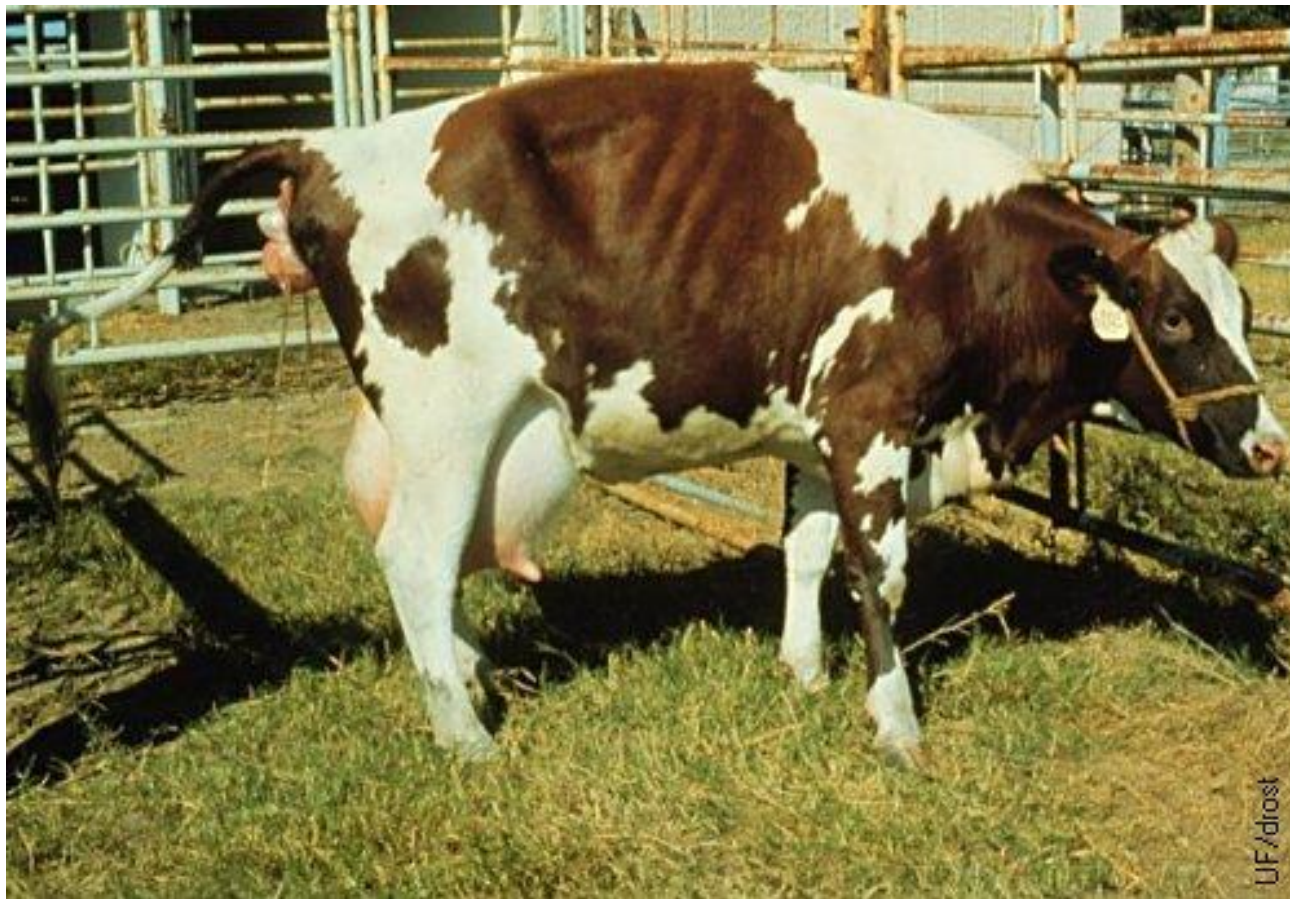


NWV'S CALVING SCHOOL

Simple Dysotocia



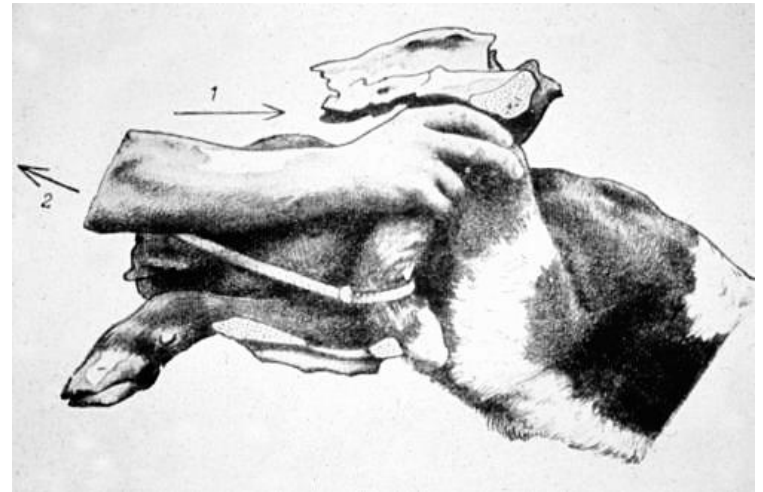
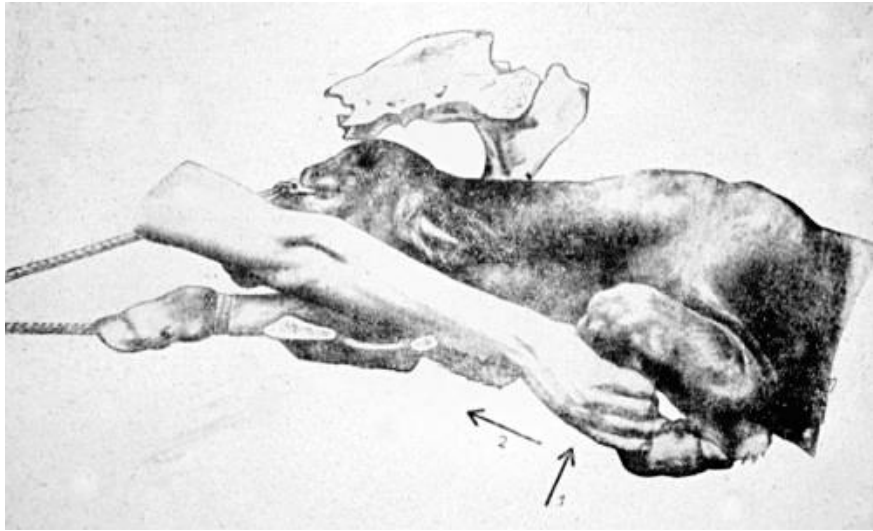
- We're going to cover some of the more common presentations that may arise that may require your intervention.
- Time is of the essence here. If any of these manipulations take you more than half an hour you're probably better off giving us a call to assist you. Waiting beyond half an hour would increase the risk of damage to the uterus, the cow and/or the calf.

Leg Back – Anterior Presentation

- can be just bent at the "knee" (carpus), or retention at the level of the shoulder.
- neither one allows for the calf to be safely pulled without causing damage to the cow unless the leg is brought up first due to the diameter of the calf being too large to allow passage through the birth canal.



- If bent at the "knee"; this can be corrected by elevating the "knee" up and out towards the body wall while directing the feet towards the middle and extending the leg.
- May be assisted by attaching your chains to the feet just below the fetlocks/just above the hoof, and having someone pull slowly while you direct the "knee" up and lateral.



- if bent at the shoulder; head and one leg are all that are presented, the temptation is to try to pull this calf without correcting the abnormality, often will result in damage to the cow as well as the calf.

