

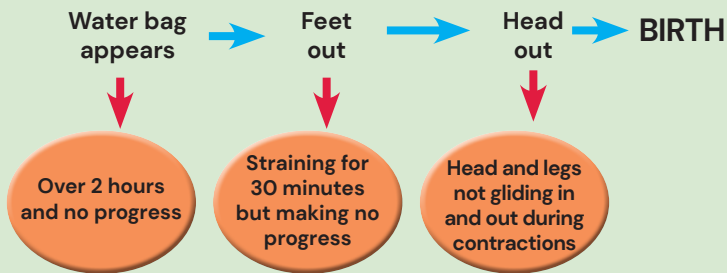
Calving the cow: a quick guide

Normal Calving

STAGE 1 0 - 6 hours (up to 24 hours in heifers)

- Seeking isolation
- Restless
- Shifting weight from one leg to the other
- Kicking at belly
- Swishing and raised tail
- Vaginal discharges become more liquid

STAGE 2 30 minutes - 4 hours (May be longer in heifers)

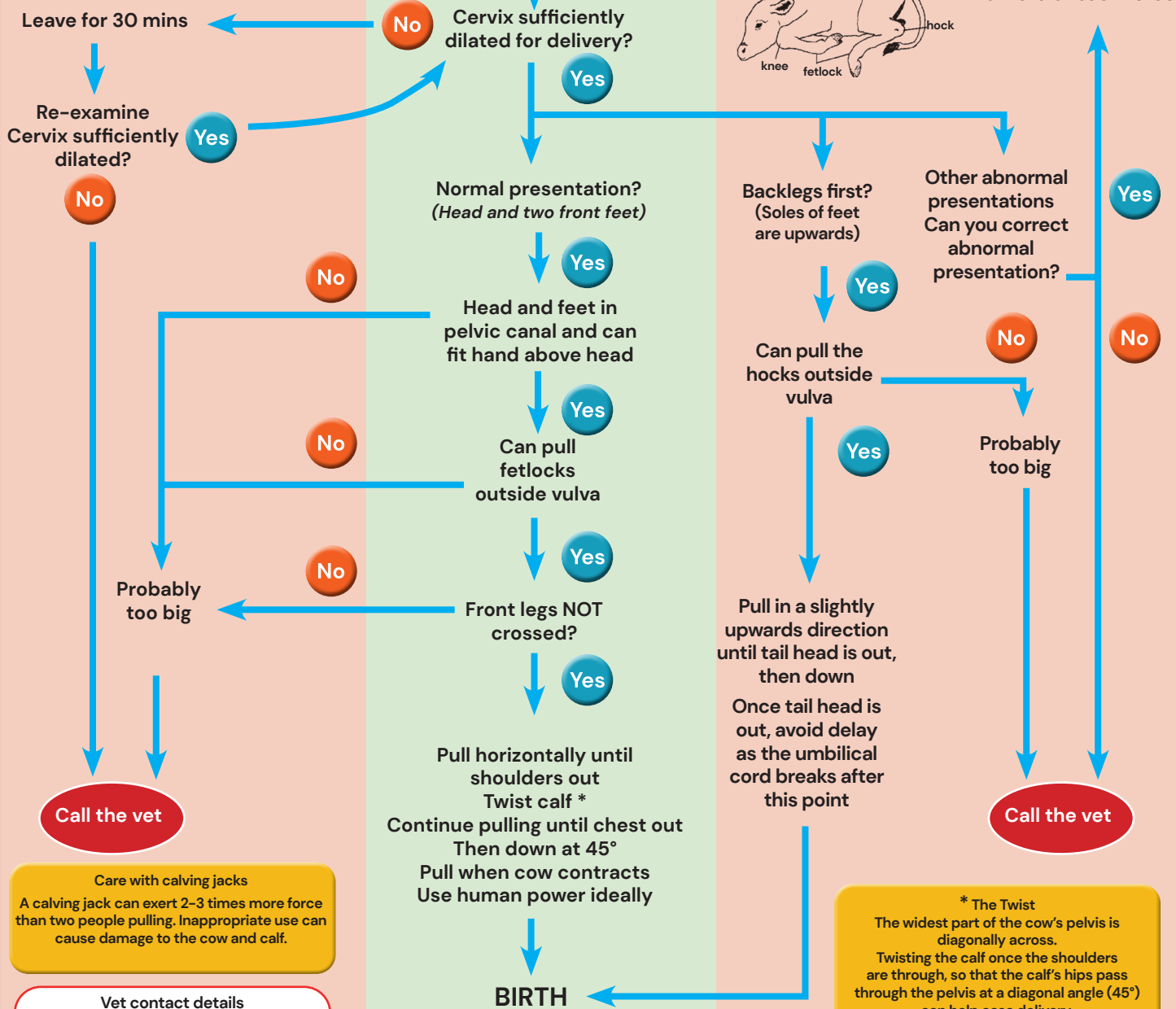


"If you don't think you can get the calf out without injury to the cow or calf - call the vet"

Cleanliness is vital
Keep tail out of the way
Clean around anus/vulva
Wash hands and arms, and use gloves
Use plenty of lubrication from the start

INVESTIGATE

! Your safety comes first - only attend to cow if safe to do so !



Care with calving jacks
A calving jack can exert 2-3 times more force than two people pulling. Inappropriate use can cause damage to the cow and calf.

Vet contact details

* The Twist
The widest part of the cow's pelvis is diagonally across.
Twisting the calf once the shoulders are through, so that the calf's hips pass through the pelvis at a diagonal angle (45°) can help ease delivery.

Intervention

Care of the cow and calf post calving

Calf is born

Clean mucus from nose and mouth

Stimulate breathing:

Sit calf upright
Straw in the nose
Massage chest with forelimb
Rub the chest with clean straw
Cold water into ears/over the head

Attend to cow or calf only if safe to do so

Do not hang calf over gate

Commercial mechanical aspirators/respirators are available to help remove mucus from the mouth and nose.

Potential problems:
Hard calving
Insufficient oxygen/acidosis
Trauma during calving
Call vet for advice

No

Calf should be:
Breathing regularly AND holding its head up within **5 minutes**
Attempting to stand up within **15 minutes**

Check calf has fed by feeling for a full belly and looking at cow's udder for signs of suckling.

CALF

Colostrum

Starting to suckle within **1 hour** of birth
Hard suckling for at least **20 minutes** in the first **2 hours**

COW

If you have intervened:
Check for second calf
Check for bleeding and tears
Administer an anti-inflammatory/pain relief (discuss best option with your vet)

Provide fresh water and food

Restrain cow and assist calf to suckle for **20 minutes**
OR
Give 3 litres of colostrum via stomach tube or bottle within **2 hours** of birth

No

Dip or spray navel with disinfectant e.g. 10% iodine (if safe to do so)

Provide clean and dry bedding for calf

NEXT DAY

Tag calf (if safe to do so)

Move cow and calf into pen with other calved cows

Provide calf refuge

NEXT DAY

Cow should expel afterbirth within 12 hours

If difficult calving and calf is slow to get going, consider individual penning with cow. Discuss pain relief for the calf with your vet.



Calf refuge