

Abstract

Rationale: Despite the frequency of presentation of caprine reproductive emergencies to tertiary referral hospitals, little information is available regarding the true incidence or risk factors for dystocia and reproductive complications in goats. The largest available studies evaluated 25 goats with dystocia and 56 goats with pregnancy toxemia (Brounts et al., 2004; Simpson et al., 2019), and while these studies provided valuable information regarding risk factors and prognostic factors for dystocia and pregnancy toxemia, larger multi-center prospective studies are required to evaluate the incidence, risk factors, prognostic indicators, and outcomes of common periparturient conditions in goats.

Study objectives: The objective of this study is to describe the incidence of reproductive complications (dystocia, uterine tear/rupture, uterine prolapse, periparturient hemorrhage, retained fetal membranes, metritis) in periparturient does admitted to referral hospitals. A secondary objective is to determine risk factors and prognostic indicators associated with reproductive complications and survival in periparturient does admitted to referral hospitals.

Study design and methods: This is a cross-sectional study, with data collection performed from October 2021 to May 2022. Twelve veterinary teaching hospital referral centers are collecting data on all periparturient does who deliver kids in hospital, via either dystocia, cesarean section, fetotomy, or normal kidding. The admitting clinician at each referral hospital will complete a questionnaire to collect relevant patient information. This questionnaire will be collected by the principal investigator (DL) prior to the start of FVSP.

Preliminary data: Preliminary retrospective electronic medical record search at UF from March 2016- March 2021 produced 147 periparturient does who were admitted for periparturient conditions, parturition, or dystocia. 79 of 147 were admitted for dystocia, 40 of 147 were treated for pregnancy toxemia, and 81 does had Cesarean sections performed. Three of 147 had uterine tears diagnosed at surgery or necropsy and 10 does were diagnosed with metritis. 128 of 147 does survived to discharge from the hospital.

Student role: The student will collate and organize all data from the questionnaires into a spreadsheet and perform statistical analysis on the data with guidance and supervision from Dr. Luethy. The student will prepare a manuscript of the results.