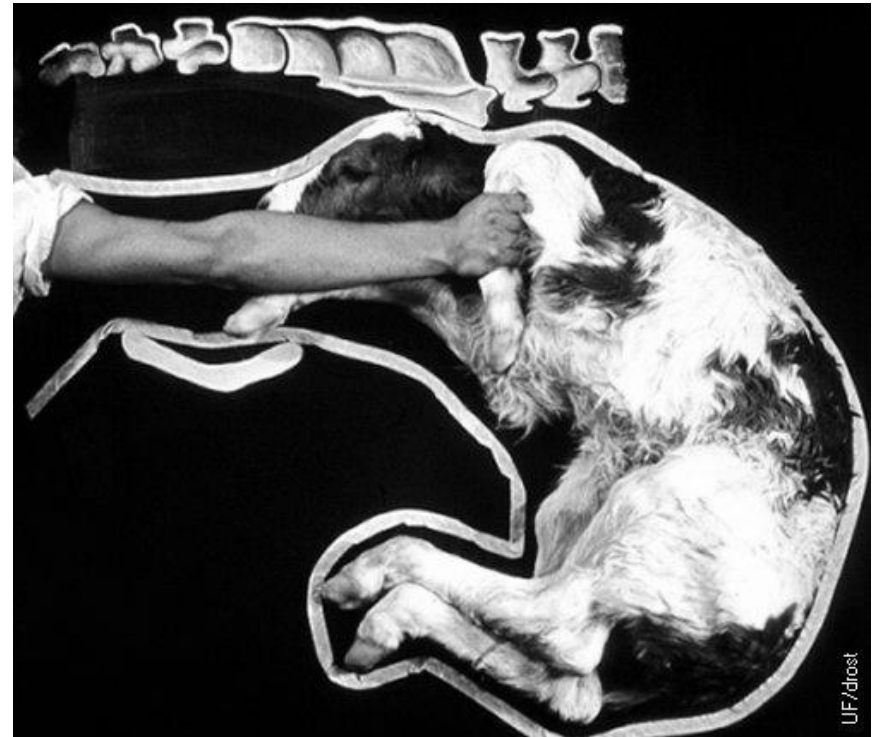
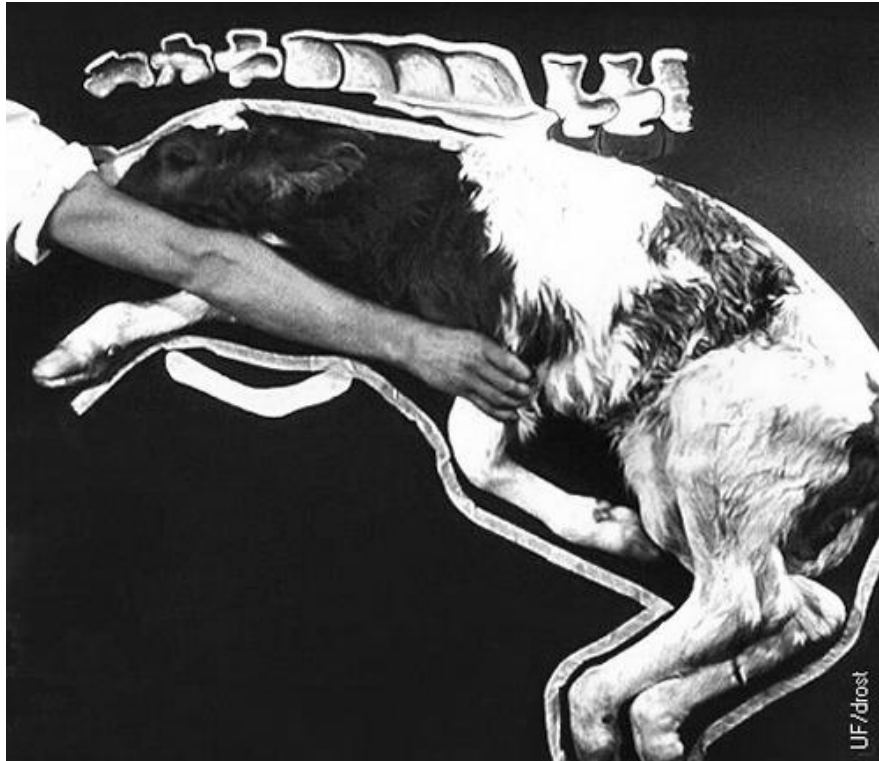


Leg-back anterior presentation

- This is frequently a quite frustrating correction; go slow. Correction involves first retropulsing the head and leg into the uterus so as to allow room to pull up the "knee" and then the foot. The leg is first grasped round above the elbow and pulled up so that the knee is twisted towards the center. Then grasp progressively lower on the leg as more of the leg is pulled forward.



- The leg is first grasped round above the elbow and pulled up so that the knee is twisted towards the center. Then grasp progressively lower on the leg as more of the leg is pulled forward.



- Caution ought to be taken when pulling up the leg to protect the ventral wall of the uterus from the pointed hooves by covering them with the palm of your hand.

