

Bilateral Anophthalmia in a Holstein Calf

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Dear Editor,

We would like to report a rare case of bilateral anophthalmia in a Holstein calf.

Anophthalmia and microphthalmia in calves have been reported occasionally (Leipold and Huston 1968). Anophthalmia is defined as a total absence of ocular tissues (Morimoto et al. 1995) and in cattle may be often associated with anomalies of other organs, particularly caudal vertebral defects (Leipold and Huston 1968; Leipold 1984).

A sixteen days old Holstein calf was referred to the surgery clinic with absence of its eyes. The calf had normal vigor and appetite, but was slightly small in body size. In the clinical examination, it was found that the calf did not have eyeballs bilaterally. The eyelids were undersized and palpebral fissures were markedly narrowed (Fig 1). Right palpebral fissure was 1.2x0.2 cm and left one was 1.4x0.4 cm. In the skull radiography doming of the skull (Fig 2) and orbital cavity incompletely formed were observed. Owner of the calf did not allow us to do necropsy. It was learned that the calf was died one month after.

In summary, thus congenital anomalies are rarely seen may cause economic losses due to difficult or even impossible lack of treatment and often result in death. It was concluded that with selection and abolition of environmental factors, countries livestock production would be less affected and economic losses would be less.



Figure 1. Clinical view of case



Figure 2. Radiographic appearance of skull

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