



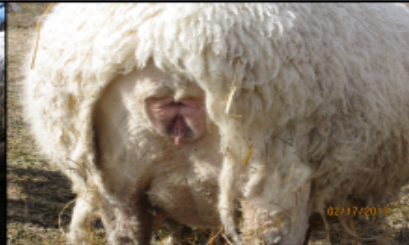
Sheep and Goat Obstetrics

HERE THEY COME!

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MARIA STEIN ANIMAL CLINIC INC

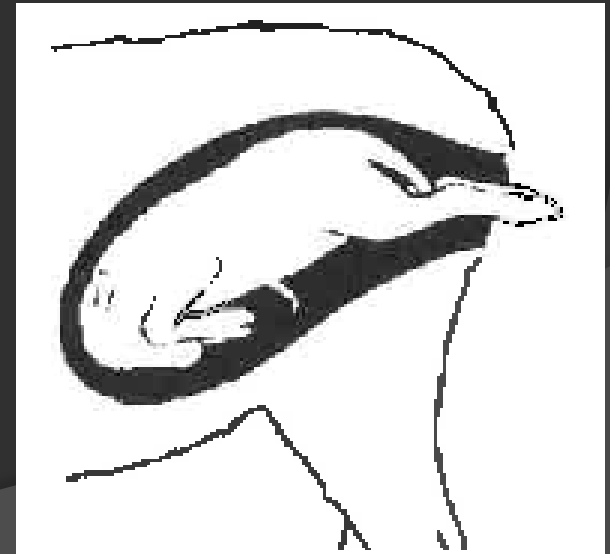
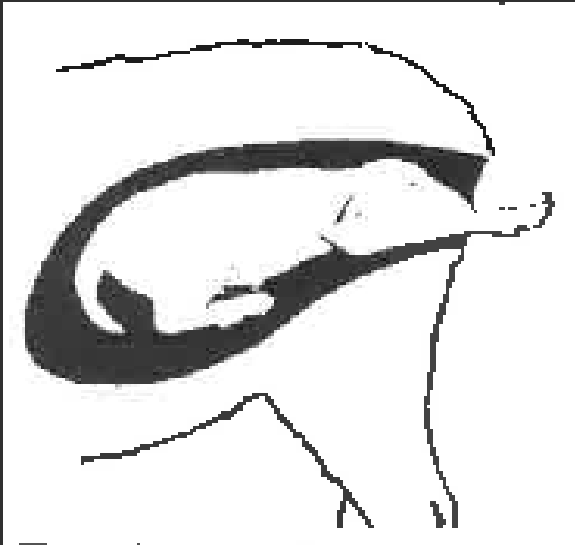
MARIA STEIN OHIO



- Dystocia = difficult in the birthing process resulting from the unborn kid or lamb retained in the uterus or birth canal
- Obstetrics = is the care given at the time of birth. The person must have knowledge, and be clean, gentle, and patient

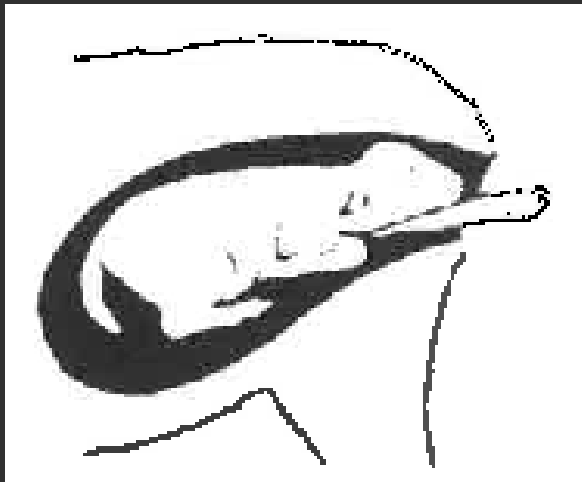
Normal Positioning

The head and two front feet or backward with two rear feet first.

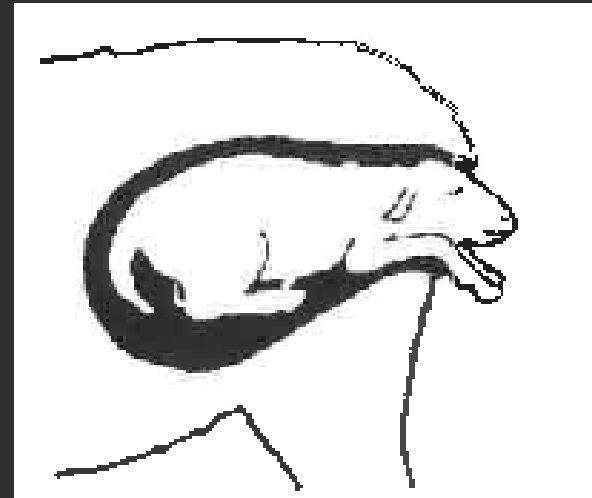


When To Do Something

1. After 30 minutes of no progress in a normal position.
2. Excessive pushing.



Front Leg Back



Locked Elbows

Frequently in ewe lambs
or a large single lamb

Locked Elbows

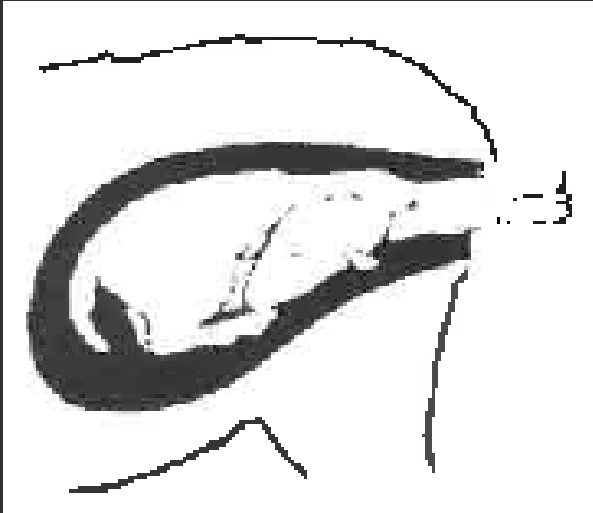
- ⦿ Not enough room in birth canal
- ⦿ Head is forced into the canal
- ⦿ Elbows are forced
 1. Gently push the lamb's head back into the birth canal.
 2. If possible, at the same time, use the other hand to pull on one front foot until feel the elbow pop out.
 3. Grasp the other foot and gently, unlocking the other elbow.
 4. Place a hand over the back of the head and pull legs and head at once.

Front Leg Back

1. Feel back along the shoulder until the foot of the turned back front leg is located.
2. Grasp the foot with cupped hand.
3. The foot is drawn up and into the birth canal.
4. If jammed into the pelvic canal, push the lamb back into the uterus.



Head Back



Head is forced back and to one side.

Common Causes

- Small birth canal
- Large size of the lamb

Correction

1. Don't pull until you find the head.
2. One hand through the birth canal.
3. Locate head, grasp head, and withdraw it.
4. You may be up to your shoulder before you find the head.



