



# Lambing/ Kidding Tidbits



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# Flock/Herd Health Cycle

- 30 days prior to lambing/kidding
  - Deworm??
  - Booster with Enterotoxemia and tetanus toxoid (Clostridium CD & tetanus= CD/T)
  - Make sure on good selenium and copper nutrition- loose mineral
  - Consider selenium injection\* or oral selenium

\* off label use: need valid veterinary-client-patient relationship  
BEWARE of potential abortion problems

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This product is to be used as the sole source of Selenium.

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80 mL dial-a-dose tube contains (16) 5 mL doses.

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**You May Also Consider**



**Bar-Vac CD/T**  
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**Vitamin ADE & B12 Gel**  
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**Disposable Poly Hub Needles**  
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**\$0.11**

# Lambing/Kidding Materials

Gloves

Paper towels, bath towels

Scissors

Garbage bag- for trash

Feed bags, newspaper or puppy training pads

OB lube- can use K-Y gel

Soap- Betadine surgical scrub

Warm water

Iodine 7%

Container- empty film canisters, syringe case

String or dental floss to tie navel, if necessary

- Lamb/kid in clean environment
- Usually takes < 2 hours from straining to delivery



# Care of the Lamb/Kid

- Clear lamb/kid's mouth of fluid
- Stimulate breathing with straw in nostril
- **\*\* At upper lip separation- apply pen or needle pressure & twirl**
- Rub vigorously with towel to stimulate and warm
- Don't need to swing

# Care of the Lamb/Kid

- Should try to stand in 10 to 15 minutes
- Dip navel with iodine 7%
- If umbilicus is bleeding, tie off with dental floss 1 to 1.5 inches from body
  - Do not cut umbilicus with scissors







- If Tincture of Iodine is not available, Nolvasan (chlorhexidine)

# Care of the Lamb/Kid

- Colostrum
  - Needs 4 to 8 oz of colostrum in first 4 hours
  - Frozen should be thawed SLOWLY
  - Pasteurize if CAE (Caprine Arthritis and Encephalitis) problem- 133°F for 60 minutes
- ? Selenium injection
- Identification

# Normal Parturition

- Most does/ewes manage on their own
- Tail ligaments soften 12 hours out
- Ewe/doe will isolate herself
- Normally deliver fetus within 30-60 min of showing placenta or fetus at vulva
- NAHMS 2001
  - 12% ewes needed assistance in flocks < 100 (~ 6% in larger flocks)

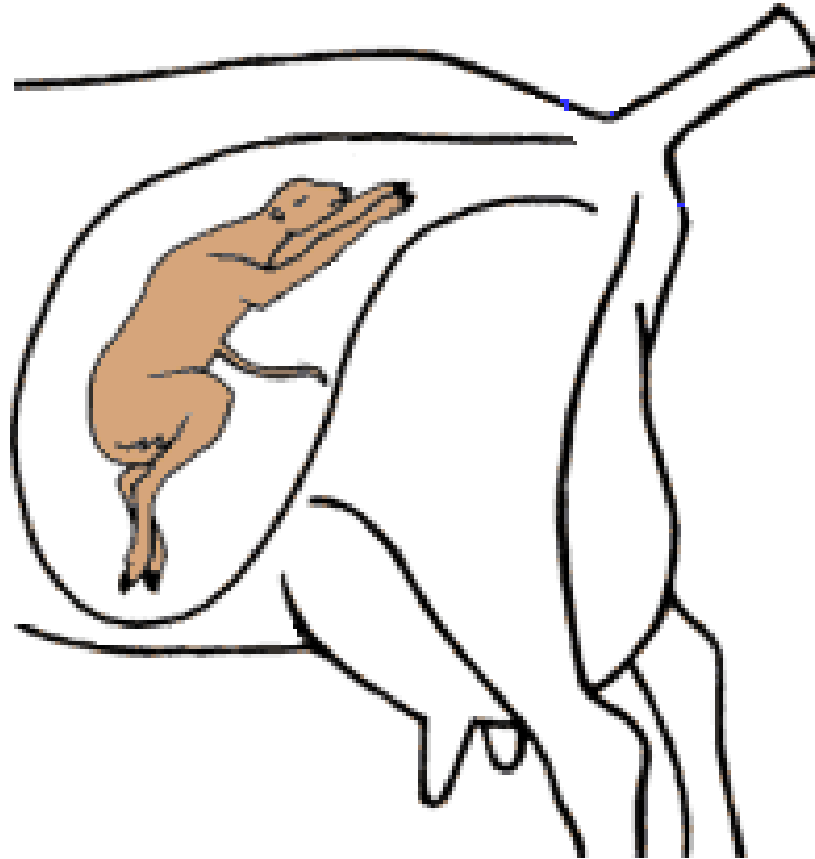
# Correction of Dystocia

- Always be clean, gentle and use lots of lubrication
- Wash the vulva (mild detergent or betadine)
- Wear a glove (sterile or clean)
- Use plenty of lube (not soap)
- Equipment: obstetrical (o.b.) chains, head snare, and/or loops of rope

# Correction of Dystocia

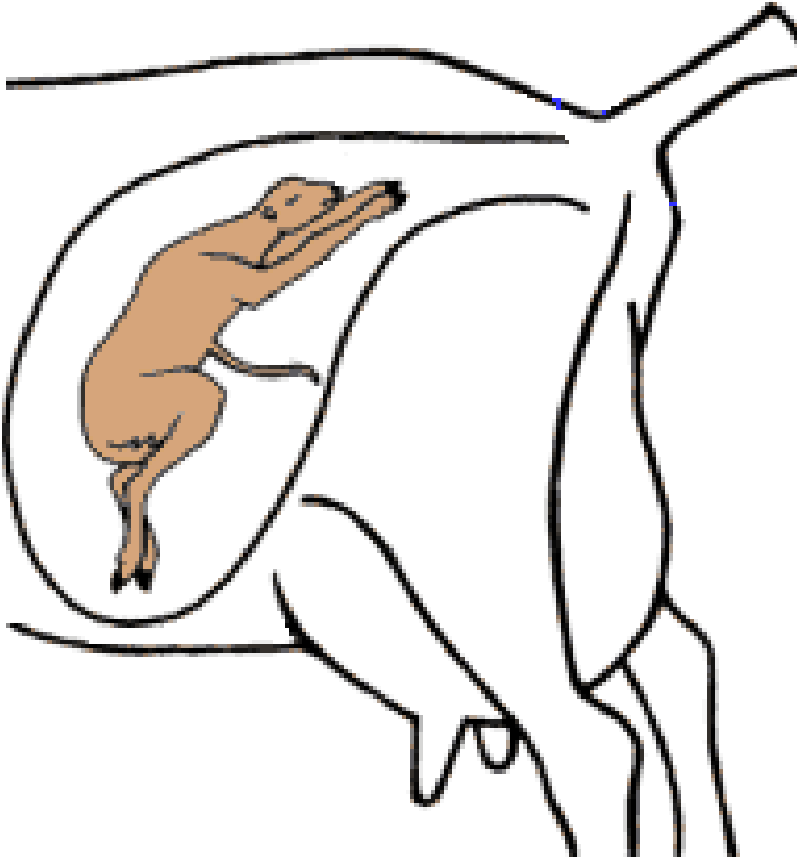
- Yellow stained fetus
  - Due to meconium staining
  - Intervene immediately
- 30-30-30 rule:
  - Examine ewe/doe if more than 30 min with fetus/placenta showing
  - If normal position and posture – wait 30 min before assisting
  - Once the first is out wait 30 min before intervening again
- Placental membranes usually follow within 6-8 hours of last kid born

