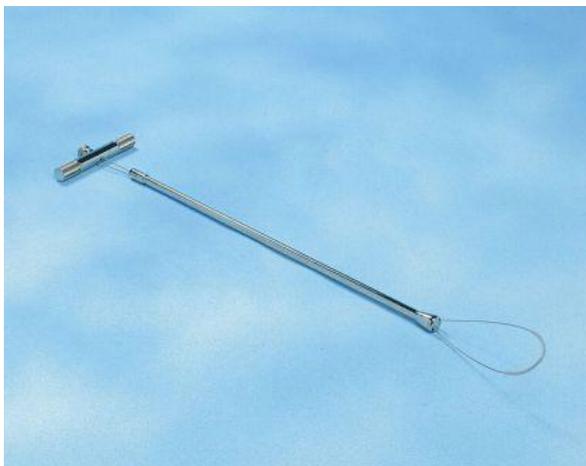


H6 - Obstetric aid



Obstetric aid performed at the right time



Obstetric snare

Obstetric aid ensures prompt intervention, which saves both the sow, the piglet stuck and the piglets yet to be delivered:

1. Only perform obstetric aid if it is necessary.
2. Wash the sow's genital opening with soap and tepid water.
3. There must be no pen partition/equipment between your arm and the sow. The sow must not be able to inflict injury to your arm by lying down.
4. Put on a glove and artificial uterus mucus on your arm.
5. Take hold of piglets facing you by the neck or lower jaw.
6. Take hold of piglets facing away from you by the hind legs.
7. Pull out the piglets in an even pull.
8. Swing the piglets back and forth once to empty their respiratory tracts, and dry them.
9. If the sow is standing, place the piglets in safety in the creep area.
10. If the sow is lying down, place the piglets by the udder.
11. Pull out all the piglets you are able to reach.
12. Following obstetric aid, the sow needs to rest for an hour. If no more piglets are born, re-examine the sow.



Inadequate farrowing course - obstetric aid should have been provided

Examples of incorrect farrowing courses:

No labour

- Perform obstetric aid.
- Pull out as many piglets as possible.
- Re-examine the sow after 30 minutes.

Piglet is blocking the birth canal

- Perform obstetric aid.
- Remove the piglet.
- Let the sow rest for an hour.

Piglet is lying in incorrect position

- Perform obstetric aid.
- Push the piglet inwards.
- Take hold of the piglet's head or hind legs and pull out the piglet.
- Let the sow rest for an hour.

Additional comments - Obstetric aid	
1.	Only perform obstetric aid if you believe it to be necessary (see H5 - Supervision of farrowing). Obstetric aid damages the uterus mucosa and introduces bacteria into the uterus. Sows receiving obstetric aid have an increased risk of subsequently contracting metritis, which will affect her well-being, milk yield and fertility. A high level of hygiene is therefore essential to the health of the sow.
2.	Wash the sow's genital opening with soap and tepid water to avoid introducing faeces into the uterus.
3.	If the sow is standing up, and you lead your arm across the pen partition and into the vagina, you may hurt your arm if the sow suddenly lies down.
4.	Wear a glove so that you do not become allergic to uterus fluid. Artificial uterus mucus protects the uterus mucosa against injury so it does not swell. This also reduces the risk of metritis. Use your other hand for handling the piglets that have been delivered. Change gloves if your glove touches anything other than the birth canal and the newborn piglets.
5.	Take hold of piglets facing you by their neck. If this is not possible, take hold of the lower jaw of the pigs. If this is also impossible, take hold of the front legs above the knees between your index finger and middle finger or between your middle finger and ring finger. Use a tool if this is impossible (see below).
6.	Take hold of piglets facing away from you around their hind legs above the hollow of the knee. Take hold of the legs between your index finger and middle finger and between your middle finger and ring finger, so that you have a leg between two fingers.
7.	Pull the piglets out in an even pull, so that you are in control of how much force you use, otherwise you might hurt the sow.
8.	Piglets born during obstetric aid often have mucus in their lungs. Take hold of the piglet by its hind legs and swing it back and forth once to clear out the mucus. Use your ungloved hand for obstetric aid.
9.	Piglets born during obstetric aid are often weak. If the sow is standing, there is a risk that she will lie down on the piglets. It is therefore better if the piglets are placed in the creep area where they are warm and safe.
10.	If the sow is lying down, place the piglet you pulled out by the sow's udder. Move litter mates so that the piglet can get to a teat.
11.	Obstetric aid is complete when you have pulled out all the piglets you were able to reach. In cattle, the risk of metritis increases if the placenta is pulled out.
12.	Obstetric aid will stress the sow. This causes the contractions to stop for the next hour. Examine the sow an hour after you have performed obstetric aid. If you are able to feel piglets inside the sow that you are unable to reach, examine the sow once more 30 minutes later.

<p>Tools: It may be impossible to get a proper hold of a piglet during obstetric aid. Therefore, always have a clean tool ready for obstetric aid in the farrowing facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An obstetric snare is a pipe with a string. The pipe leads the string to the piglet. Place the string behind the piglet's head, lower jaw or around the hind legs so that you have a good hold of the piglet. See www.vsp.lf.dk for information on how to use an obstetric snare. • You can also buy a pair of gloves with a string welded to the fingers of the gloves. It is thereby easy to place the string around the piglet and pull it out.
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