Front Legs Back

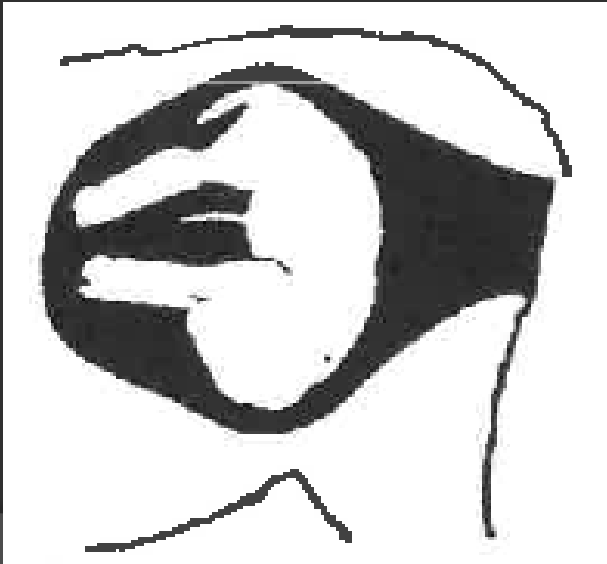
1. Sliding down the lamb's neck, across the shoulder to the foot, grasp foot, flex it and draw through the birth canal.
2. Repeat with other foot.
3. The lamb may have to be pushed back into the uterus



No Legs or Head

Two alternatives

- Position the lamb for a backward delivery
- Position the lamb for a normal two front legs and head delivery.

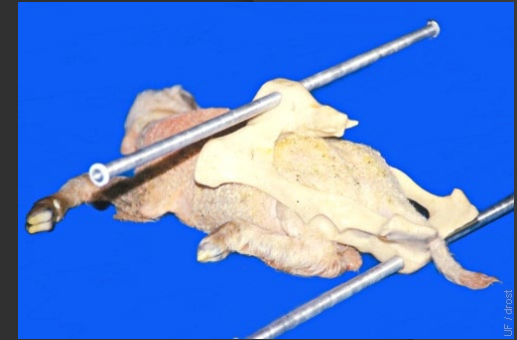


1. Enter the birth canal
2. Move your hand up, down, and across the lamb to decide what's what
3. Before the backward delivery can be made, both back feet must be withdrawn, one at a time and the hind legs crossed
4. One hind foot in each hand and twist while the lamb is pulled
5. The lamb will be rotated into and upright position backward
6. Must be delivered rather rapidly

Don't attempt to pull the
lamb upside down!

- ⦿ As soon as the umbilical cord breaks, lamb will take its first breath.
- ⦿ If the head is still in the uterus, inhalation of uterine fluid is likely; result is actual drowning.

Breech Presentation



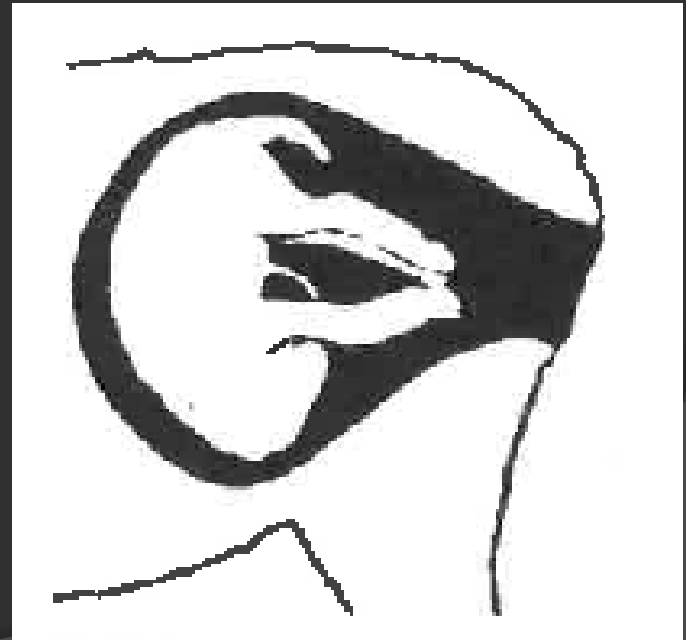
- Discovery of the lamb's tail
- 1. Slide one hand, palm up, under and forward until a hind foot can be grasped in cupped hand.
- 2. Flex the foot and withdraw it into the birth canal.
- 3. Repeat with other rear leg.
- 4. Grasp both feet and deliver quickly if possible.