# Kidding/Lambing



<http://fiascofarm.com/goats>

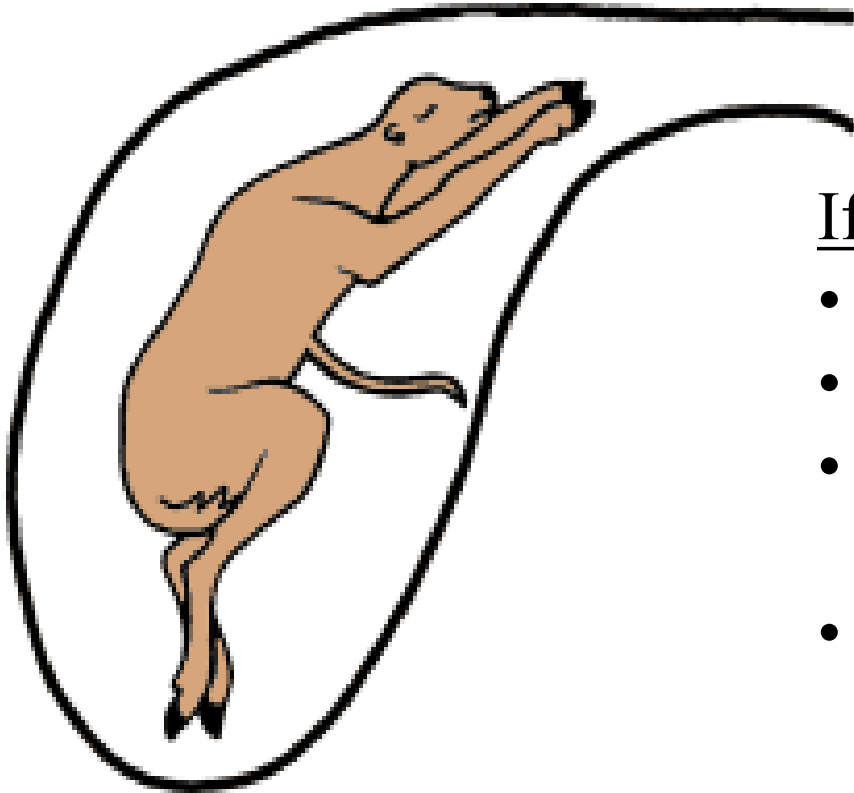
# Checking



- Straining but no kid/lamb
  - ✓ it does not hurt to check
- Restrain well
- Clean her vulvar area
  - Dry with towels
- Wash hands/arms or use gloves
- Use lubricant- KY gel or other
- Enter gently
- Opening to cervix (os) should be at least 3 fingers open for normal birth



# Normal Presentation

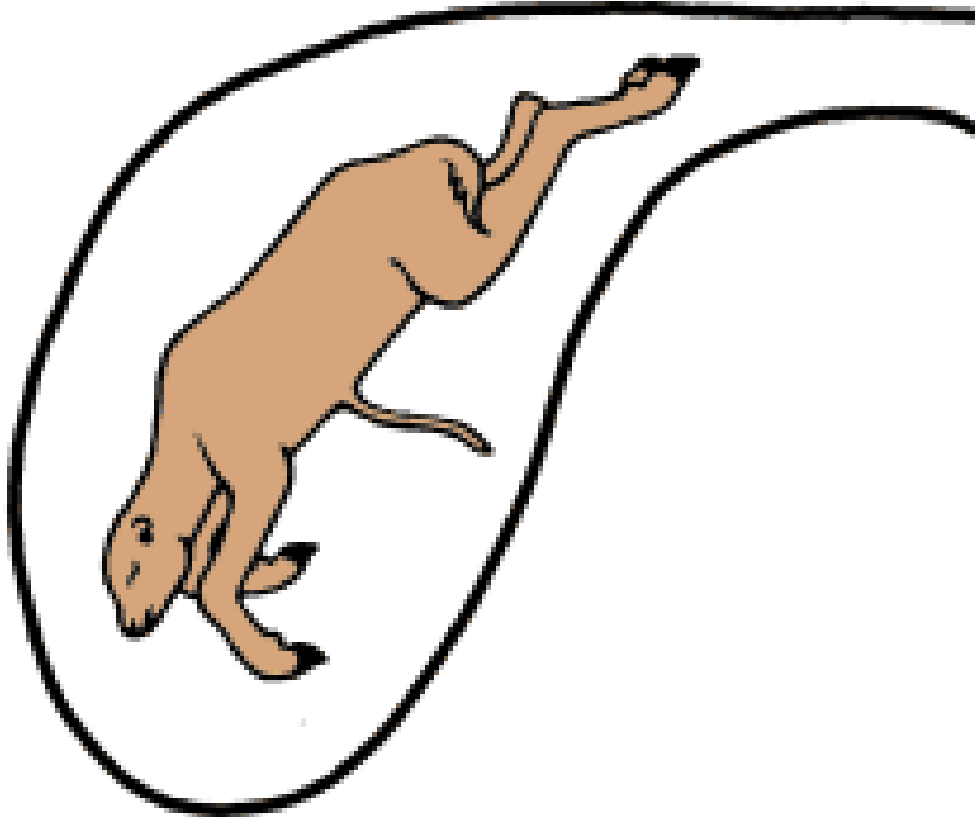


If assist doe:

- Use lubricant
  - Pull when she pushes
  - Pull one leg ahead of the other
- Shoulders are wide
- Pull in a downward arc

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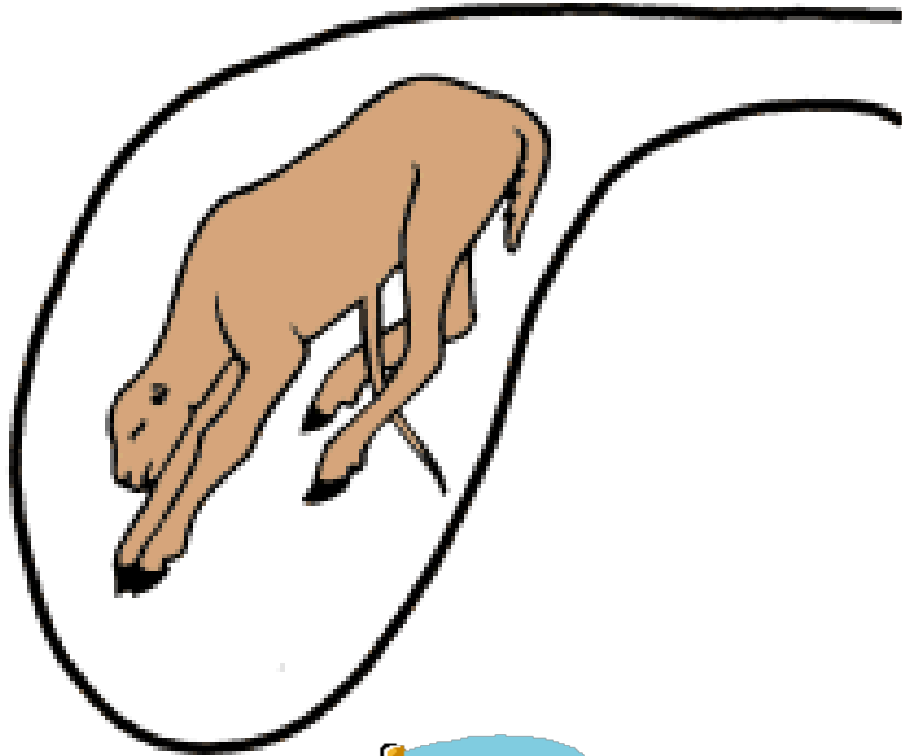
# Backwards Presentation



If problems delivering:

- Use lubricant
- Pull when she pushes
- Pull one leg ahead of the other
- Rotate kid slightly if hip locked
  - use legs criss-cross
- Pull in a downward arc

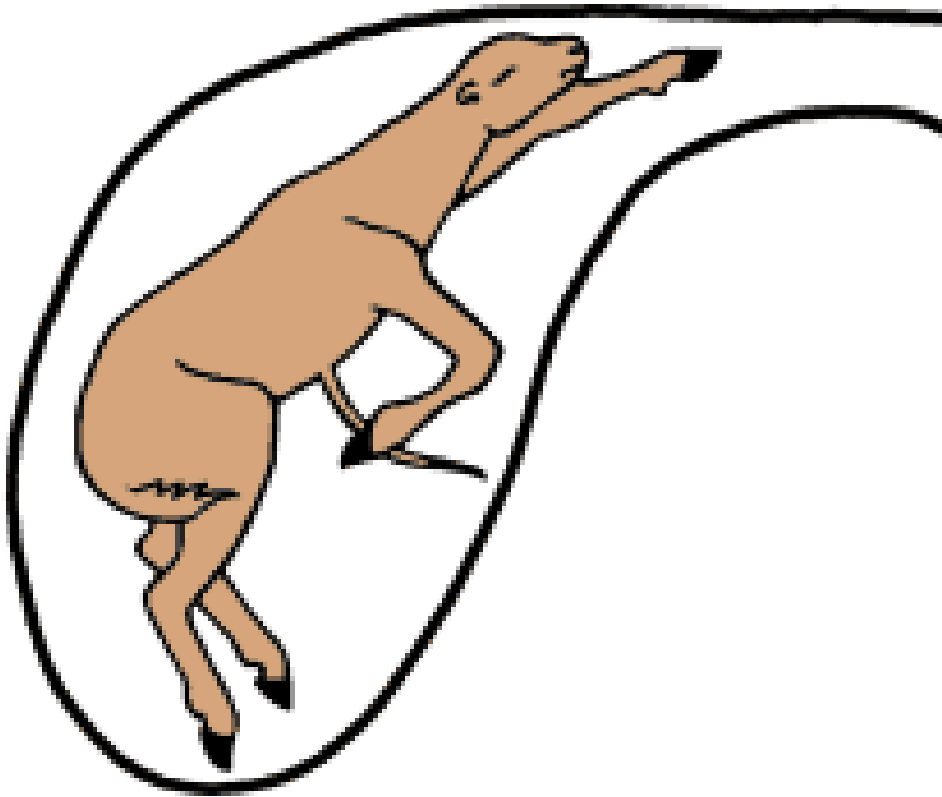
# Breech Presentation



- Push kid's rump back
- Place fingers over backwards hoof
- Pull toward the center of the body & forward (out)
- Make sure legs belong to the same kid!
- Consider placing doe's back feet **HIGHER** than the front feet; gives some room to work
  - Use bales of hay or straw

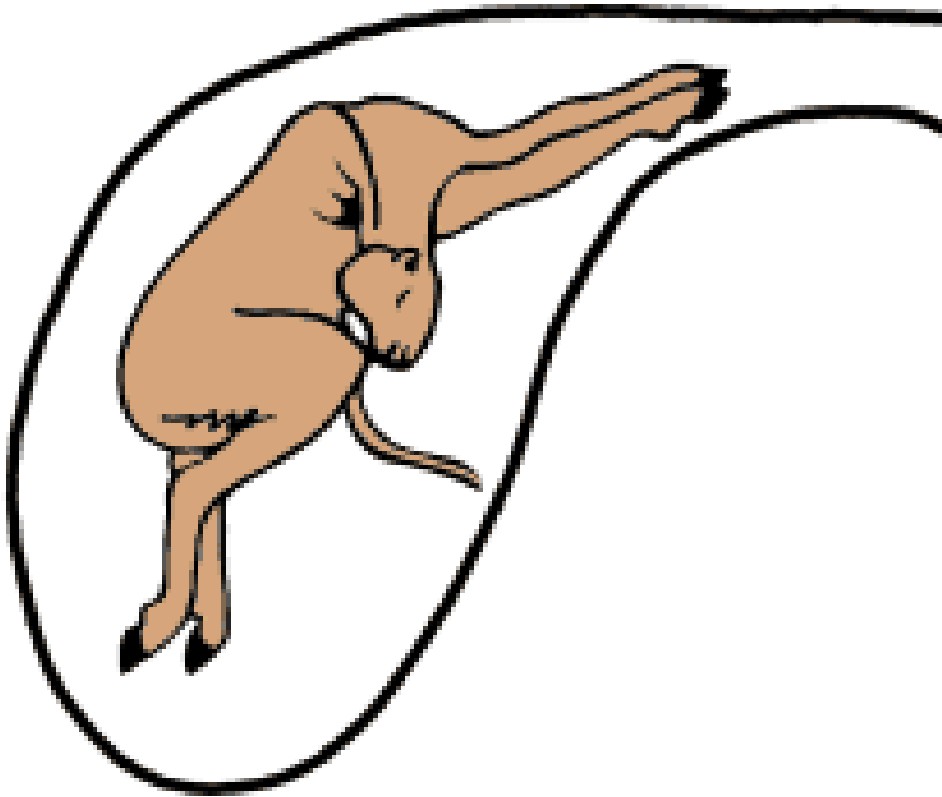


# Head First with One Leg



- Easier to deliver after correcting presentation
- Push kid's head back
- Place fingers over backwards hoof
- Pull toward the center of the body & forward
- Make sure legs belong to the same kid!
- If BOTH legs are back, must correct

