

Calving 101

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**Many slides courtesy of Dr. Bob Larson, Kansas State University and
Dr. Richard Randle, University of Nebraska**

Calving Management Objectives

- Understand Normal Delivery
- Recognize Abnormal Delivery
- Determine when and if to assist
- Determine when to call the veterinarian
- **Goal**
- Save calves
- Reduce post calving problems in the cow

Stages of Labor

- | | |
|---------|----------------------|
| Stage 1 | Dilation of cervix |
| Stage 2 | Birth of calf |
| Stage 3 | Delivery of placenta |



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Recognizing Abnormal Delivery

- Stage II of labor - if time from feet being visible to birth is longer than 2 hours
- No progress in 30 minute period

Time to check on calf/cow -
may not need to assist

Calving Assistance

Equipment Needs

- OB sleeves
- OB chains or straps
- OB handles
- Clean buckets
- Lubricant
- Hot water
- Disinfectant



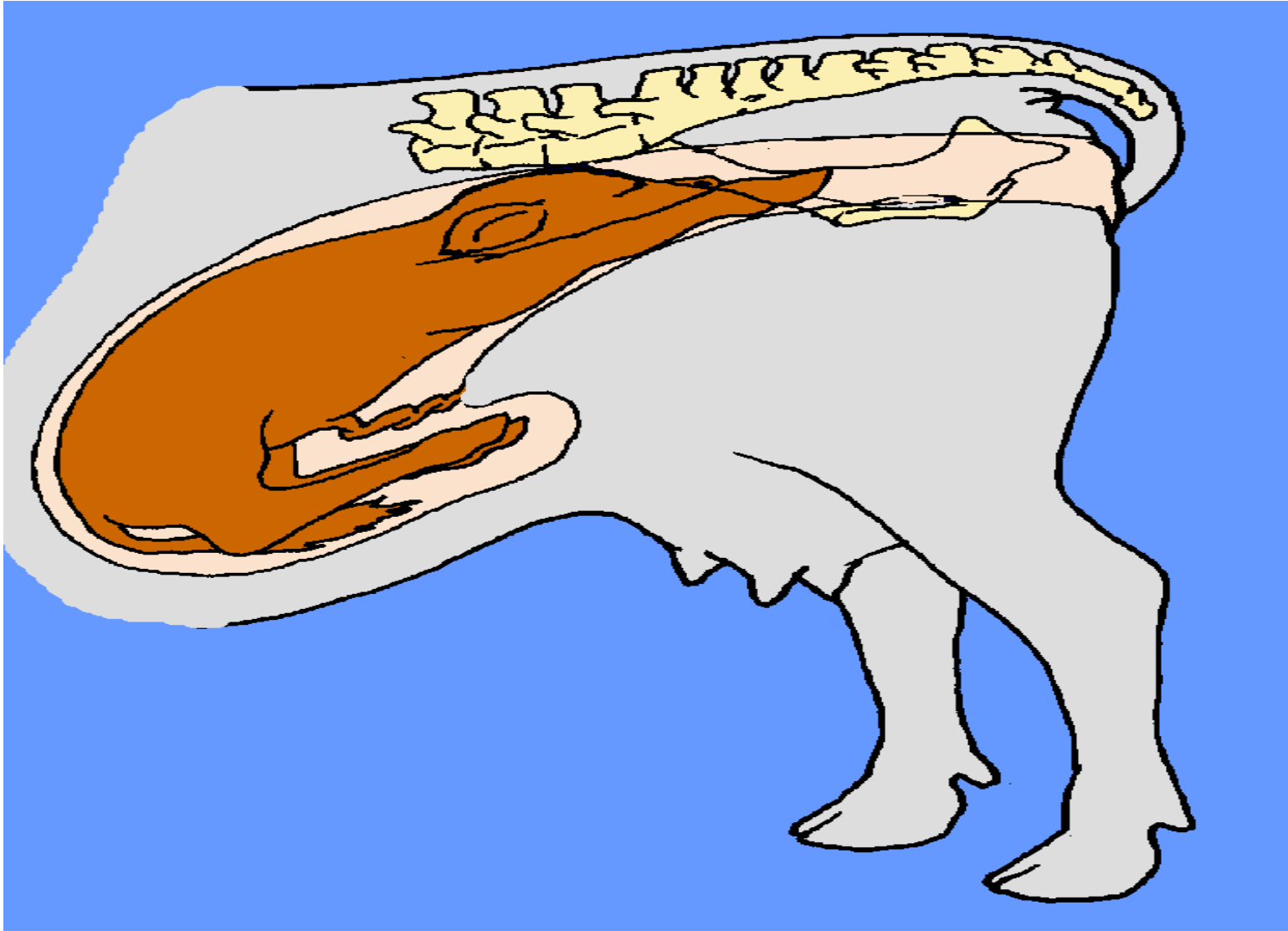
Preparation for Examination of the Calf / Cow

- Restrain the animal
- Restrain the tail
- Scrub external area from anus to vulva
- Use OB sleeves
- Lubricate hand and arms generously

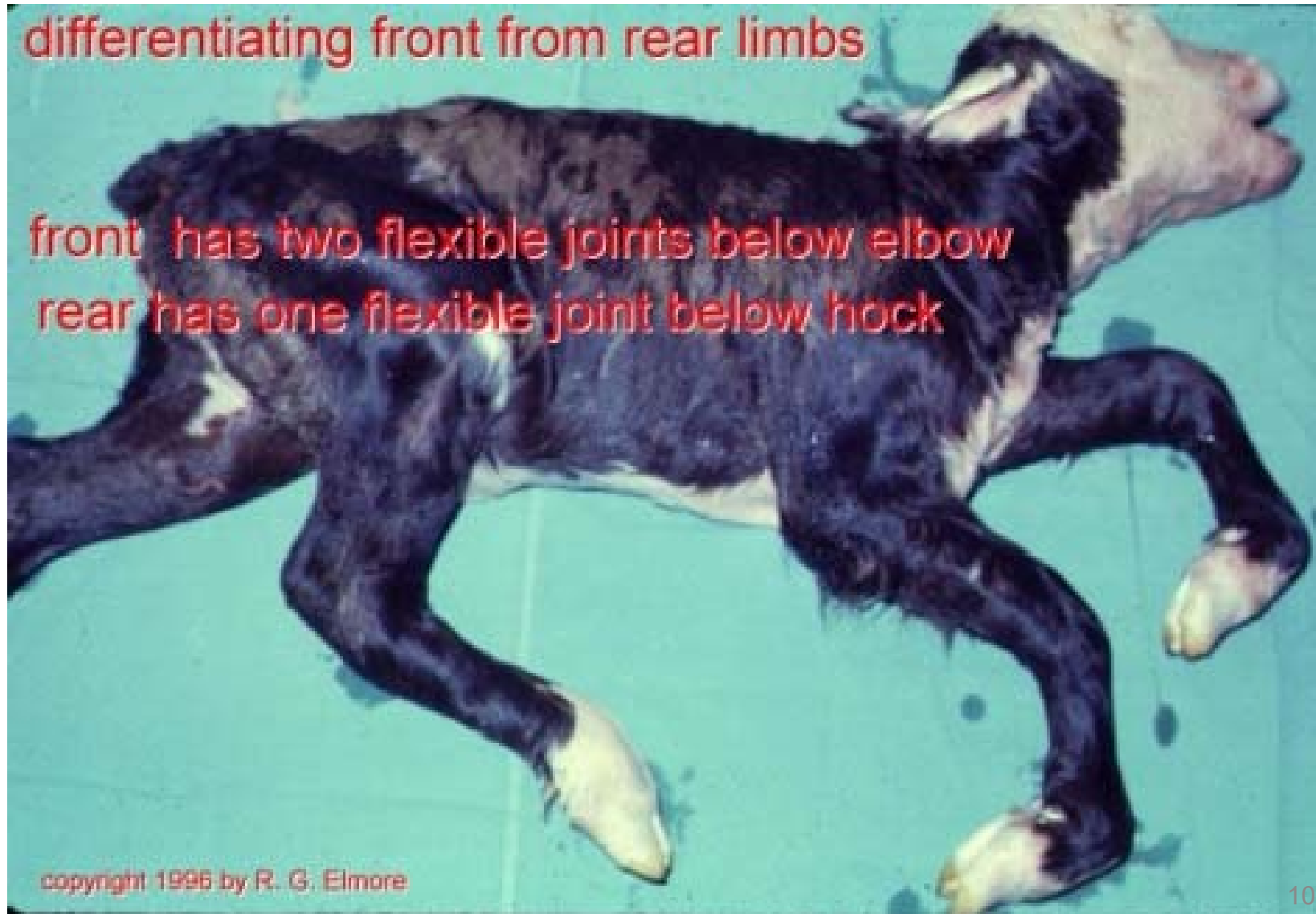
Objectives of Examination

- Is the cervix dilated?
- Has the water sac broken?
- Is the calf in the proper position?
- Can the calf pass through the pelvis?