- To get lambs to breathe, bulb syringes can be helpful or nose pinch
- Coupage chest

Four Feet, Single Lamb

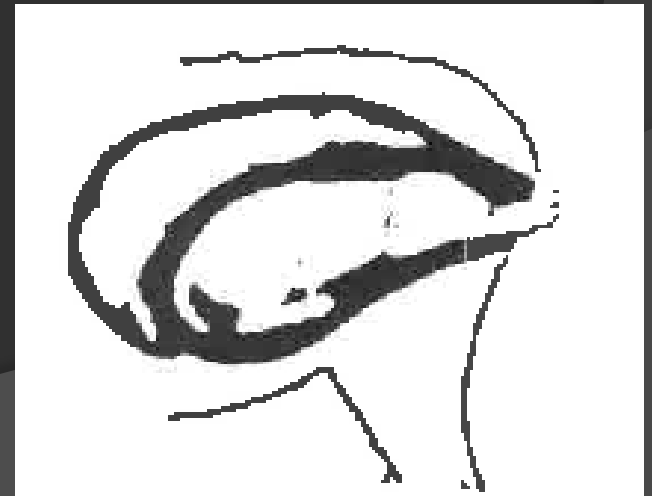
- ⦿ Cannot deliver pulling one rear leg and one front leg.
- ⦿ Grasp the lamb's head and draw it back toward the birth canal.
- ⦿ Count the joints to figure out front from rear legs



Twins, Front and Back

Sometimes this isn't easy

1. Enter the birth canal with one hand and locate the head in the normal position
2. Go down the lamb's shoulders and locate the legs that go with that head.
3. Usually push the second lamb back into the uterus before the first lamb can be delivered.
4. Then work on the second lamb.



If you can't get it figured out, call your vet.



When Do You Do a C-Section?

- ◎ Best if lambs are alive
 - Cervix doesn't dilate
 - Could be torsion of uterus
 - Lamb too big to get out of pelvis
 - Deformed lamb
 - Ewe down with pregnancy toxemia to salvage lambs

Clinic vs. Farm

⦿ Pros

- Experienced help
- Surgical stand or table
- Cleaner
- More supplies

⦿ Cons

- Moving sheep

⦿ Pros

- Ewe not moved

⦿ Cons

- Cost of farm call
- Inexperience help
- Place to do surgery

Standing vs. On Side

- Not fighting gut
- Needs a sheep chute
- No special equipment
- More likely to aspirate



What is survival rate?

- ◎ With good surgical candidates
 - Ewes 90%
 - Does 85%

Kids and Lambs 25%

At Birth

- Breathing
 - Nose pinch or needle
 - Bulb syringe
- Dry
 - Mom can do this
 - Dry pen is essential
- +/- Supplement heat
- +/- PJs or Blankets
- +/- Weigh
- Spray/dip navel and feet



CHECK THE UDDER immediately

- ⦿ Strip the udder
 - Look for plugged teats
 - No milk
 - Hard udders



Colostrum

- ◎ Within first 4 hours
 - Up and nursing
 - Or tube
 - Nose to last rib
 - Blow gently and listen
- ◎ Milk of life
- ◎ Check bellies every 6-8 hours
- ◎ Brown fat can keep lambs and kids going the first 12 hours



Colostrum Bank

- ⦿ Strip out mom
- ⦿ If single, steal and freeze in deep freeze
60-75 ml of colostrum now and 12 hours later
- ⦿ Label with date and time since birth

Getting MOMS to Accept
BABIES is Essential

When do you take a baby away?

MOM

- ⦿ Aggressive ewe/doe
 - Pawing excessively
 - Biting or chewing
 - Ramming
- ⦿ You can try to tie up or hobble ewe
- I have not had much luck with does
- ⦿ Mom too weak to stand



When do you take a Baby away?

BABY

- ⦿ Lamb unable to stand
- ⦿ Too weak to nurse
- ⦿ Not enough milk
- ⦿ Can't nurse
 - Swollen tongue
 - Nipples too large
- ⦿ Lamb injured