

Original Research Article

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Management of Surgical Affections in Breeding Bulls

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ABSTRACT

Data maintained on 742 breeding bulls of different breeds indicated that 213 cases were affected during 3 year period and 78 cases were treated by surgical interventions. Surgical cases recorded were as lameness 51 (23.94%), major affections 09 (4.23%) and minor affections 18 (8.45%). Lameness was highest in purebred Holstein Friesian (7.04%) compared to purebred Jersey bulls (0.94%), while it was highest in crossbred Holstein Friesian (8.92%) compared to crossbred Jersey bulls (1.41%). Proper hoof trimming was mainly essential tool in early recovery of hoof lameness. The broad spectrum antibiotic (Amoxicillin-Cloxacillin) was parentally administered in ulceration cases. The major surgical affections recorded (2.35%) were preputial prolapse, urolithiasis, diaphragmatic hernia and horn avulsion. Minor surgical cases were highest in crossbred Jersey bulls (2.35%) due to abscessation. The overall recovery rate in breeding bulls for lameness, major and minor surgical affections was 68.63, 66.67 and 66.67 per cent respectively.

Keywords

Breeding bulls,
Surgical affections,
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Implications

The breeding bulls are special males among the herd male calves of high genetic value, Which may farm born or procured from the field level. The production or procurement of such bull is very lengthy, time consuming and expensive procedure. So the keen attention is to be given for the health by managing the surgical affections of breeding bull.

Introduction

Paucity of required number of breeding bulls for catering need of Artificial Insemination program in the country necessitate ensuring optimum utilization of the existing breeding bulls and building knowledge on culling rate due to health disabilities in general and surgical conditions in particular amongst breeding bulls at semen station. The experience so gathered is important for

planning bull replacement strategy besides getting prepared for salvaging those for active service. Non availability or Very little information is available on indigenous cattle (Singh *et al.*, 2005) on different surgical problems of breeding bulls under Indian conditions. In present paper, an attempt is made to deal with different surgical affections in breeding bulls, their therapeutic management and recovery rate.

Materials and Methods

Data on 742 breeding bulls belonging to breeds like Holstein Friesian (HF), Jersey (JY), crossbred Holstein Friesian (XHF), crossbred (XJY), Indigenous breed and buffalo bulls during 3 years (2008-2010) were compiled and analyzed. Out of 213 cases of different affections during the period under study, seventy eight (78) cases corrected by surgical interventions were recorded. These cases were further divided as lameness, major & minor surgical affections. Incidence of affection, therapeutic management and recovery rate of these cases were studied. Broad spectrum antibiotic (Amoxicillin-Cloxacillin) was parentally administered in ulceration cases and also in abscess of sole conditions after proper cleaning, trimming and bandaging of affected hooves. The non-foot origin lameness cases were treated with nervine tonic, analgesic and anti-inflammatory drugs. Major surgical affections were preputial prolapse, urolithiasis, diaphragmatic hernia and horn avulsions, while minor surgical affection were wound, abscess and eye affections.

Results and Discussion

Breed wise surgical cases recorded, type of affection and recovery rate is presented in Table 1. Lameness was observed in 51 (23.94%) cases. Major affections were in 09 (4.23%) bulls, while minor surgical cases were 18 (8.45%). Antihistaminic, anti-inflammatory

& analgesic drugs were parentally administered in foot lameness cases. The broad spectrum antibiotic (Amoxicillin-Cloxacillin) was parentally administered in ulceration. Proper hoof trimming was found to be mainly effective for recovery of hoof lameness.

Average incidence of lameness problem encountered in bulls was 23.94 per cent, which closely resembles to the findings of Chenoweth *et al.*, (2003). Incidence reported in dairy herds of different countries vary from 2.5 to 69 per cent in UK (Hedges *et al.*, 2001), 46 per cent in USA (Warnick *et al.*, 2001), 25 per cent in Scotland (Whitaker *et al.*, 1983), 20.7 per cent in New Zealand (Tranter and Morris, 1991), 14.2 per cent in Ireland (Arkins, 1981) and 2.5 per cent in Australia (Jubb and Malmo, 1991). No published report regarding incidence of lameness in breeding bulls under Indian conditions was available in literature scanned by the authors.

Lameness was highest in purebred HF (7.04%) compared to JY purebred bulls (0.94%), while in crossbreds highest lameness was noticed in XHF (8.92%) compared to XJY bulls (1.41%). It was observed that HF and their crosses are more prone to lameness as compared to JY and XJY. The buffalo and JY had cent per cent recovery rate from the lameness. There are indications that certain breeds have predisposition for lameness. For example, sole ulcers occur predominantly in very large framed, purebred, Holstein-Friesian cows (Jubb and Malmo, *loc. cit*). HF bulls are more prone might be due to breed susceptibility, heavy body weight and hard bedding under Indian conditions.

The major surgical affections recorded were preputial prolapse, urolithiasis, diaphragmatic hernia and horn avulsion. The major surgical problem was highest (2.35%) and total recovery in buffaloes due to avulsion of horn.

Table.1 Breed wise surgical cases recorded, type of affections and recovery rate in breeding bulls (2008-10)

Breed	No. of bulls	Lameness cases		Major surgical cases		Minor surgical cases	
		No. of cases (% Affection)	Recovery %	No. of cases (% Affection)	Recovery %	No. of cases (% Affection)	Recovery %
HF	90	15 (7.04)	46.67	0(0.00)	0.00	1(0.47)	100
JY	77	02 (0.94)	100	0(0.00)	0.00	0(0.0)	0.0
HFX	135	19(8.92)	78.95	1(0.47)	100.00	4(1.88)	75.0
JYX	80	03(1.41)	66.67	1(0.47)	0.00	5(2.35)	40.0
Indigenous	145	05(2.35)	40.0	2(0.94)	0.00	4(1.88)	75.0
Buffalo	215	07(3.29)	100	5(2.35)	100.00	4(1.88)	75.0
Overall	742	51(23.94)	68.63	9(4.23)	66.67	18(8.45)	66.67

It might be due to infighting of bulls and major blow by head to steel frames of bull pens. The preputial prolapse case was corrected by prepuctomy and the affected bull after correction performed well for semen collection and there was no further prolapses or reduced quality, quantity of semen and libido. Such conditions are more frequently encountered in polled breeds of cattle because of absence of the retractor preputial muscles (Tyagi and Jitsingh, 2004). Preputial laceration usually leads to prolapse of the prepuce in bulls of *Bos indicus* breeds, as they are having pendulous preputial sheath and long prepuce (Wolfe, 2009).

Only one case of urolithiasis was recorded, which might be due to very hard drinking water (>1200ppm). It could be also due to high testosterone level in breeding bulls. The minor surgical cases included wound, abscess and eye affection. The minor surgical cases of abscess formation were highest in XJY bulls (2.35%). The eye affections were corneal opacity, eye injury and few cases of keratoconjunctivitis. The Pendistrin-SH ointment having penicillin and steroid drugs were found effective in recovery of eye affections without any other therapy.

The overall incidence of lameness problem was 23.94 per cent in breeding bulls. Amongst exotic breeds, the lameness

incidence was highest in HF bulls (7.04%) and in crossbreds, it was highest in the same breed (8.92%). The proper hoof trimming showed best recovery in hoof lesions leading to lameness. Buffalo bulls suffered highest cases of avulsion of horn (2.35%) as a major surgical problems but the recovery was 100 per cent. The prepuctomy was final remedy to correct preputial prolapsed in breeding bulls. The minor surgical cases were highest in crossbred Jersey bulls (2.35%) due to abscessation.

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