

Downer Cow Syndrome

Also Called: no other common names

Affecting: mature cows

Occurrence: in conjunction with cows suffering from either milk fever or grass tetany;



Cattle exhibiting difficulty in standing may be affected by a variety of disorders.

Signs: good appetite; slightly higher temperature; heart rate 80-100 beats/min.; unable to stand though they will attempt to; dull and depressed; duration of 1-2 weeks

Cause: ineffective treatment of underlying disorder resulting in prolonged periods of recumbency

Diagnosis: signs; low inorganic phosphate, potassium or glucose; ketonuria; proteinuria; elevated creatine phosphokinase and aminotransferase; edema; hemorrhage of large medial thigh muscles

Remedy: ensure good sources of feed and water; good bedding with a sand or dirt base; roll animal side to side every few hours; provide electrolytes when necessary

Prevention: immediate treatment of milk fever or grass tetany when signs are first recognized; treat high risk cows, regardless of signs, with calcium oral gel

Also Consider: milk fever, grass tetany, coliform mastitis, maternal obstetrical paralysis, fat cow syndrome, physical injury to pelvic appendages, peritonitis