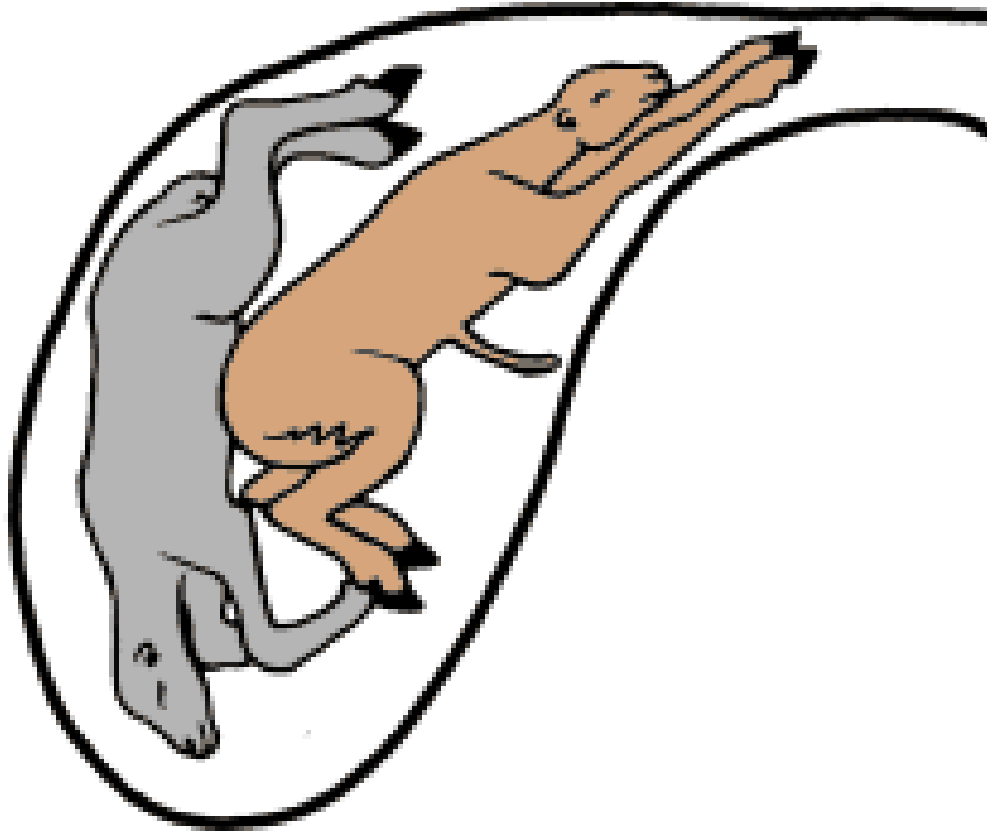
# Feet First with Head Back



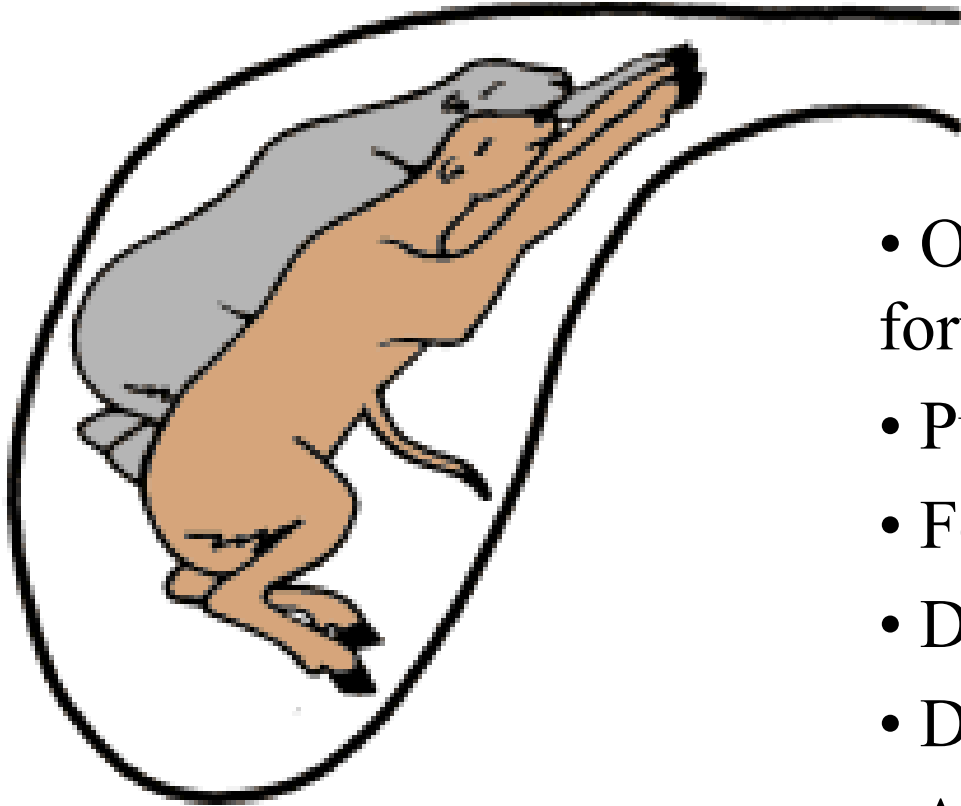
- Most difficult to correct
- Use plenty of lube, often dry
- Thin noose of nylon
- Place behind ears and in mouth (like a horse bit)
- Head should be resting on legs
- Pull on legs and gently on head

