Short Communication

CONGENITAL DEFECTS IN INDIGENOUS CATTLE OF BANGLADESH

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Introduction

Inherited and congenital defects of the pure breed and cross-bred cattle of Western countries have been described (Blood and Henderson, 1963). The origin of the indigenous cattle of Bangladesh cannot be traced back to any particular pure breeds of cattle of Western countries but some congenital defects are occasionally diagnosed in these animals. The authors report some of these identified at the Veterinary Clinic of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, from 1968–73.

Congenital tendon contraction

Diagnosed in 11 newly born calves; in all of them the fetlock joint of either left or right front leg was fixed in flexion due to contraction of the flexor tendons. The calves were normal in size and in good physical condition but could not get up unaided nor walk properly. The owners assisted such calves to suckle the cows. The condition did not produce dystocia.

Eight calves lived for more than a year after which they were sacrificed by the owners on humanitarian grounds. The subsequent life history of the other calves was not reported.

Congenital umbilical hernia

Three such cases were identified and the condition was corrected by surgery. Loops of small intestine were present in the sac.

Congenital *Atresia ani*

Eight such cases were recorded. The calves exhibited symptoms of great discomfort making violent efforts to defecate. The animals were presented to the Veterinary Clinic usually within 1–3 days after birth and were relieved by surgery.

These are the first records of such congenital defects from Bangladesh.

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Reference

BLOOD, D. C. & HENDERSON, J. A. (1963). *Veterinary Medicine*. Second Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore.