

Complex Calvings

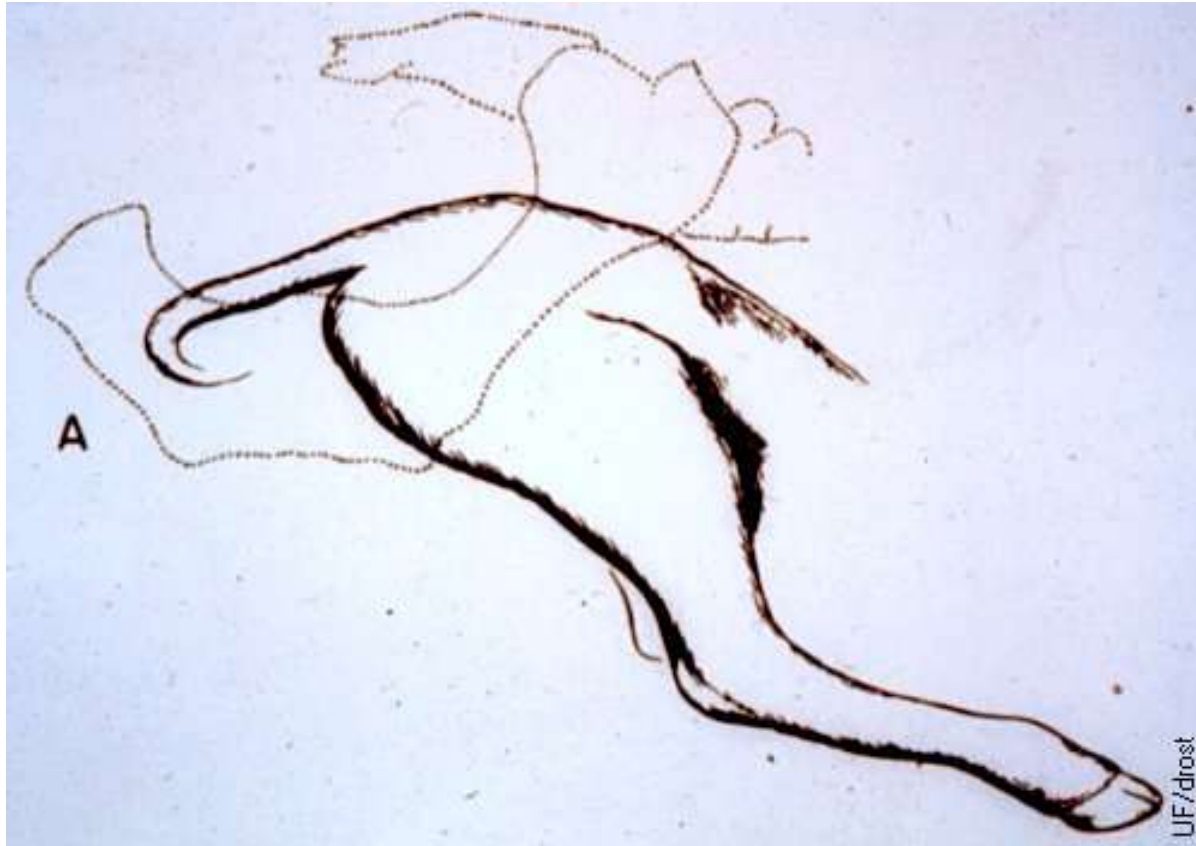
True Breech

Uterine torsions

Transverse presentation

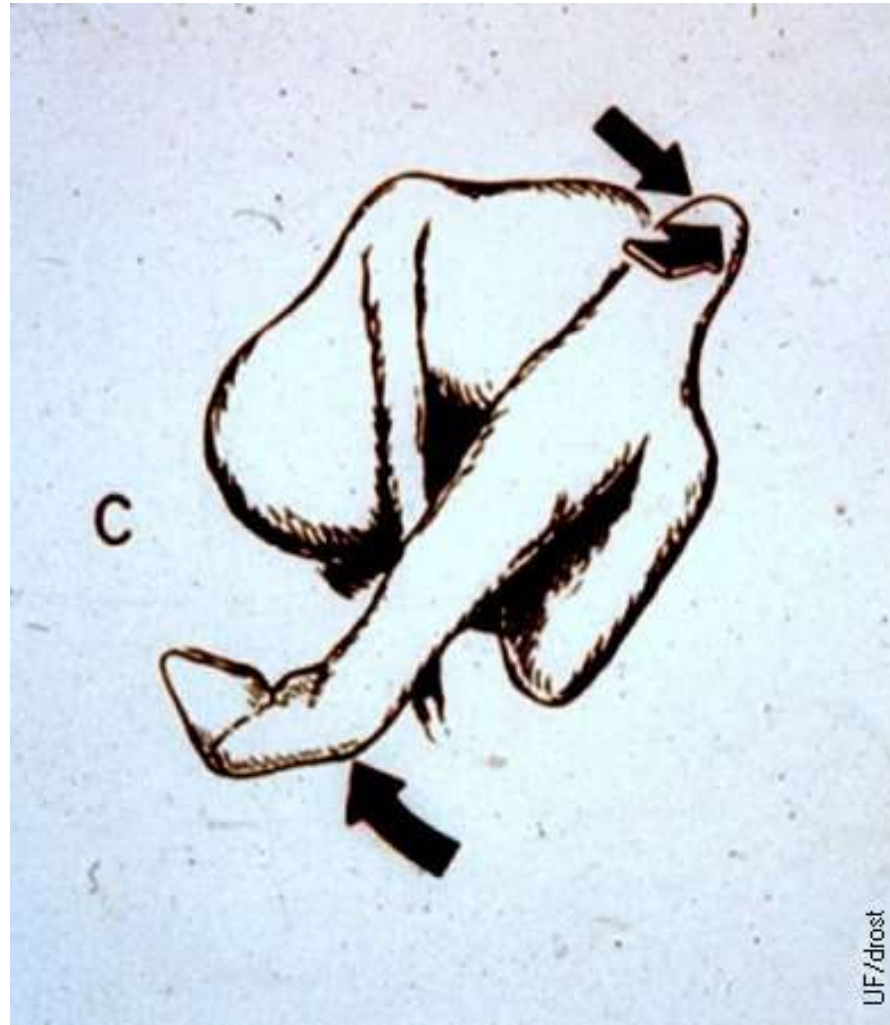
True Breech

