Madigan Squeeze

Rivinius, Karly (School: Gackle-Streeter Public School)

Neonatal Maladjustment Syndrome (NMS), also known as dummy calf syndrome, affects newborn calves by limiting their alertness, ability to stand, nurse, and bond with their mother. The research question for this project was whether the Madigan Squeeze Technique could improve neurological and behavioral function in calves showing signs of NMS. This technique mimics the pressure a calf normally experiences during passage through the birth canal, which is believed to help activate normal behavior after birth. Calves displaying signs of NMS were identified shortly after birth and evaluated using a 1–5 scoring system that measured responsiveness, ability to stand and balance, nursing behavior, alertness, and maternal interaction. Baseline scores were recorded prior to treatment. The Madigan Squeeze Technique was then applied using a rope to apply steady pressure for approximately 20 minutes. Calves were closely monitored, and follow-up observations were recorded at one hour, 24 hours, and one week after the procedure. The data showed drastic improvement in all test subjects. Post-procedure scores increased significantly compared to pre-procedure scores, with noticeable improvements seen as early as one hour after treatment. Calves became more alert, showed stronger attempts to stand, nursed more effectively, and demonstrated increased interaction with their mothers.

Awards Won: