **If a large calf is forced through a small area, it can result in a dead calf, a paralyzed cow or both.
 - Before pulling on the calf to hard, an exam should be done.
- If the little one appears to be the right size and in the right position, then its time to try
 - **When pulling a calf remember that lube is your friend
 - ** First attach the OB chains to the front legs with a half hitch just below the dewclaw and just above the hoof. Make sure they are snug and not too loose or tight.
 - **Attach the OB handles to the chains and alternate pulling on the legs “walking the calf out”
 - **If the cow is not dilated completely, having gradual pressure on the calf will help with dilation. Be a little patient.
 - **Once the head and shoulders are exposed, rotate the calf a quarter turn to aid in the hips entering the pelvic canal
 - ****By doing this it can hopefully help to prevent a hip locked calf.
 - **When you have the calf out to its hips, pull downward on the calf at a 45 degree angle, this will aid in delivery.
 - **When the baby is born clear the yucky stuff from its nose and mouth, then stimulate breathing by briskly rubbing the calves side and tickling the inside of its nose with a piece of straw.

Yippee!!!!!!! A live, healthy calf

After the calf is born, you need to watch for other problems that may arise. Ex: Uterine Prolapse “calf bed out” which is an EMERGENCY and the veterinarian needs to be called immediately. Retained placenta “cow hasn’t cleaned”, not an emergency but needs to be taken care of within 3 days of calving. **(cont*)**



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Special points of interest:

- We will no longer except returns on purchased items, including vaccinations, opened or not. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you.

(cont*) At any time during the pulling of the calf that a problem should arise please call for assistance immediately. Things that can occur:

- The cow hasn’t dilated
- The calf is too big for the cow to deliver
- The calf is in an abnormal position
- Or your just not sure

Please call for the assistance of either Dr. Pedersen or Dr. Merrill if you have questions or problems come up.

**Good Luck
And
Happy Calving!!!**

Can the Sandhills Calving System Work For You?

By Sherri Merrill

Most of you have probably heard of the Sandhills Calving System. This system was designed in the Sandhills of Nebraska to minimize the number of calves that get scours. The Sandhills Calving System uses larger, contiguous, pastures for calving, rather than high animal-density calving lots. All the cows are turned into the first calving pasture (Pasture 1) when the first calves are born. Calving continues in Pasture 1 for two weeks. After two weeks the cows that have not yet calved are moved to Pasture 2. Existing cow-calf pairs remain in Pasture 1. After a week of calving in Pasture 2, cows that have not calved are moved to Pasture 3 and cow-calf pairs born in Pasture 2 remain in Pasture 2. Each subsequent week cows that have not yet calved are moved to a new pasture and pairs remain in their pasture of birth. The result is cow-calf pairs distributed over multiple pastures; each containing calves within one week of age of each other. Cow-calf pairs from different pastures may be commingled after the youngest calf is four weeks of age and all calves are considered low-risk for scours.

In order to understand why this system is effective we must know a few basic facts about calf scours.

- The vast majority of pathogens that cause scours are already on your farm. These organisms are shed at a low level in the manure of healthy adult cows.
- Affected calves shed VERY large numbers of these pathogens. They are “multipliers” of the disease.
- The pathogens that cause scours thrive in wet, cool environments.
- Calves are most likely to develop scours between 7 and 14 days of age.

Calves over 4 weeks of age are much less likely to develop scours.

The Sandhills Calving System works by providing clean ground for newborn calves every week and by segregating the calves by age so that newborn calves are not exposed to “multiplier” animals. Ranchers have experienced great results from implementing this system. In fact, some large ranches haven’t treated any calves for scours in several years.

This system works great, but what if you don’t have pastures to calve in? I would encourage you to find creative ways to modify this system so it will work for your operation. The key to success will be segregating the calves by age and providing clean ground to calve on. Why not use alfalfa fields, wheat or rye pastures and crop stubble? Paddocks could be made with electric fence and water that was used for winter grazing could be used now. Shelter from the wind will be needed. A windbreak can be made using round bales if there is no natural protection. These fields, particularly corn and soybean stubble, would not be as ideal as pasture since mud could be a problem but they are much preferable to calving in a dry lot where everyone is crowded together and the mud is much deeper. Most mature cows do not require assistance, however, access to facilities should be available in case of emergency.

The system could be further modified by sorting the cows according to their expected due date which was determined at preg check time. The cows that are expected to calve late in the calving season could be maintained in a dry lot until later in the season. This would decrease the number of cows in the first few “pastures”. The time between moving pregnant cows could also be extended to 10 days instead of 7. This would decrease the total number of “pastures” needed.

I’m sure the idea of putting up electric fence and moving pregnant cows seems like a lot of work, but imagine how much time and money you would have if you didn’t have to treat any calves for scours. For those of you who have been moving cow-calf pairs to fresh ground, keep in mind that moving pregnant cows will be easier than pairs and will do a better job of preventing scours as the calves will be segregated by age.

I hope these ideas encourage you to look at your own calving setup and make changes to minimize the sickness in your calves. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and help design a system that will work for you.

Kennel Talk by Doreen Mausbach

PRESCRIPTION DIET PET FOOD

DID YOU KNOW ? ?

Hills Prescription Diet pet food is formulated to deliver 100% complete and balanced nutrition in custom varieties to match your pets very own way of life. Come in and visit with Dr. Pedersen or Dr. Merrill about your pet and how a prescription diet may help your canine or feline friend.

For instance, when pain is limiting mobility and ability to exercise in your canine friend Prescription Diet i/d canine is an exclusive pet food useful as a nutritional aid for dogs with arthritis and mobility problems. Prescription Diet j/d canine provides complete and balanced nutrition for maintenance of adult dogs.

To help with achieving ideal weight in obese pets, or diabetes. Prescription Diet r/d for canine or feline, is intended for use only until ideal weight is achieved. Once you have reached your ideal weight you can continue feeding with Prescription Diet w/d canine or feline or Prescription Diet m/d for feline. Prescription Diet w/d canine/feline is a low calorie, increased fiber, nutritionally balanced formula that helps reduce caloric intake in adult dogs and cats that are prone to obesity, insoluble fiber increases bulk and reduces hunger while lowering fat and caloric intake. This may help with maintaining ideal weight, , diabetes, gastrointestinal disorders, and urolithiasis in obese-prone feline and canine patients. Prescription Diet m/d feline is clinically proven to alter a cat's metabolism for effective weight loss in obesity and feline diabetes.

Please call and set up an appointment for your pet with Dr. Pedersen or Dr. Merrill to help achieve a happy and healthy life style for your canine or feline friend.

"THANK YOUR VET FOR A HEALTHY PET"

If you think our vets are the best with your pet. Send a picture and a short note or story on why. We will display the picture and story in our front office for all to enjoy!

We would also like to give a **big thanks** to our volunteer dog walkers and kennel helpers, **Dani Wieting** and **Emily Rossmeyer**, and to our weekend kennel personal **Brittanie Lambrecht**. We appreciate all of your hard work, **great job gals !!!**

February Is National Spay & I Neuter Month by Nicole Koehler

****Why should I get my pet spayed/neutered anyway?**

Many benefits are considered when deciding whether or not to get your pet "fixed."

For female cats and dogs; there are no unwanted litters, significant decrease in risk of certain cancers (mammary cancer), no annoying "heat" cycles, less aggression towards other pets, owners, and children; and no "pyometras". Pyometras are life-threatening infections of the uterus. These infections cannot just be treated with antibiotics. Even with hospitalization and I.V. treatments, removal of the uterus is usually the only treatment. Sadly some pets don't survive a pyometra even after all possible treatments were given. All "intact" cats and dogs are at risk no matter what their age, or that they are indoors or outdoors, or if they've ever been bred.

If you are considering getting your female spayed, the sooner the better. No, really, the sooner you have her spayed the better the benefits. If you have your female cat or dog spayed before their first heat cycle, the even greater decrease the chance of certain cancers and little to no aggressive behaviors will develop.

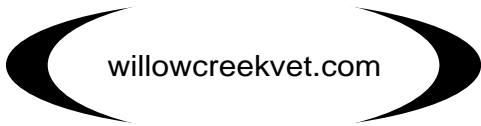
For your male cats and dogs: less wandering from home, which also decreases the chance for them to be hit by cars, shot by neighbors, or picked up by police. Other benefits include: no "spraying" in the house to mark their territory, which is very smelly and hard to clean. A significant decrease in certain cancers (testicular and perianal) and less aggressiveness. Also with males, the sooner you have them neutered, (as early as 4-6 months of age) the better the benefit. An even greater decrease in the risk of certain cancers and dramatically less aggression.

****Doesn't spaying and neutering make my pet fat and lazy?**

No, it doesn't. Many studies have been conducted about this question and the real answer is no. Overfeeding and no exercise are the culprits to your obese pets. Many people think that spaying and neutering decreases their pet's ambition to hunt, drive cattle, and perform athletically. The truth is spaying and neutering decreases aggression, not ambition. The best of the best animals are kept intact only to carry on the bloodlines of great hunters and athletes.

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Fun & Interesting Facts-Humans by Lori Shaffer

- ***Laughing lowers levels of stress hormones and strengthens the immune system. Six-year-olds laugh an average of 300 times a day. Adults only laugh 15-100 times a day.
- ***After spending hours working at a computer display, look at a blank piece of white paper. It will probably appear pink.
- ***Each square in of human skin consists of twenty feet of blood vessels.
- ***Babies are born with 300 bones, but by adulthood we have only 206 in our bodies.
- ***If you were locked in a completely sealed room, you would die of carbon dioxide poisoning first before you would die of oxygen deprivation.

Small Animal Health Certificate by Sylvia Furstenau



An item that is commonly overlooked when traveling with *any* pets across state lines is a Health Certificate (HC). An HC is a state requirement and must be signed by your veterinarian within 30 days of your travel.

Your pet will need to be examined for any health problems and updated on the required vaccinations. These will then be listed on the certificate.

You will receive a copy to carry with you; we keep a copy with your file; and we will send a copy to the State