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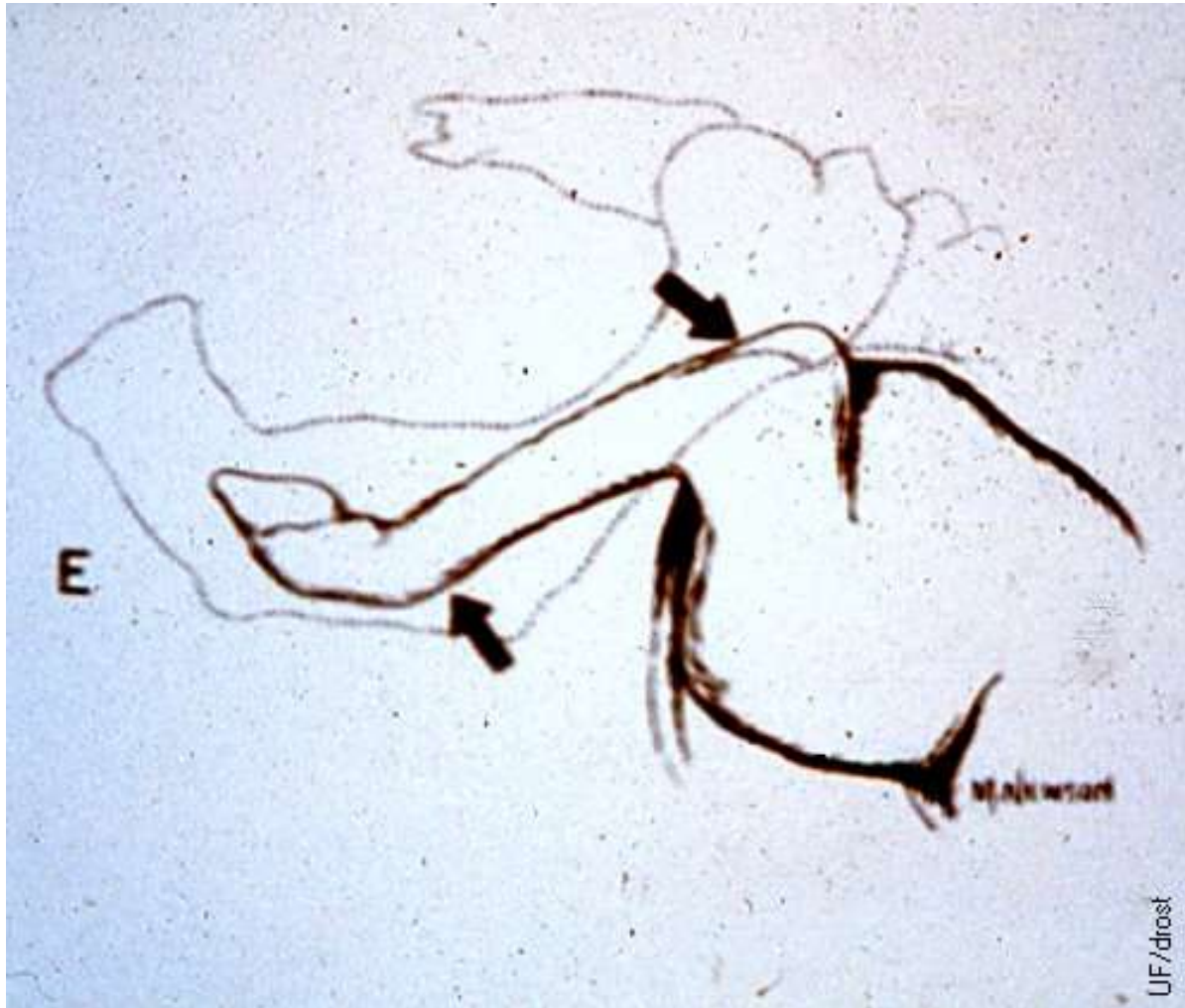
- Try to push calf forward while lifting the hock/leg towards you



- Cup the hoof and ankle towards you while pushing the hock away from you
 - Be careful the hoof doesn't tear the uterus!



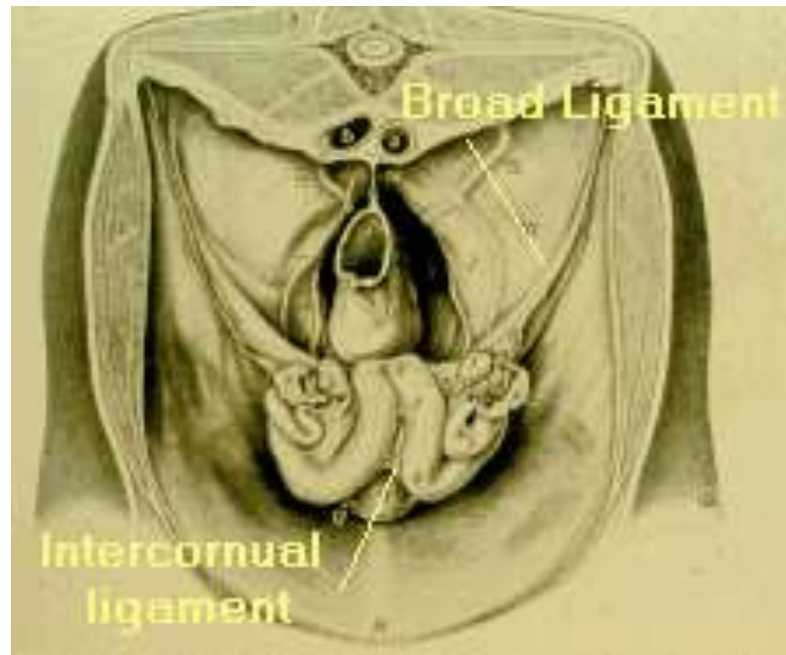
- Continue bringing the ankle up and straighten the leg