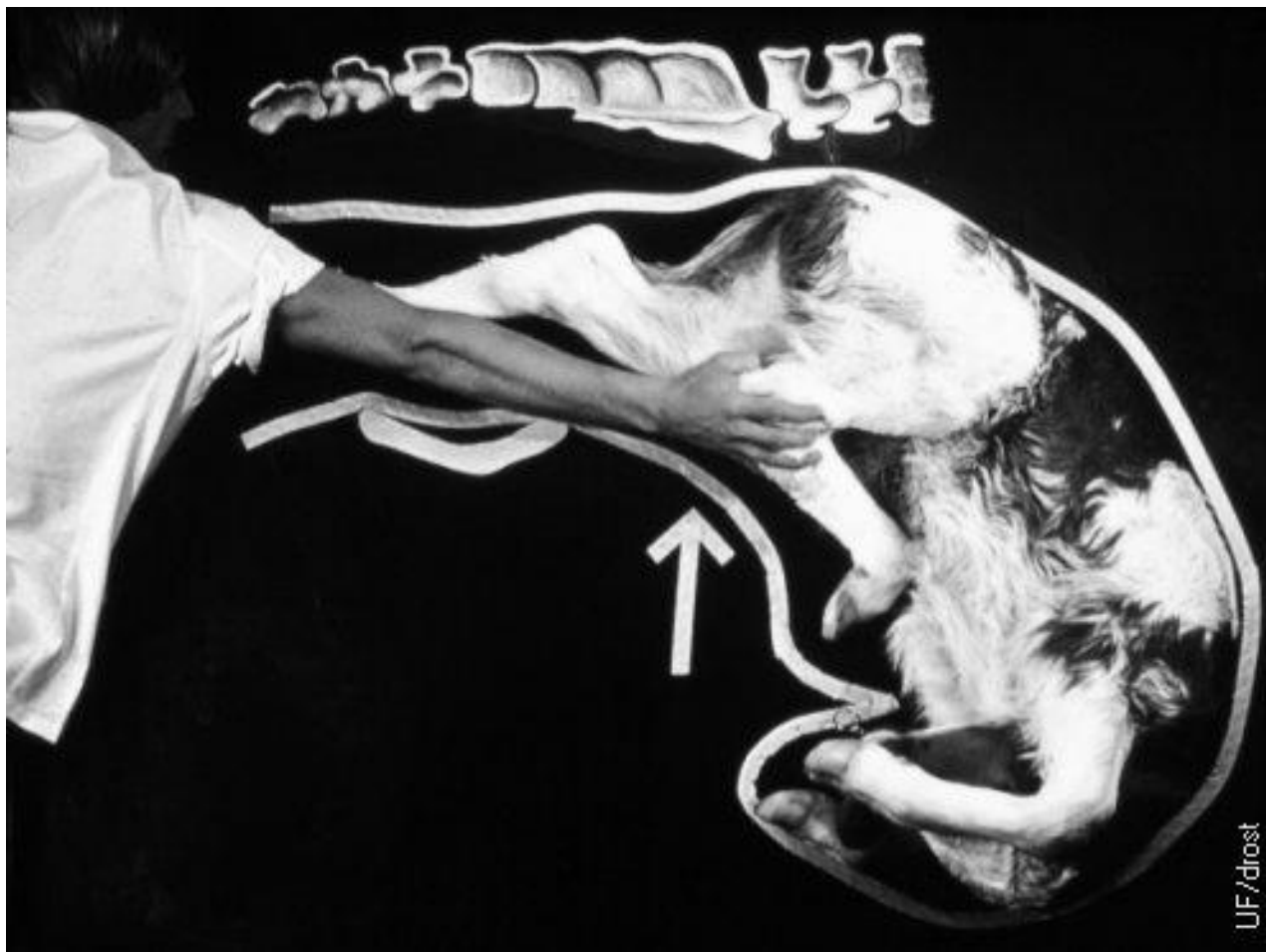


Leg back, posterior presentation

- Again, cannot pull the calf through the birth canal without first correcting the abnormality.
- In this case, want to repel the calf's hind end to allow for room to manipulate the calf.



- Need to push the hock up and lateral in order to reach the hoof.

