A difficult calving can cause pain and trauma in the cow and calf. This can impact the health and behaviour of beef calves and cows by affecting:

- The cow-calf bond
- Colostrum consumption
- Increasing the risk of morbidity and mortality preweaning

**Importance**

**Behaviors Measured**

- Duration (%)
  - Lying in sternal recumbency
  - Standing
  - Feeding
  - Self grooming
  - Grooming the calf

- Frequency (count/hr.)
  - Tail flicking
  - Tail raising
  - Pressing against box stall

**What We Did**

- 23 cows and calves assisted at birth were enrolled
  - 11 treated with meloxicam
  - 12 treated with placebo
- Video records of cows and calves' behaviour during 24±1 hours after calving
- Cow-calf separation and bonding tests

**What We Found**

Calves treated with meloxicam had **increased activity and play behaviour**

Cows and calves receiving meloxicam tended to display more bonding behaviours after separation and reunion

**Take Home Message**

The results from this study may indicate that the anti-inflammatory effects of meloxicam resulted in **improved calf welfare in calves assisted at birth**

Sponsored by the University of Calgary; Anderson-Chisholm Chair in Animal Care & Welfare; and Margaret Gunn Endowment for Animal Research (MGEAR)