

Does Meloxicam Positively Affect the Behaviour of Cows and Calves After an Assisted Calving?

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Importance

A difficult calving can cause pain and trauma in the cow and calf

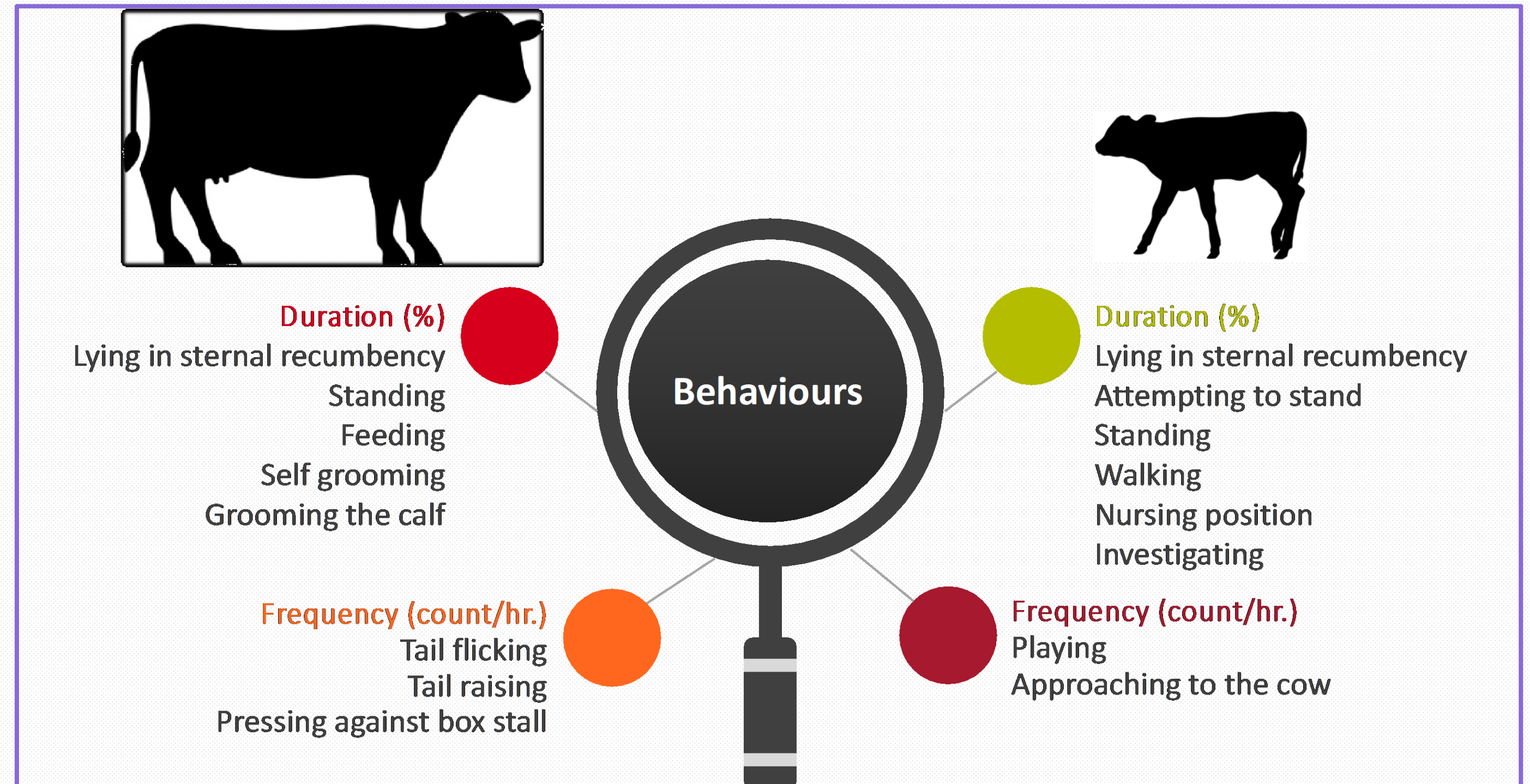
This can impact the health and behaviour of beef calves and cows by affecting:

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

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

Behaviors Measured



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**