- Straighten out the leg, then repeat the steps for the second leg

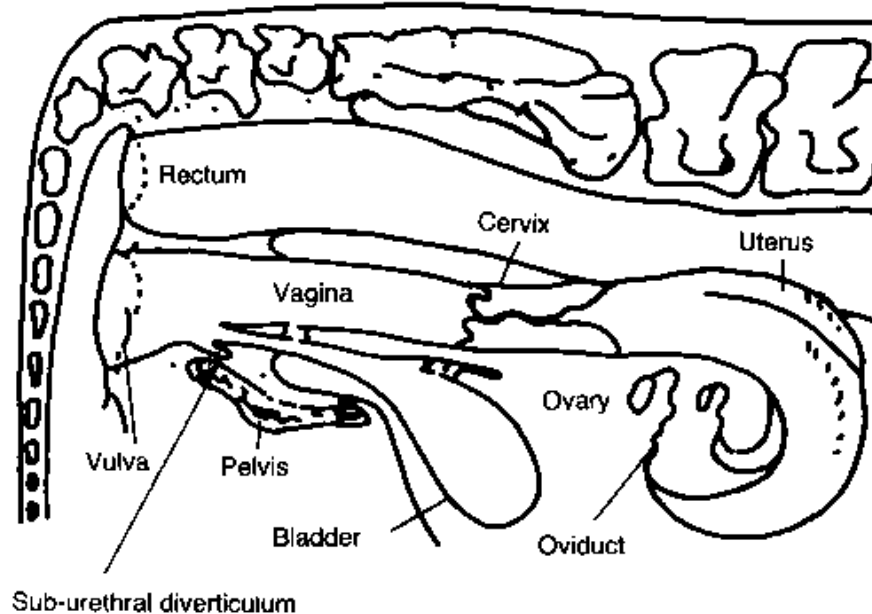
Uterine Torsions

- Prevalence
 - In dairy cattle, 3-11% of dystocias



Why does this happen?

- Ovarian end of the pregnant horn is a narrow base
- The way the cow lies down



Why does this happen?

- Other potential factors:
 - Lack of fetal fluids
 - Violence or rolling
 - Deep spacious abdomen (deep bodied cow)
 - Strong fetal movements

Presentation

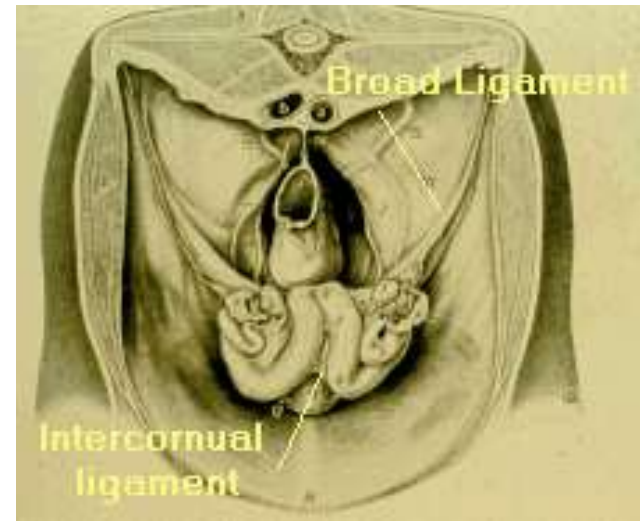
- Not always an “at-term” condition
 - Dry cows can be at risk!!
- Outward appearance can be deceiving
- Abnormally long preparatory stage
 - Often no knowledge parturition is occurring
- Tail up, shifting positions, agitated
- In severe cases all signs of calving cease and cow appears restless