Normal Presentation



Assessing the situation

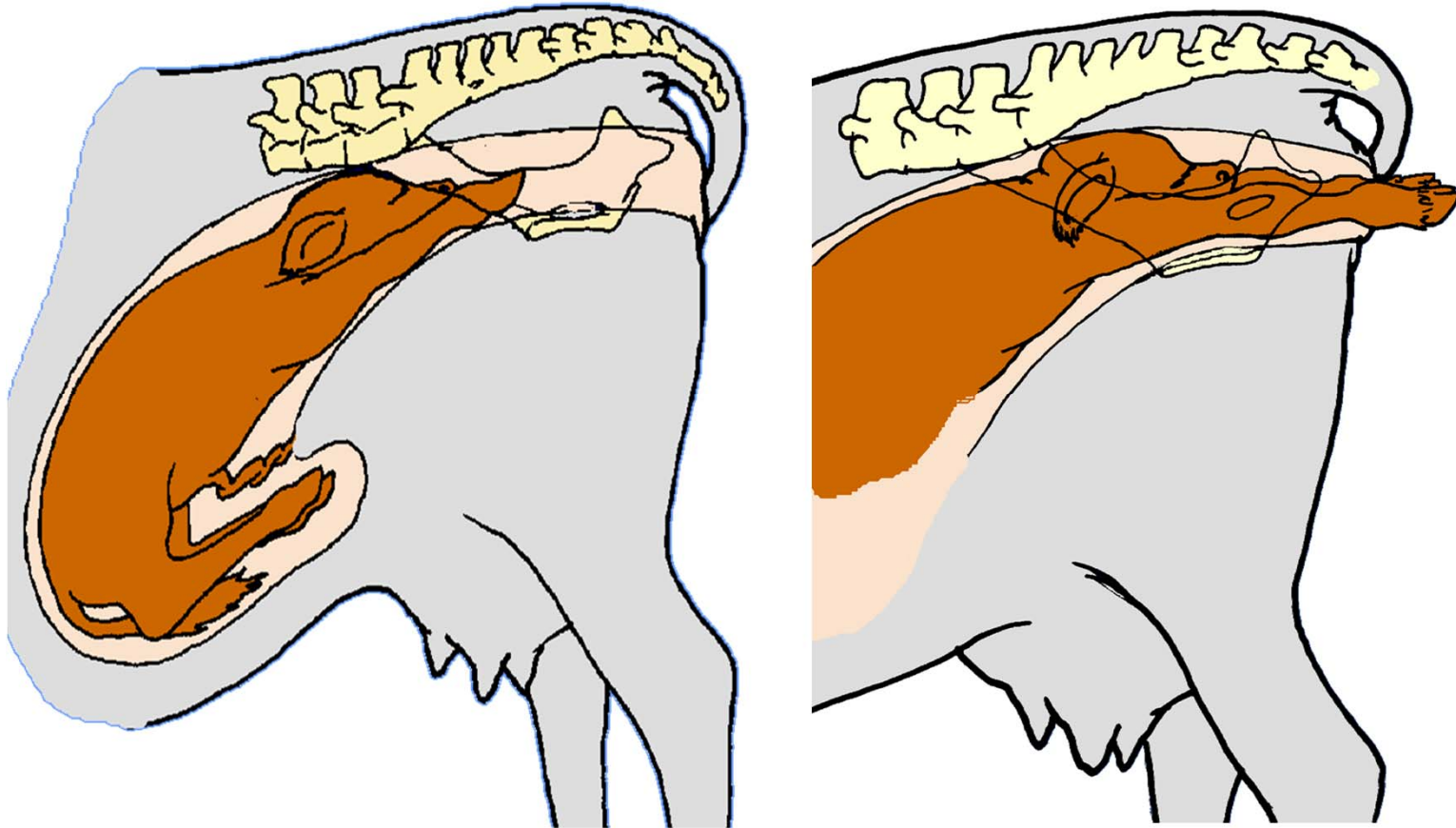


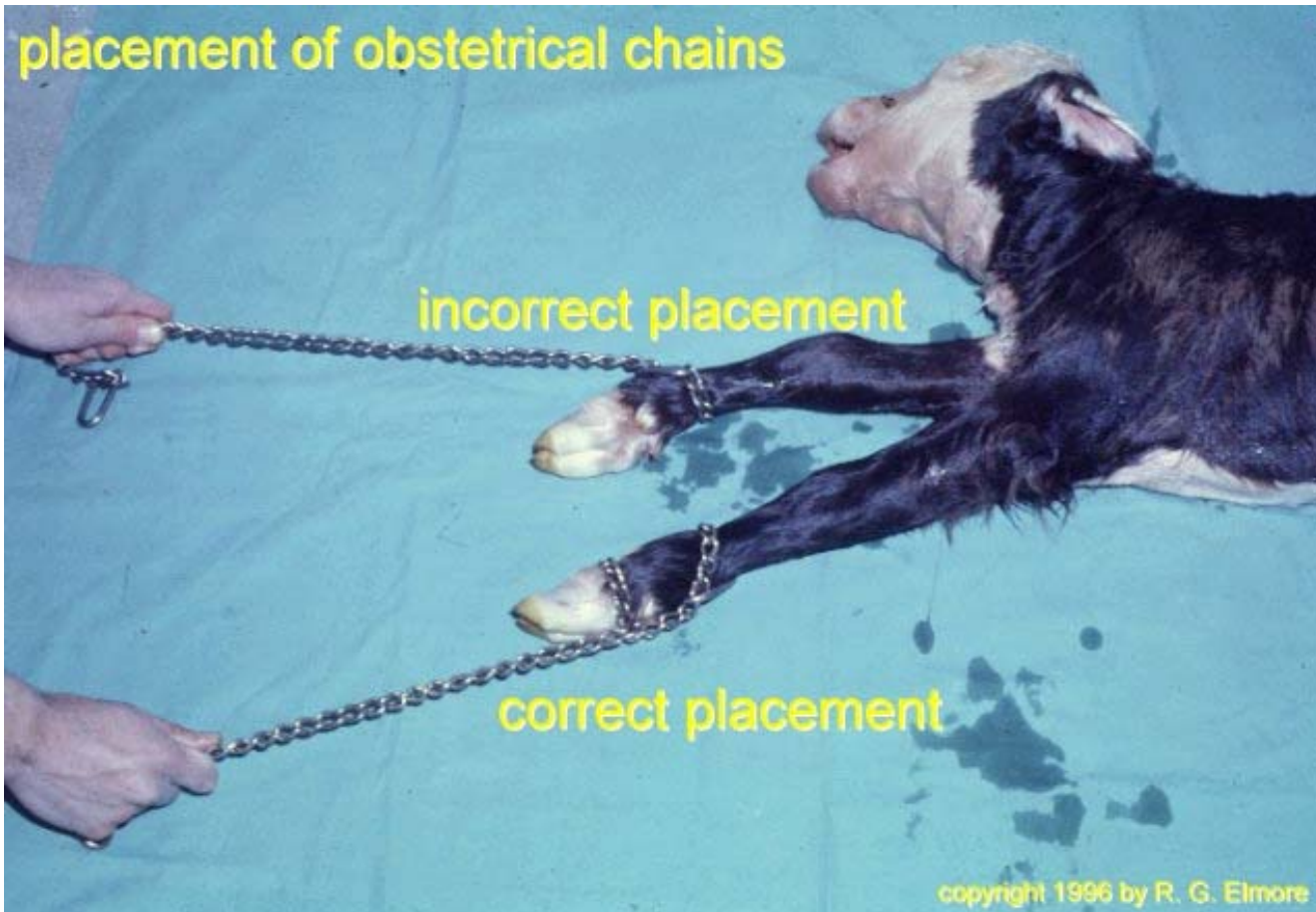
differentiating front from rear limbs

front has two flexible joints below elbow
rear has one flexible joint below hock

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Can this calf be delivered?





Outcomes of Examination

- I don't know what the problem is
- I know the problem and the solution...
And I can't handle it
- I know the problem and the solution...

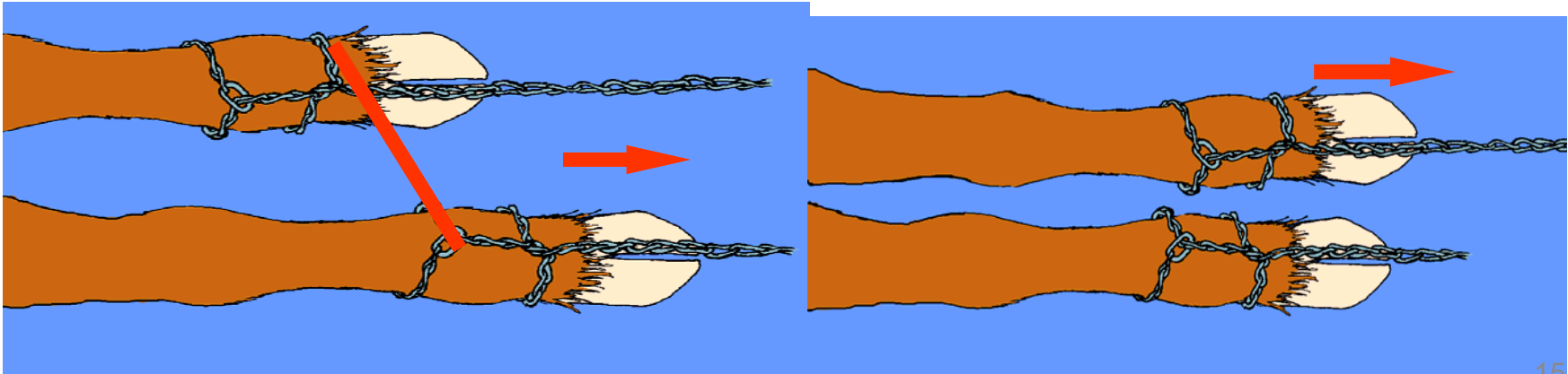
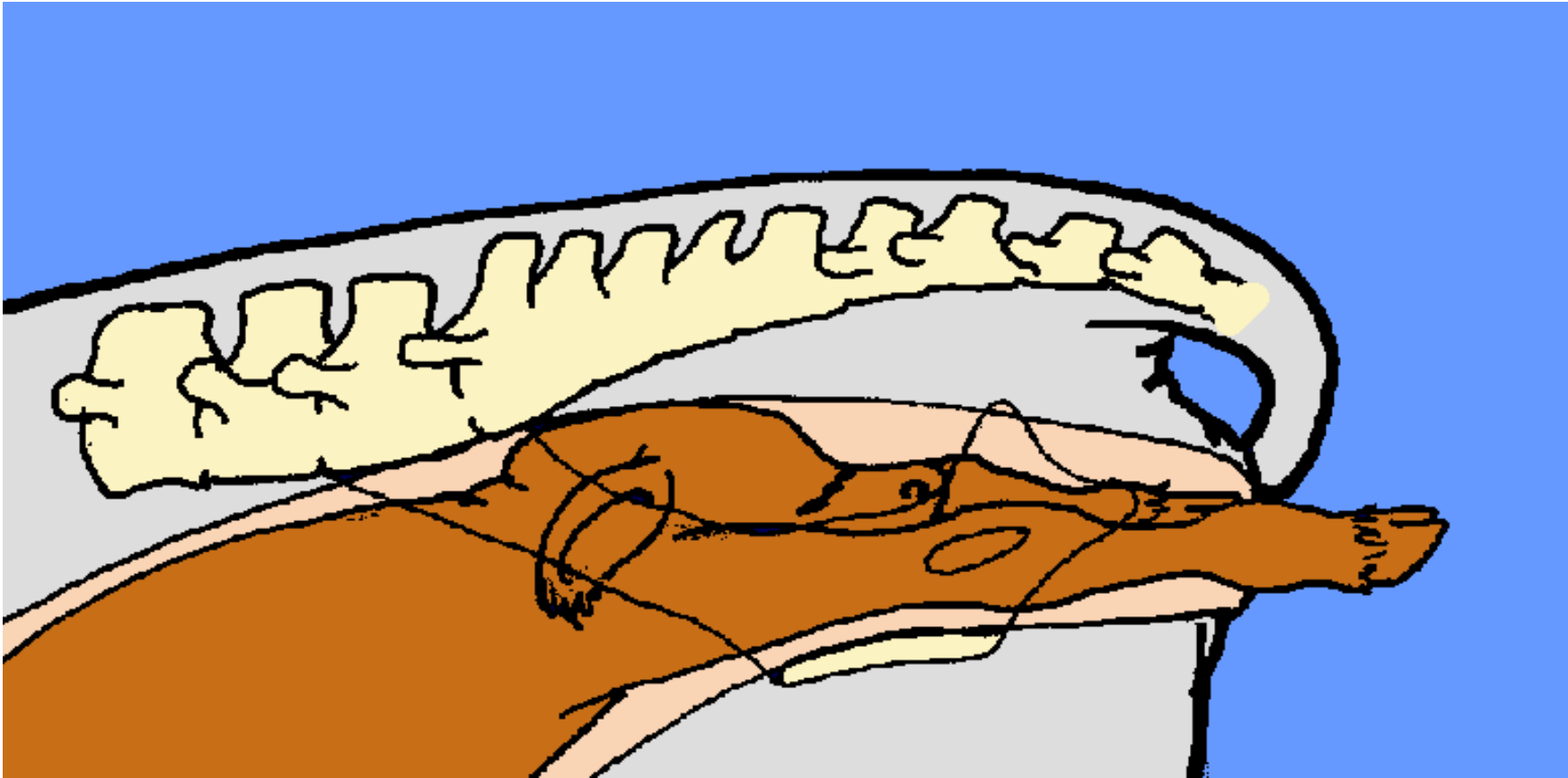
And I am unsuccessful in correcting
within 30 minutes

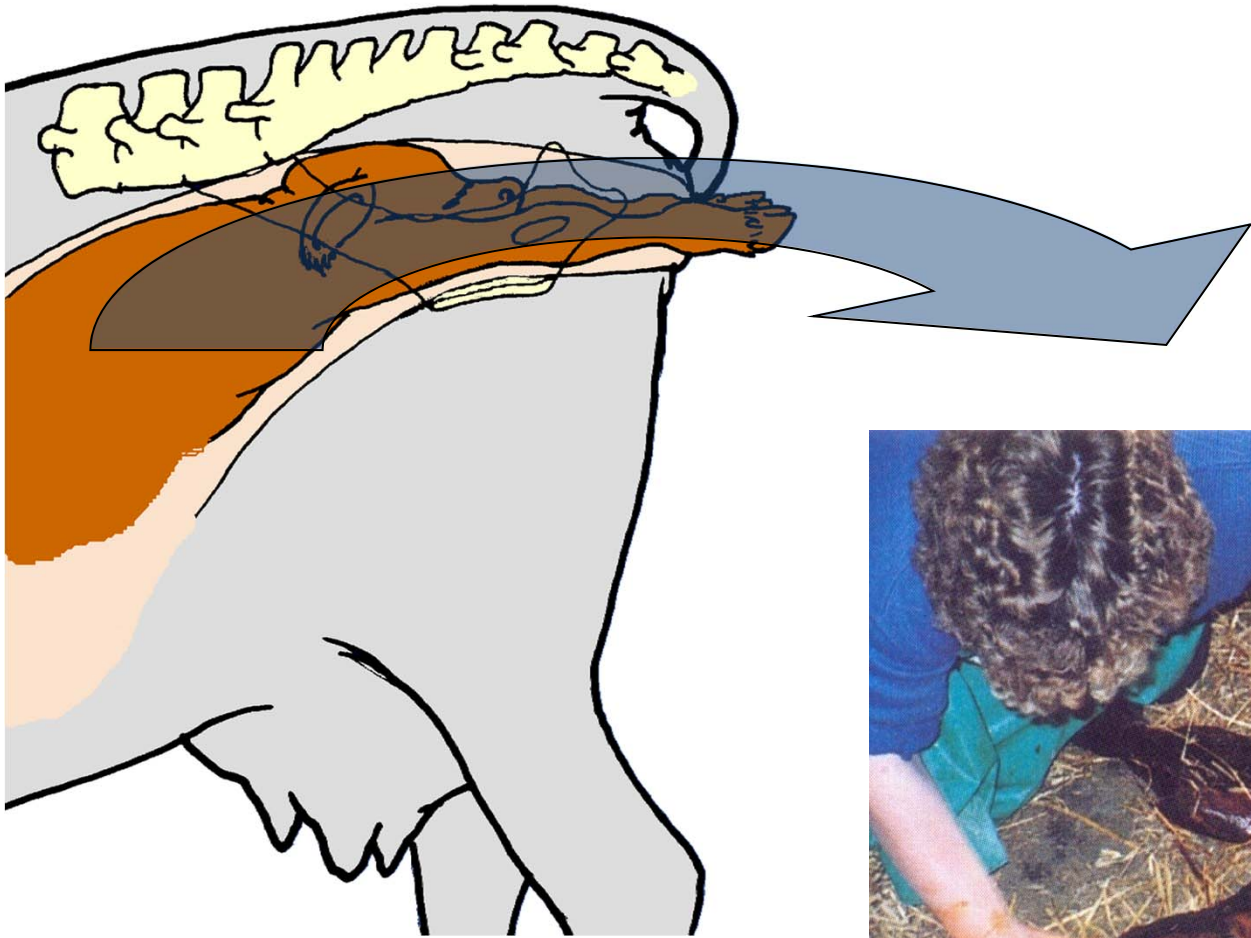
Calving Assistance

To Apply Extractive Force

- Use two-point traction





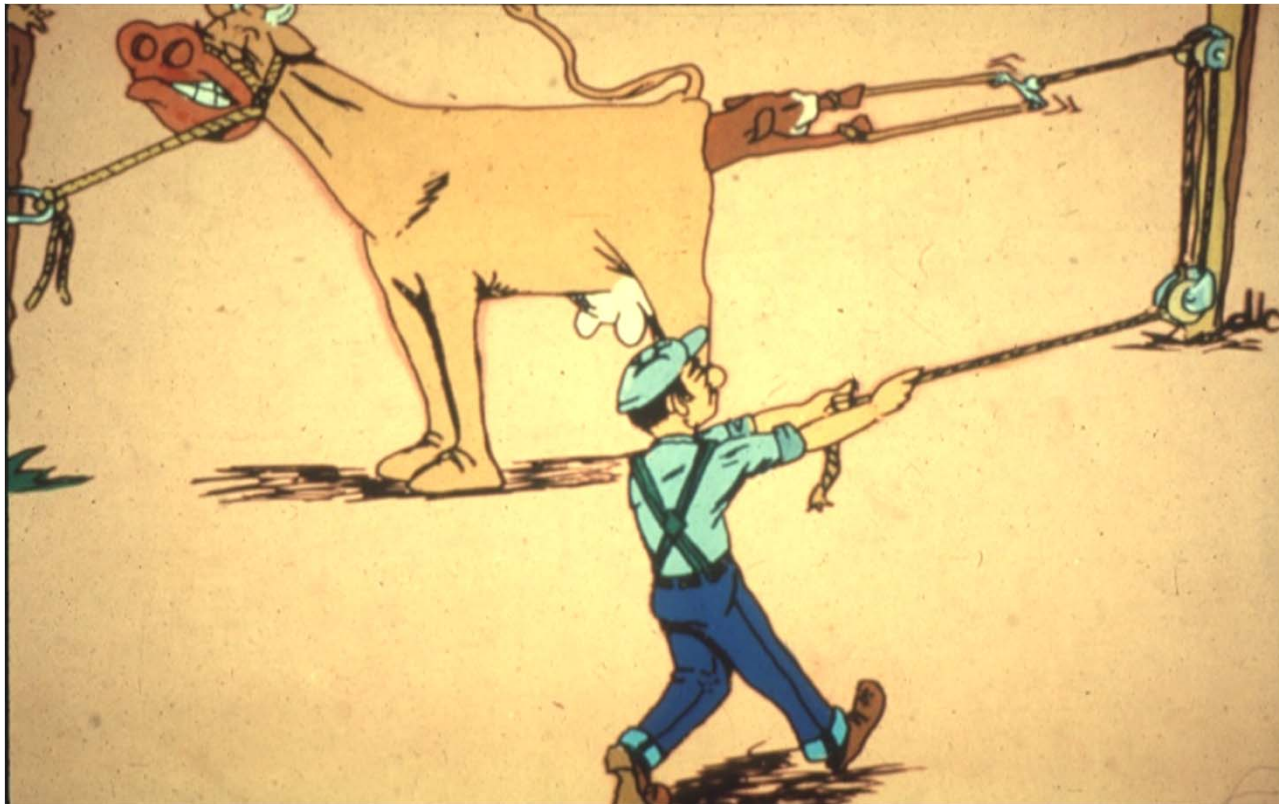


To Apply Extractive Force

- Use two-point traction
- Apply force in a natural arc
- Apply only as much force as one man

To Apply Extractive Force

- Apply only as much force as one man



To Apply Extractive Force

- Apply only as much force as one man

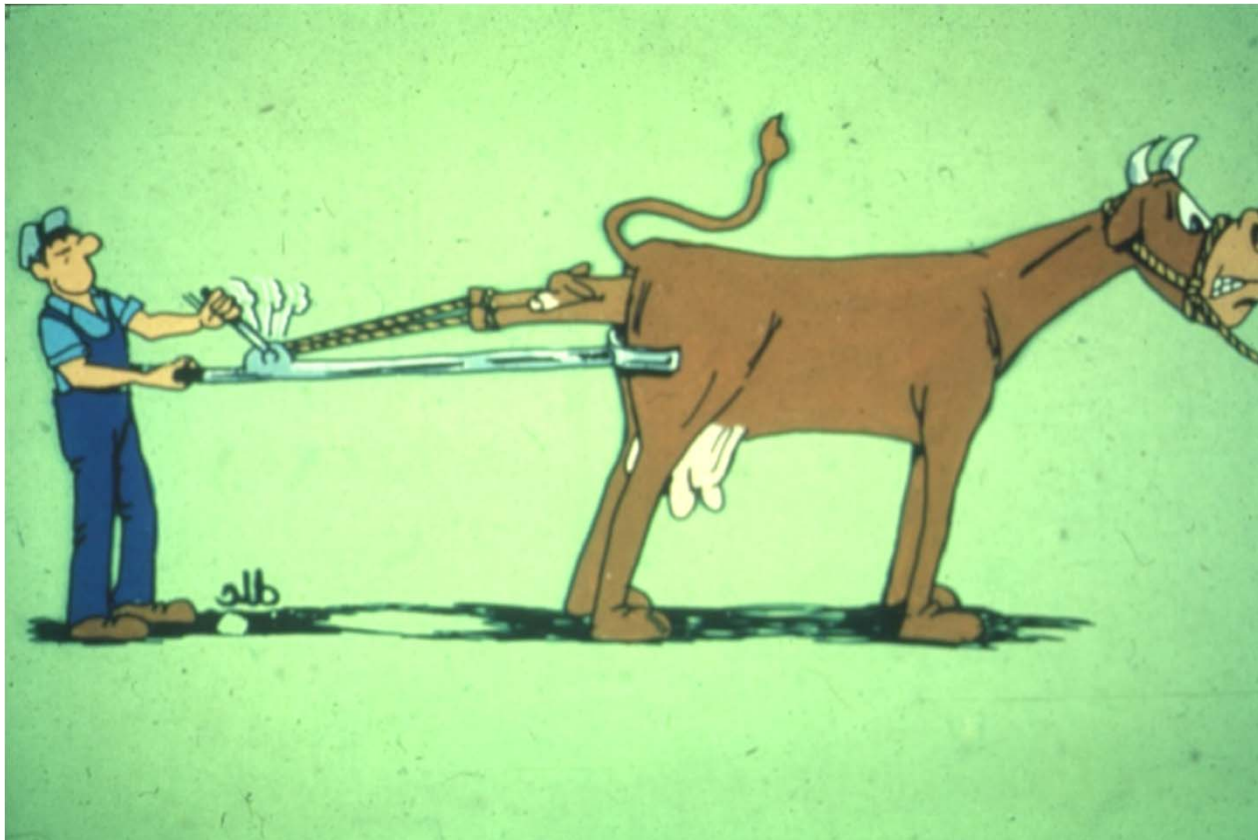


To Apply Extractive Force

- Use two-point traction
- Apply force in a natural arc
- Apply only as much force as one man
- Use mechanical (calf) pullers carefully
Do not use full pulling capacity

To Apply Extractive Force

- Use mechanical pullers carefully!





Dr. Bill Coughore, White Oak Veterinary Clinic, Berlin, PA

Tip of The Day

- Use lubrication

OB Lube

J-Lube

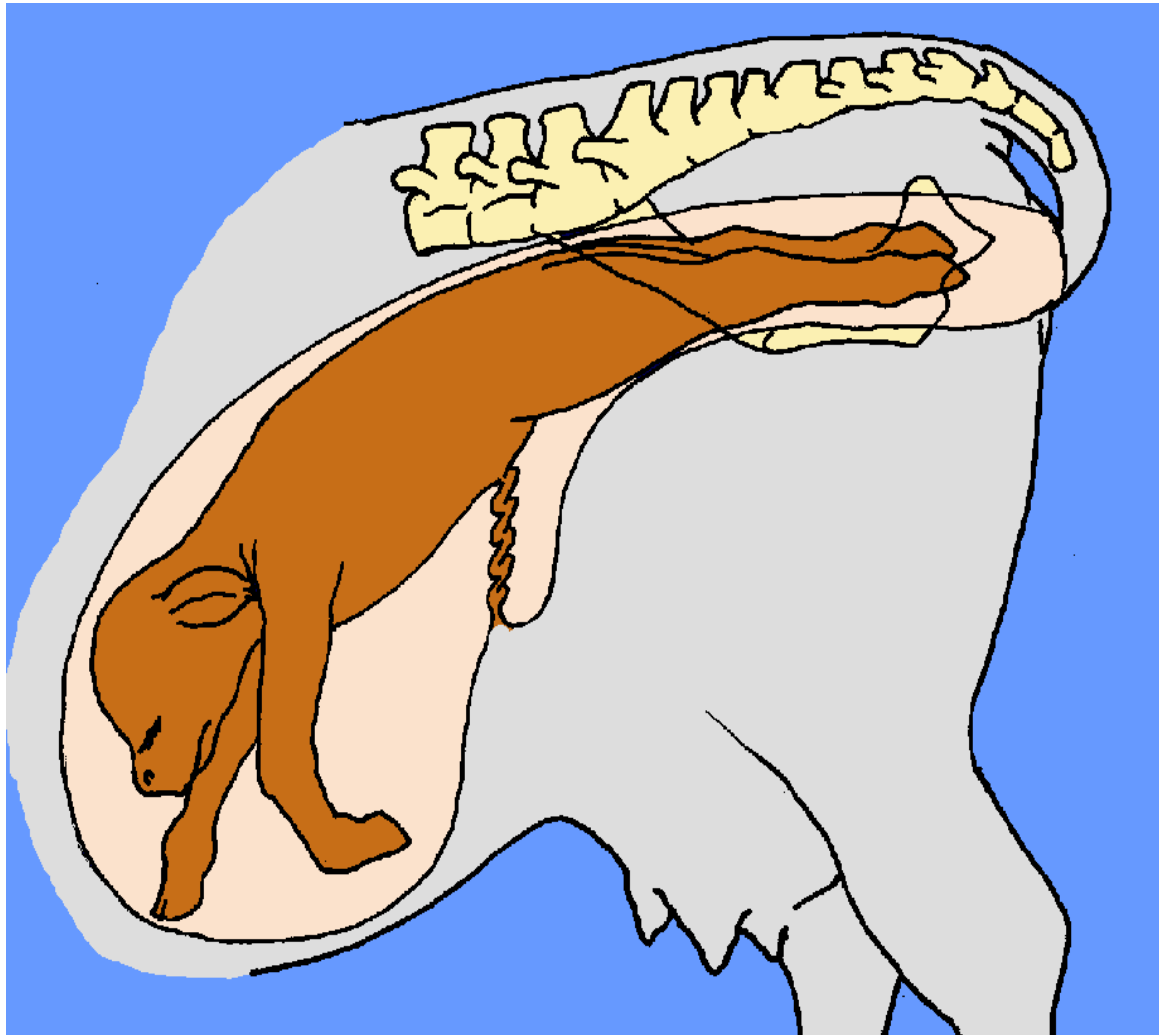
others

Calving Assistance

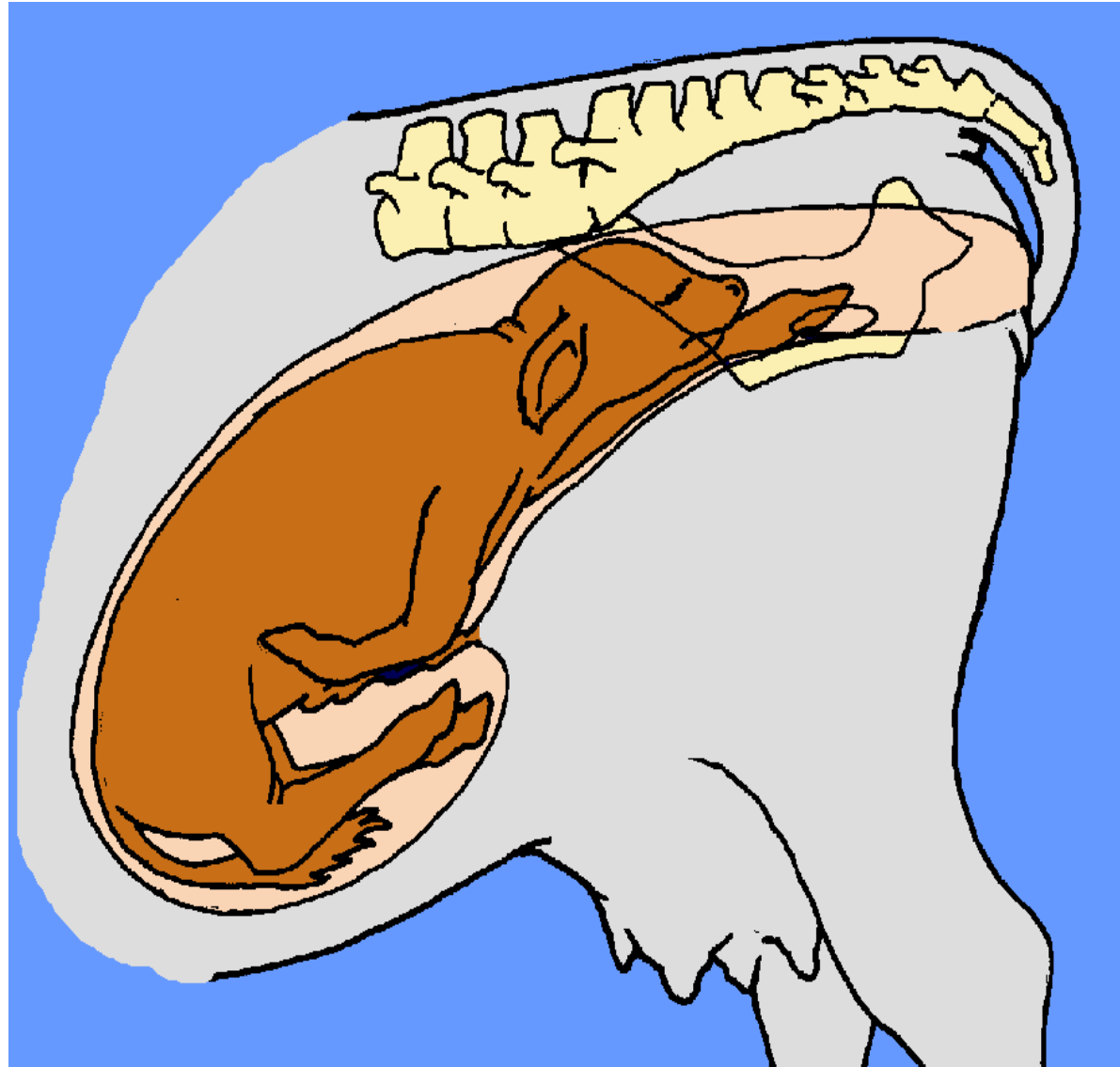
Abnormal Presentations