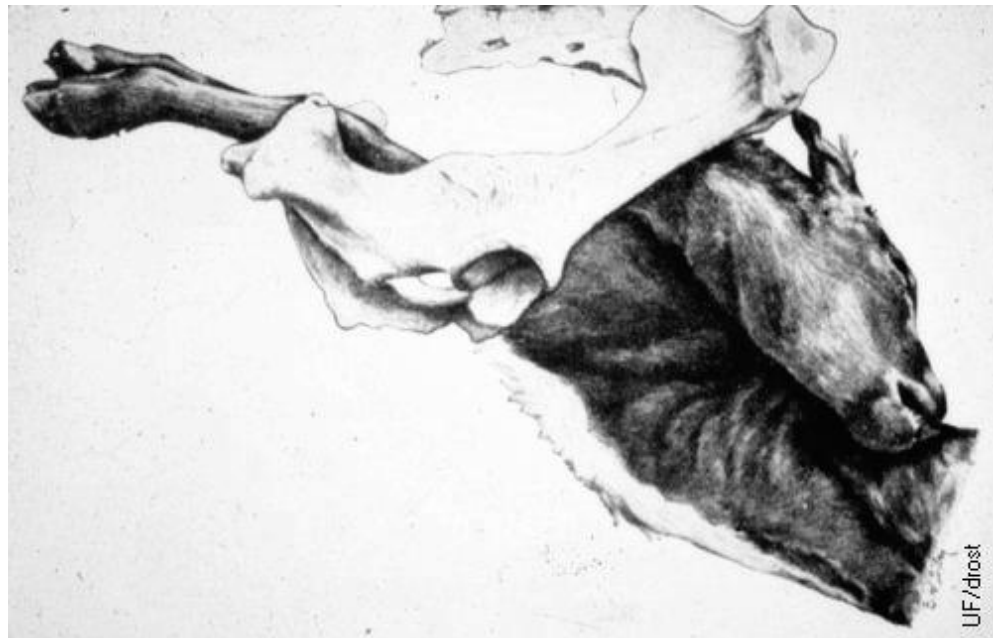


- Using a chain to pull the leg in extension by attaching it to the leg as close to the top of the hoof as possible and slowly pulling may help to get the leg into extension while you're pushing the hocks up and lateral. Remember to cup the hoof as it slides forward to protect it against puncturing the uterine wall (much higher risk of tears upon manipulation due to alignment of hoof along ventral uterine wall).



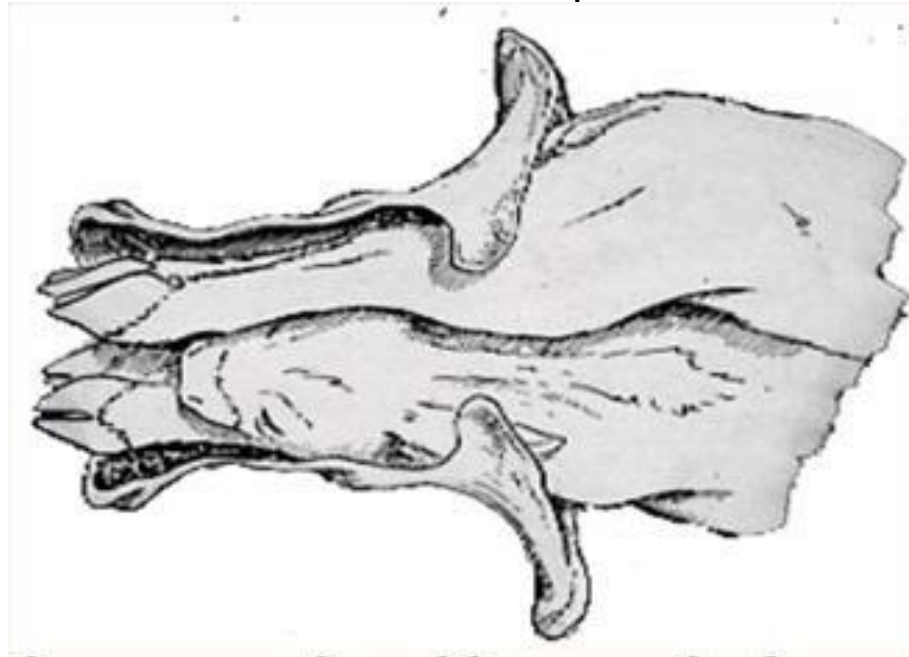
Head back

- Typically seen with dead calves, or weak calves that do not keep their head and neck extended during the calving process.
- Correction requires either the use of an eye hook or head snare.
- With the eye hook, typically want to hook the eye furthest from you while with the head snare, you're simply using it to direct the head through the cervix; maintaining the head and nose in extension while you pull the calf.
- In extreme situations, it may be simpler to cut the head off at the base of the neck and shoulders and pull the calf and head with neck separately (will need our assistance for this).



Twins

- Often present as four legs in the birth canal.
- First step is to identify which legs go to which calf (typically the hardest part of the calving).
- To identify a front limb; will have 2 joints that bend in the same direction after the elbow, while the hind leg only has one that bends in the same direction below the hock.
- Quite frequently, one of the calves is backwards, pull this one first as it allows for more room to manipulate the calf in anterior presentation and often will be the easier pull as the head isn't involved in the manipulation.



- Quite frequently, one of the calves is backwards, pull this one first as it allows for more room to manipulate the calf in anterior presentation and often will be the easier pull as the head isn't involved in the manipulation.