- **Consider turning kid around to deliver backwards**
- **Kid head puller**

**Twins...**



# Twins trying to tango



- One head is usually further forward than another
- Push back head back further
- Feel neck to chest to legs
- Deliver first
- Deliver next
- ALWAYS check until there are no more!!

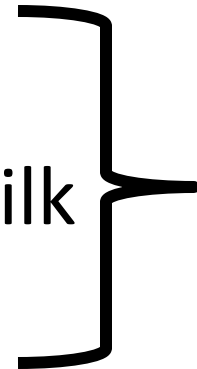
# Complications

- Tears- vaginal or uterine
- Swelling

Thick placenta

Thick colostrum/ no colostrum or milk

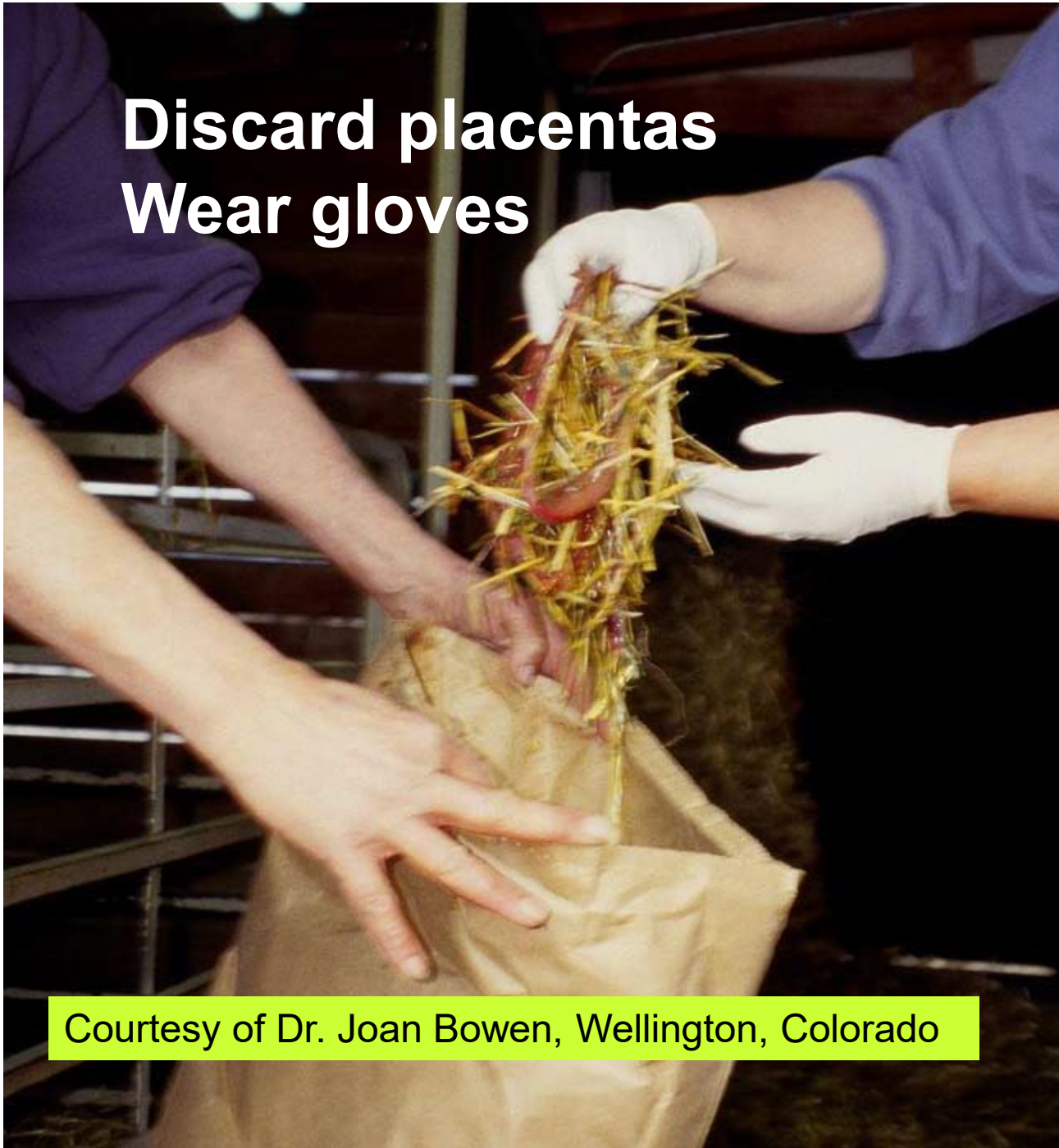
Weak kids







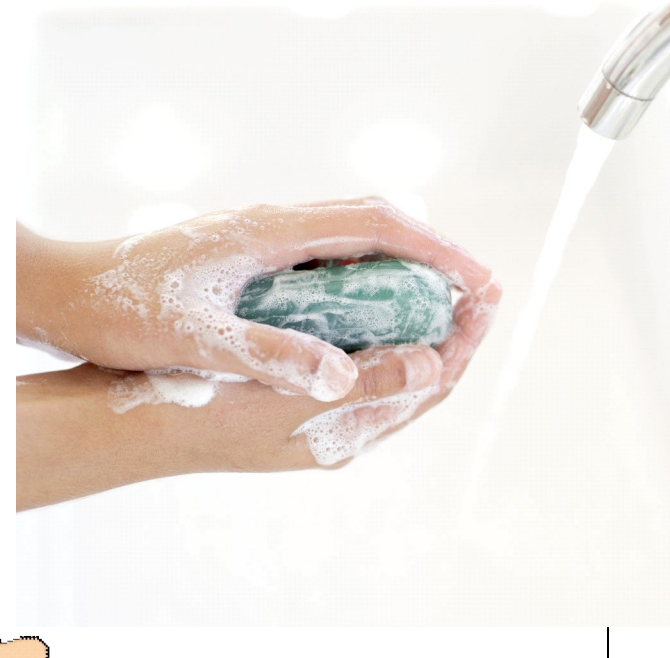
**Discard placentas**  
**Wear gloves**



Courtesy of Dr. Joan Bowen, Wellington, Colorado

# Zoonotic Diseases

- Rabies
- Q Fever- birthing fluids
- Anthrax
- Brucellosis- birthing fluids
- Tuberculosis
- Soremouth
- Leptospirosis
- E. coli
- Salmonella
- Avian Influenza



# Human Involvement

- Dip, Strip, Sip
  - Dip with tincture of iodine 7% (film canister)
  - Strip plugs out of the teat ends
  - Leave mother and baby alone but watch to see if suckles
  - Vit E/Se injection important in deficient area
- Artificially rearing lamb is intense
  - 8 oz every 8 hours for 8 lb kid
  - Give 1<sup>st</sup> feeding ASAP (<4 hours)
  - Smaller lambs predisposed to hypothermia

# Resuscitation Compression in Lambs



# Resuscitation Compression

## Points

- Make sure that ropes are over the rib cage, not abdomen
- Used at 45 minutes after birth
- Kick and move as start pressure
- Sleep like state. Applied for 5 minutes
- No side effects in normal lambs
- Most ewes left person alone while applying to lamb
- Remove ropes and stimulate lamb to wake up.

May be clumsy at first.