Physical Exam

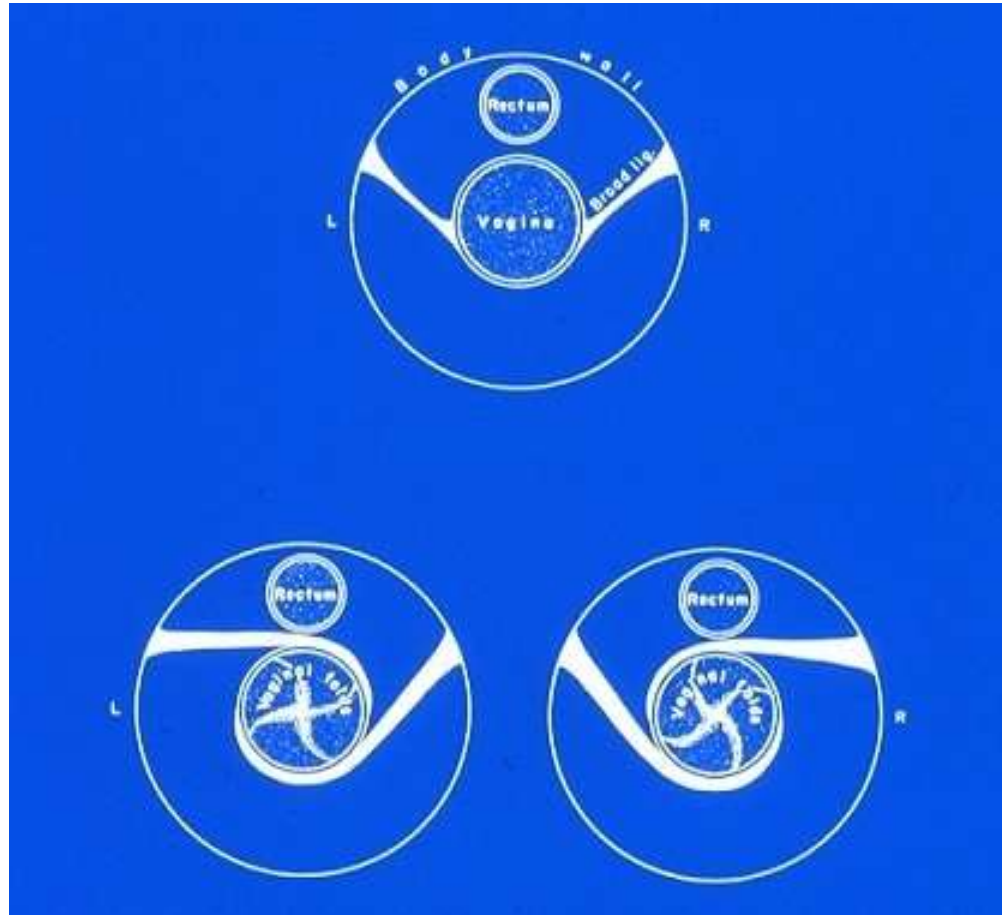
- Vaginal exam:
 - When insert hand feel it twist
 - Vaginal folds
 - Cervix?
- Rectal exam:
 - Feel broad ligament coursing across pelvic cavity
 - Uterus is twisting on it's long axis
- Note any discharge or putrid odors

Direction of Torsions

- Counterclockwise:
 - The most common
- Clockwise:
 - Less common



Direction of twist



clockwise

counter-clockwise

Correcting the torsion

- Standing vs. Laying
- Manually with hand, rotate calf
- Roll with plank

If the cow is down...

- Can pull her legs back from underneath her
 - “frog-leg”
 - Manually using arm
- Remember: flip the calf the opposite direction of the twist!

