



# Downer Cow Syndrome

**Lesson I** Introduction

**Lesson II** Clinical Examination of Downers

**Lesson III** Metabolic syndrome

**Lesson IV** Other downers

**Lesson V** Downers of musculoskeletal and nervous disorders

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Unit : Downer Cow Syndrome  
Lesson : 1

# Introduction

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## Recumbent cow / downer cow

- **A cattle which is recumbent, unable to raise for more than 24 hrs after initial recumbency.**
- **Secondary recumbency due to pressure damage to the muscles and nerves.**



# Recumbent cows classification

- **Metabolic disorder**
- **Abdominal dysfunction**
- **Infectious causes**
- **Intoxication**
- **Musculoskeletal & nervous disorders**



# Major Elements Involved

- **Calcium**
- **Phosphorus**
- **Magnesium**
- **Potassium**
- **Glucose**
- **Vit B12**
- **Niacin**
- **Cobalt**



# Occurrence

- **Mostly post parturient**
- **Complication of Hypocalcemia**
- **During pregnancy (last trimester)- lack of energy, malnutrition**
- **Lactation –any time**



# Occurrence

- **Sudden fall down and prolonged recumbency**
- **Ischemic necrosis to muscles in hind quarter**
- **Pressure injury to the radial and peroneal nerves – Knuckling**
- **Pressure injury vulnerable to obturator nerve and sciatic nerve during delivery**



# Recumbent Cows

## In Pregnancy -----

- Rule out status of pregnancy in recumbent cows -
- Hydroallantois
- Torsion
- Macerated / mummified fetus etc..





# Unusual Downers / Recumbent cows

- **Heifers – Anemia, Not dewormed cases**
- **Rumen Impaction**
- **Over feeding /grazing**
- **Ephemeral fever**



# Classification of Downers

→ **Alert**

→ **Non Alert**



# Alert Downers

- **Feeding Normal**
- **Water intake Normal**
- **Defecation**
- **Urination**
- **Attempt to stand on stimulation**
- **Rumination**



# Alert recumbent animal





# Alert Downers

**Metabolic disorders ( Ca, P, Mg, K )**

**Musculoskeletal involvement**

- **Pelvic fracture**
- **Obturator nerve paralysis**
- **Gastrocnemius muscle rupture**
- **Peroneal nerve paralysis**
- **Dislocation of limbs**
- **Fracture**



## Non Alert Downers- signs

- **Lateral recumbency**
- **if Sternal place chin on ground**
- **Temp**
- **Elevated heart rate**
- **Pellety dung / absence of dung**
- **Anorectic**
- **Respiratory distress**
- **Unable to lift Head**
- **Bloat**



# Non Alert Downer- conditions

- **Anemia – Blood protozoan diseases**
- **Acidosis**
- **Poisoning**
- **Peritonitis**
- **Botulism**
- **Toxemia, Septicemia**
- **Mastitis**
- **Metritis**



*Thank you*