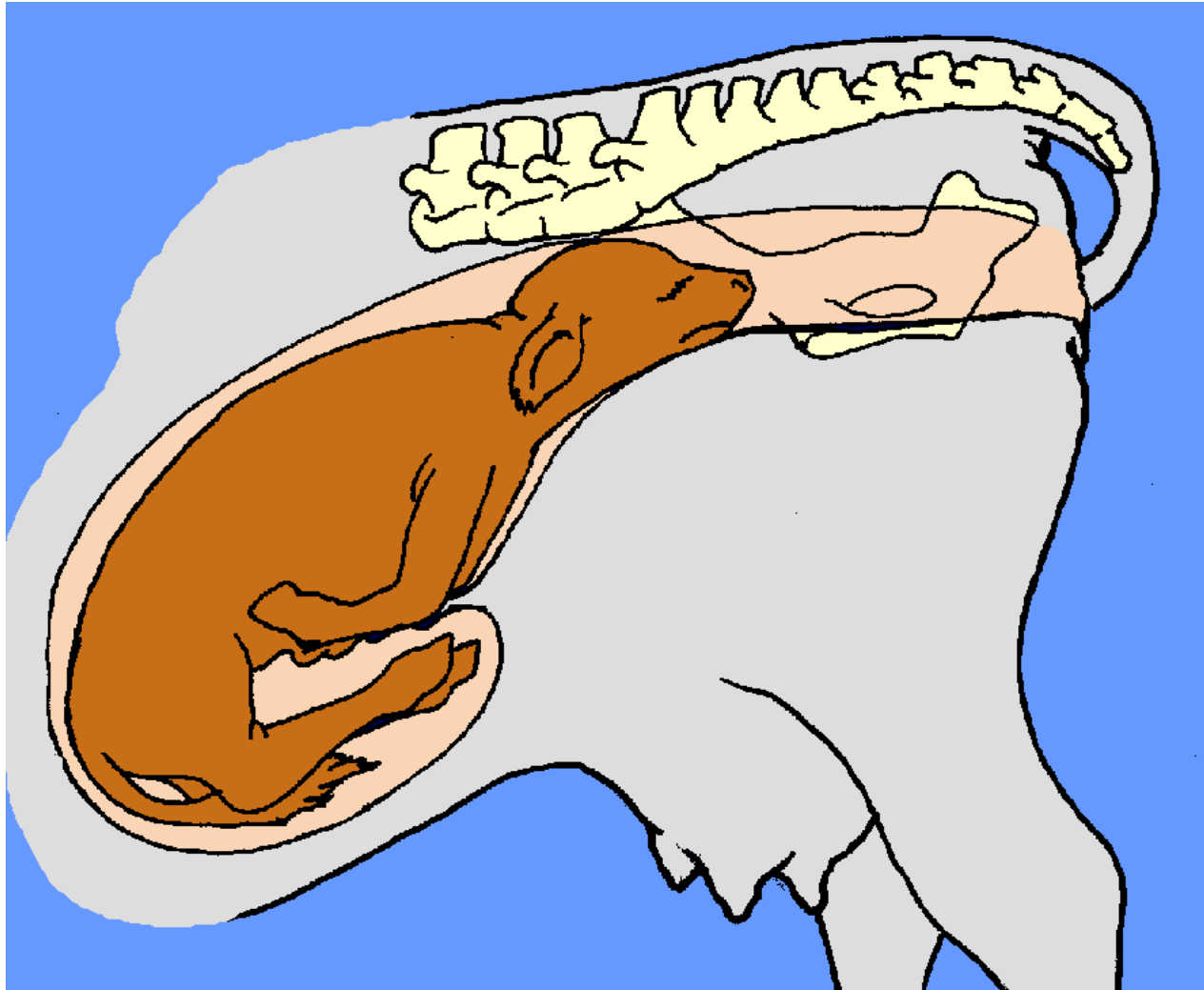
Backwards



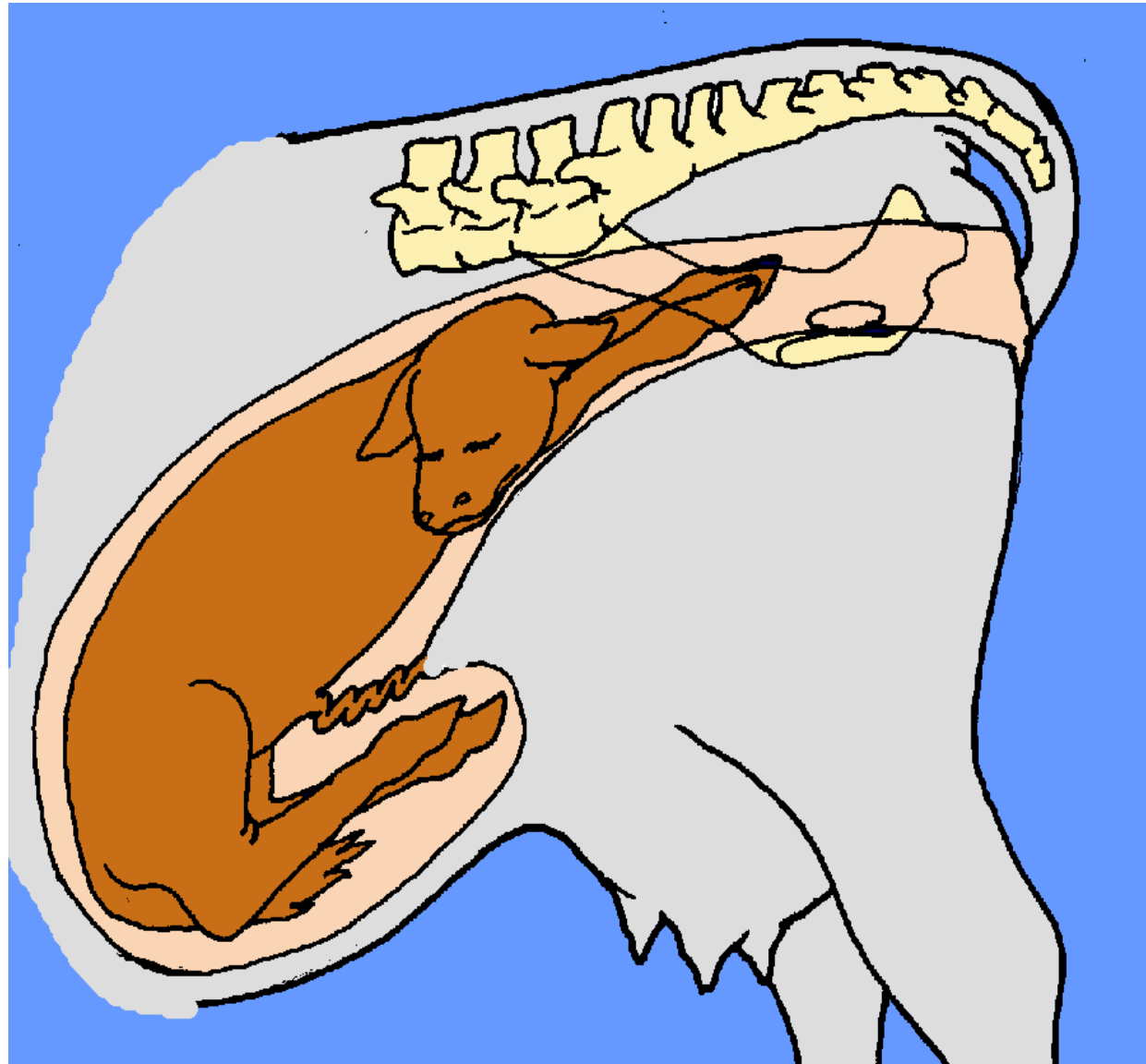
One Leg Back



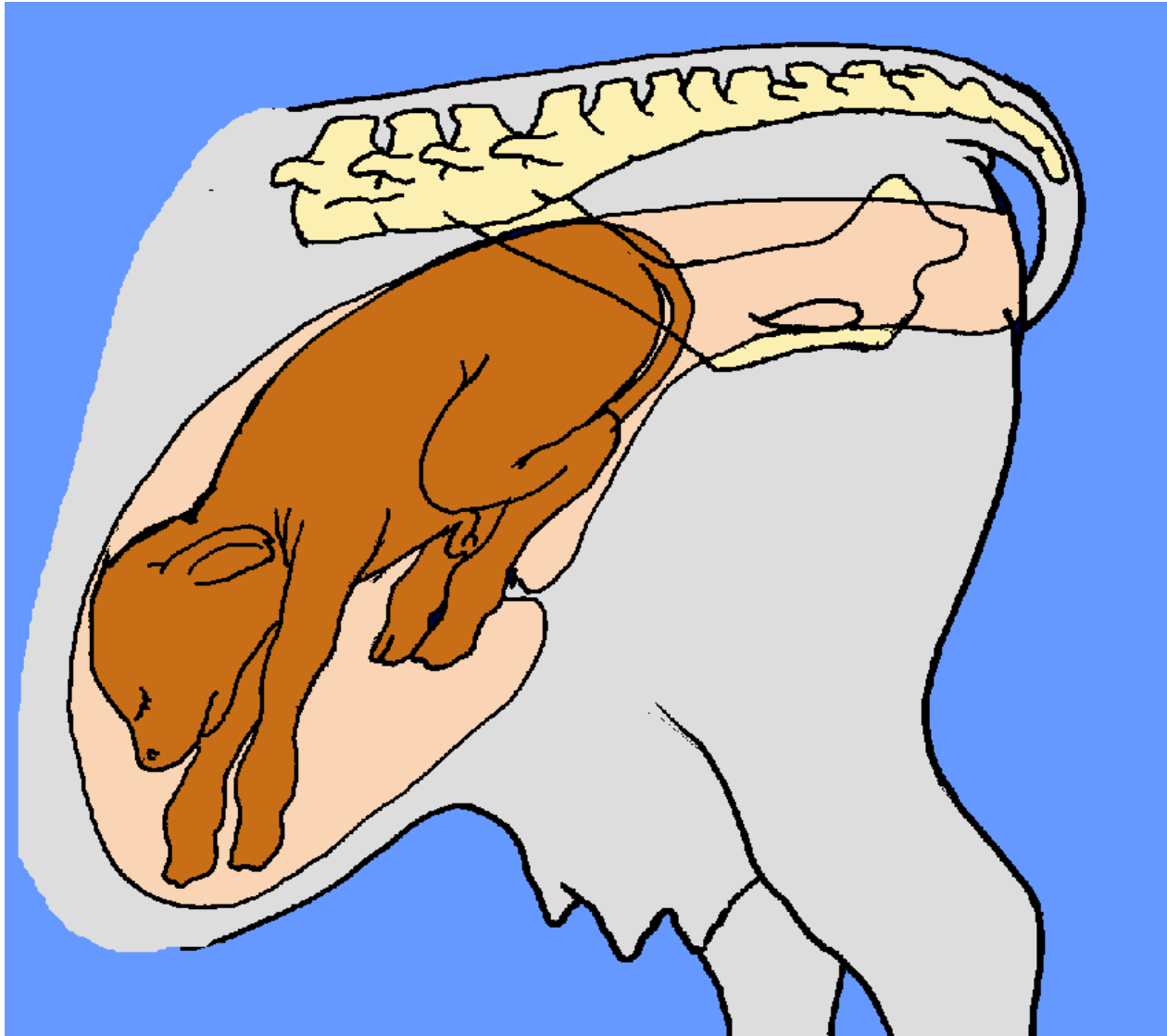
Two Legs Back



Head Back



Breech



Abnormal Presentation

If presentation is not
successfully changed after
15 minutes...

Call your veterinarian

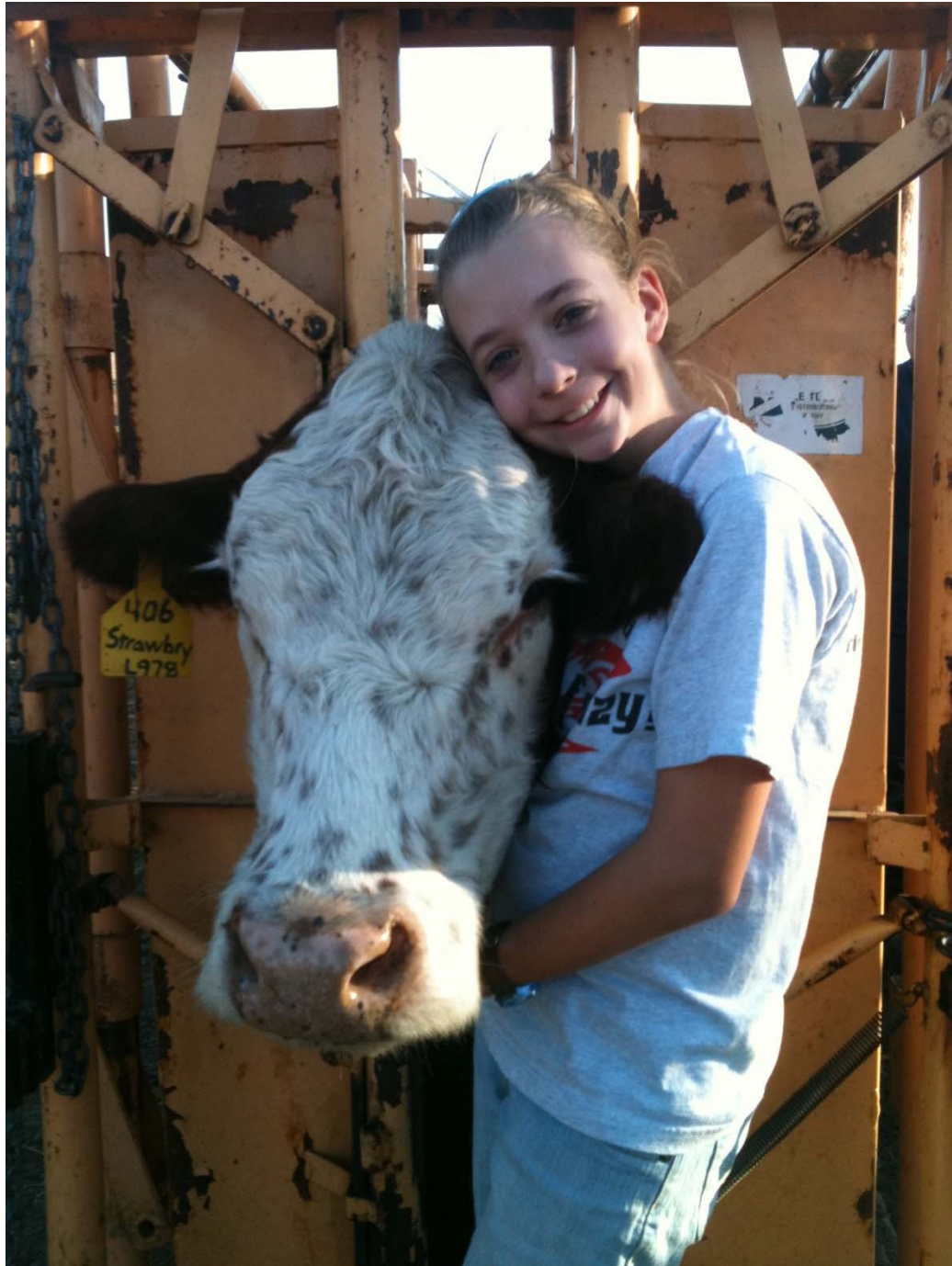
Check the cow

- **ALWAYS** perform a vaginal exam on the cow to check for twins and tears
- If tearing occurred, or bruising is excessive, give aspirin or Flunixin
- If snow is available, can pack rectal sleeve with snow and place in vagina to prevent swelling
- Consider antibiotics for cow

General Guidelines

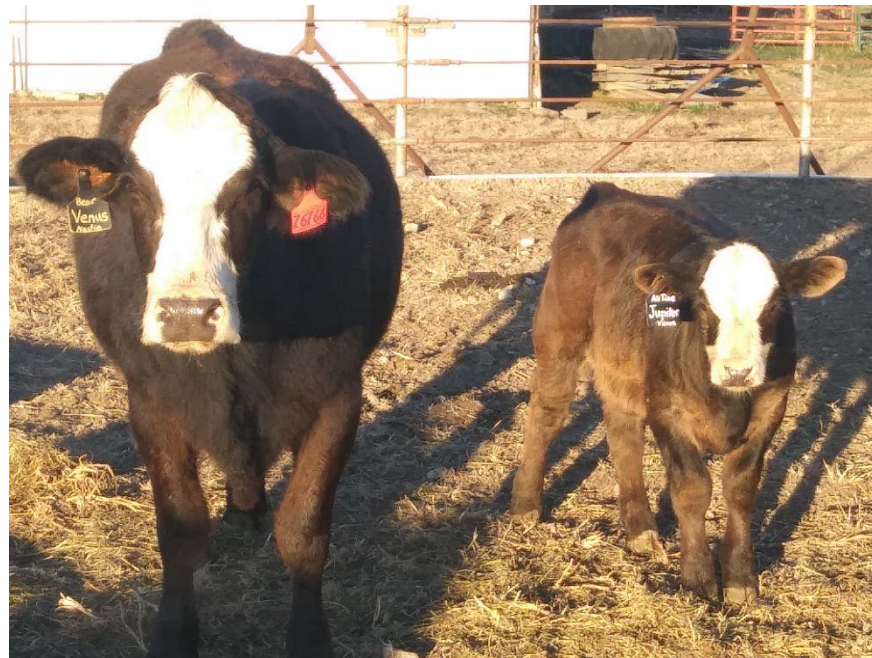
- Do not interfere too soon/late
- Watch closely for onset of labor
- Look for continual progress
- Do not over-use force
- If unsure... call your veterinarian

Bull	CED	BW	CED ACC	BW ACC
Simmental Bull 1	19.9	-10.4	0.35	0.4
Angus Bull 2	13	-2.5	0.23	0.33
Angus Bull 3	11	-1.6	0.74	0.89
Angus Bull 4	12	-1.3	0.99	0.99
Angus Bull 5	11	-0.5	0.3	0.36



Stockmanship

- Works because it is based on cow behavior
- We communicate with the cows in such a way that they understand us.



All Behavior is a product of:

- Biological variables
 - Species history
 - Biological adaption and genetic makeup
- Environmental variables
 - Present environment
 - Past environment



So what about the cow?