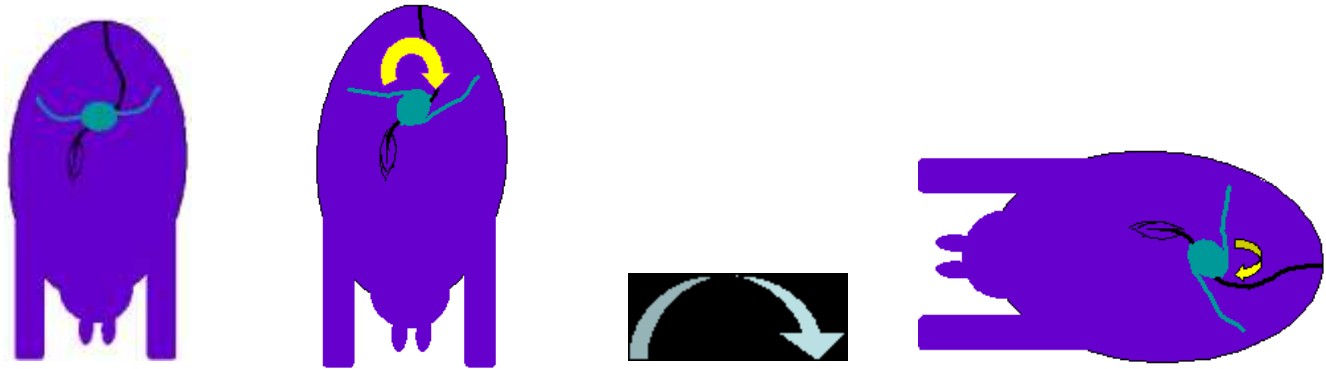
If the cow is down...

- If degree of torsion is severe, or manually twisting doesn't work...
 - Plank method

Plank method

- Be sure cow down on respective side
 - Counterclockwise twist, down on left side, roll to left
- Place plank properly over calf
- Stand on plank while roll cow over

Example of plank method



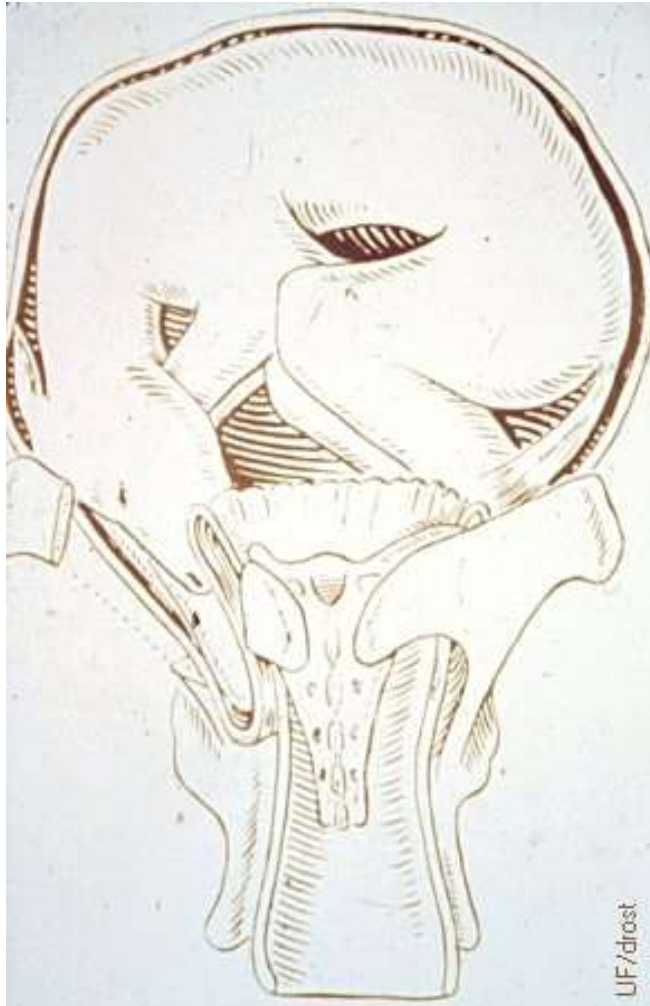
If cow is standing

- Manually try to rotate calf inside uterus
 - Rotate calf opposite direction of twist
- Plank method can also be used
 - Sedation and rope to cast cow down
 - Roll cow same direction as twist

The torsion is fixed...Now What?

- Major questions to ask:
 - Is she dilated?
 - Is she overdue?
 - Are there other signs of parturition?

Transverse Presentations



524-3222

- Never hesitate to call us for help, or to ask us questions!!