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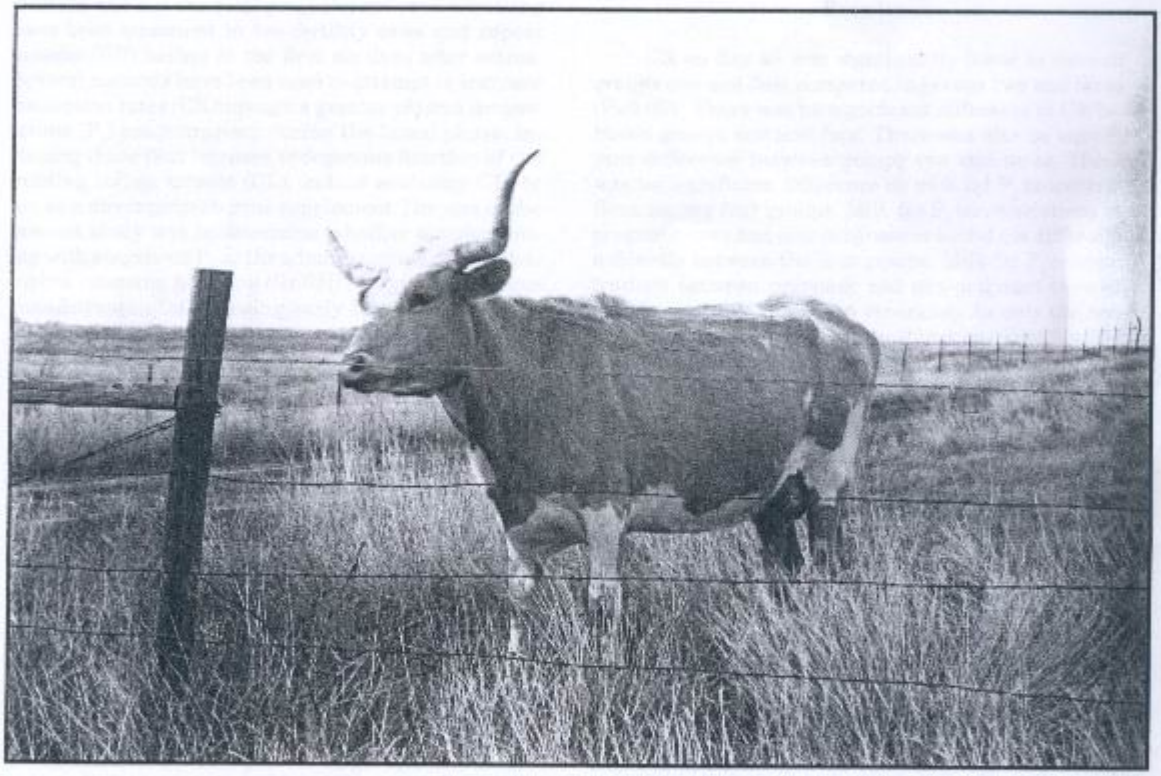
American Association of Bovine Practitioners



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Surgical Removal of a Supernumerary Foot in a New-born Calf: a Case Rep

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Introduction

A duplicate foot is a rare, congenital, bovine anomaly. It differs from polydactyly in that supernumerary metacarpal and carpal bones are present, as well as extra digits. Only a few cases of this anomaly have been reported in the literature to date. Another term for this condition is bimelia. It is understood that bimelia refers to the presence of a second limb in an abnormal location. Several types of polimelia are described according to the location of accessory limb. Pigomelia describes accessory limbs attached to the rump. Pelvomelia describes extra limbs attached to the pelvis. Gastromelia describes extra limbs attached to the ventral abdomen. Toracomelia describes extra limbs attached to the thorax. Notomelia describes extra limbs attached to the dorsal midline, and cefalomelia describes extra limbs attached to the head.

Materials and Methods

A 30 day old female calf was referred to the teaching hospital of the veterinary college of Ferdowsi University. The calf had been born with a second foot attached to the forelimb. No other anomaly o was detectable grossly. The calf was exami cally and radiographically. The supernumerar attached to the distal part of the shortened gery to remove the supernumerary foot was successfully.

Results

Subsequently, the calf grew normally i cow in the herd.

Significance

The supernumerary foot, if left, could function of the forelimb. Some researchers b BVD virus and/or a teratogenic substance m the embryo and cause this type of anomaly. searchers are concerned that there might b tary pattern to these types of limb anom therefore suggest no surgical correction or that could lead to further dissemination of t genetic defect.

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