- Herbivores and a prey species that exhibit herding behaviors
- Do not communicate verbally, but experience the world through their 5 senses



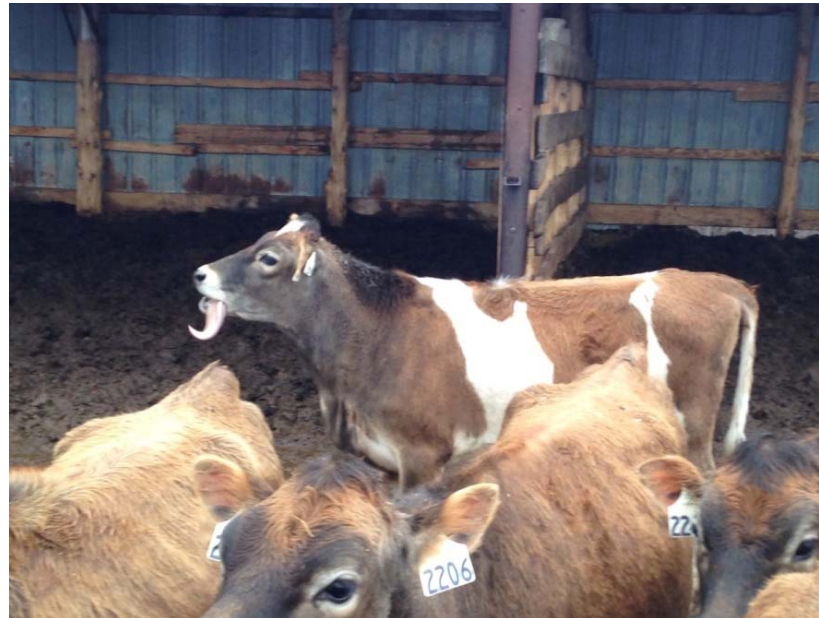
Dr. Paul Rapnicki

5 Senses

- Taste
 - Smell
 - Hearing
 - Sight
 - Touch
- Taste and smell closely related
 - Cattle much more sensitive to sounds than people
 - 340 degree eye sight
 - Always let them see where you are
 - Pressure, pain, temperature

Normal Cow Behavior

- Alert; interest in surroundings
- Normal grooming activities
- Chewing their cud while resting
- All up and eating at feeding time
- Move easily with normal gait



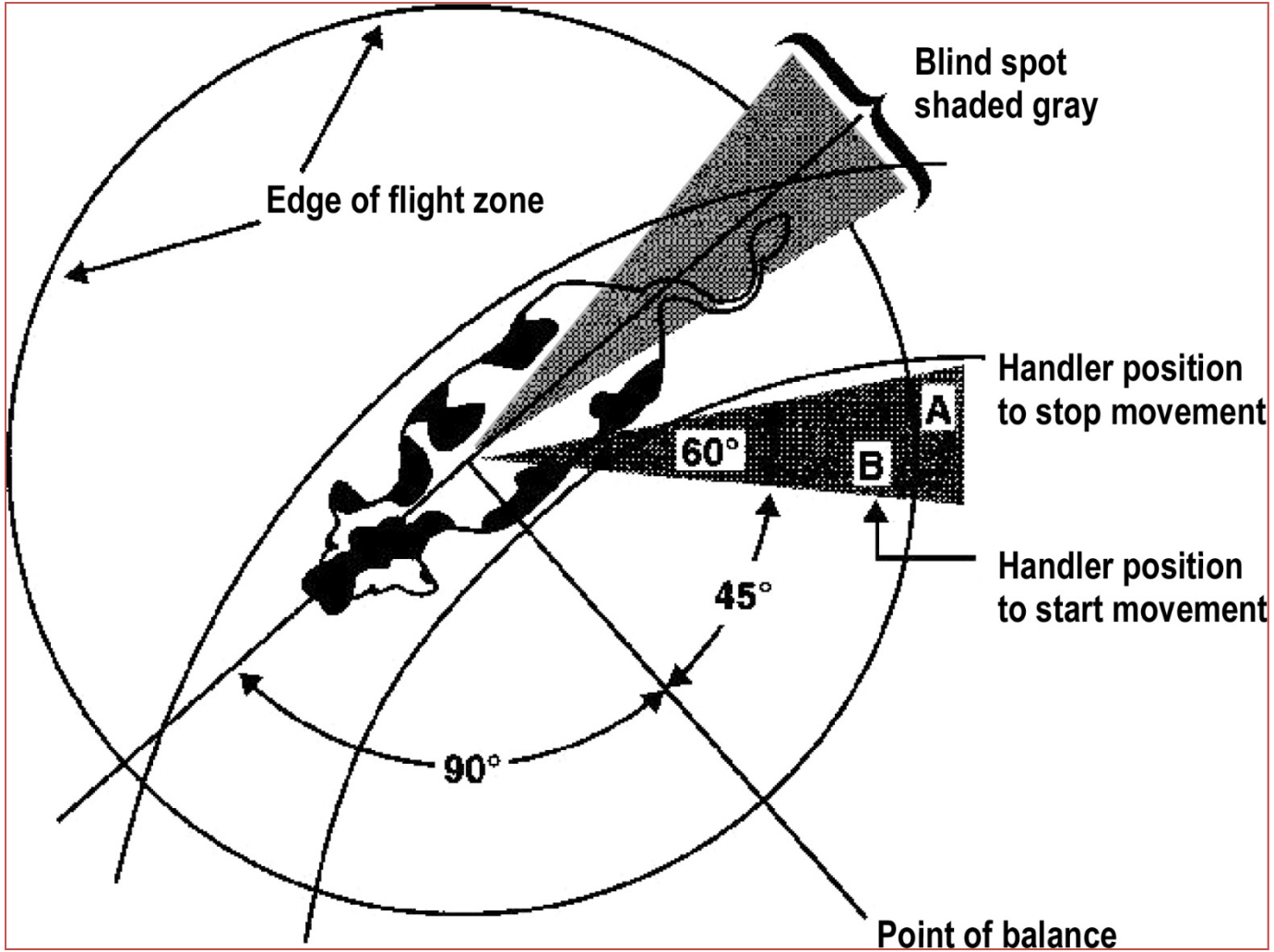
Cattle and Noise

- Cattle are sensitive to the human voice
- Cattle have a similar aversion to hitting as to shouting



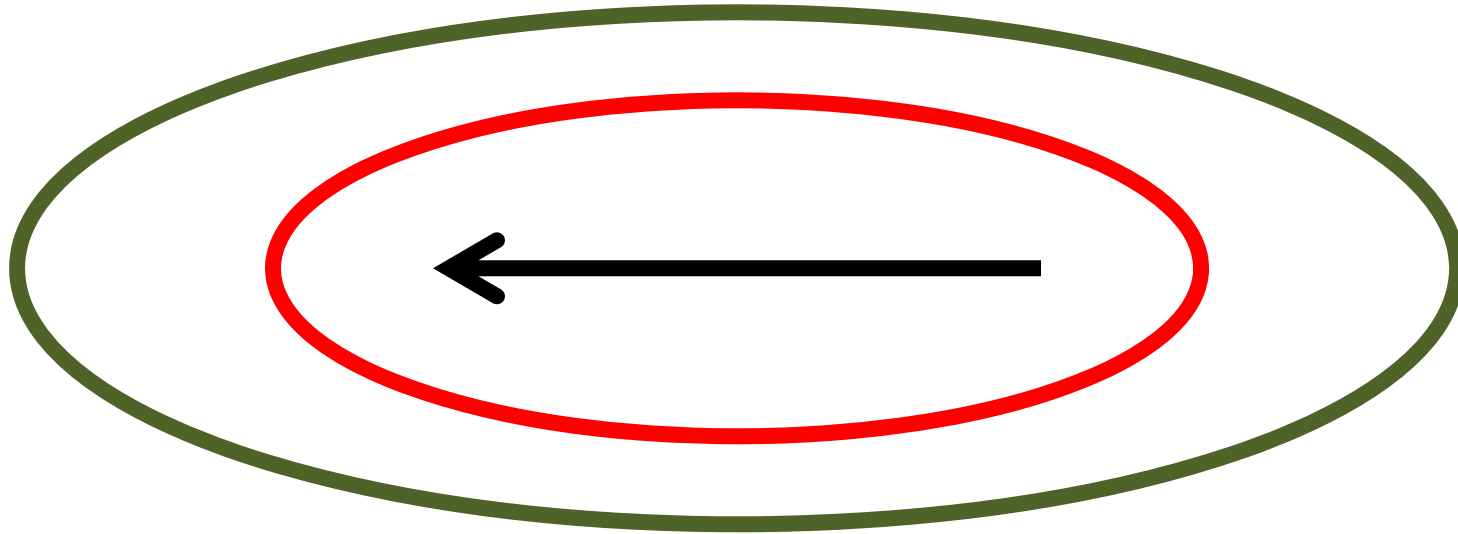
What makes up a Cattle Handling System?

- Design and maintenance of the facilities
- Cattle handling skills of the people
- Facilitated by technology
- Needs improvement because of lack of awareness by people
- (wanting to pet the head of the cow)



Stockmanship Principles

- Pressure area surrounds the flight zone



- Apply pressure to animals properly Dr. Paul Rapnicki⁴³

Applying Pressure

(individual or group)

- Position (point of balance)
 - Timing
 - Angle
 - Speed
-
- When working with a group you must be much more observant of all the cows

Safe and efficient cow movement

- Out of pen/pasture/corral
 - Into the holding area
 - Into the chute
 - Back to pen/pasture/corral
- Goals
 - Calm and relaxed
 - Minimal kicking and defecation

People vs cows

- People walk at 3-4 mph
- Cows walk at 2 mph
 - Therefore
- Walking with cattle slows them down
- Walking against cattle speeds them up



Bud Box



Bulls and protective cows



Important points

- 5 senses cows use to communicate
- Cows see 340 degrees, therefore they have a blind spot
- Cows walk at 2 mph, we walk 3-4 mph
- Flight zone vs pressure zone
- The cow's shoulder is her point of balance
- Every interaction between people and cattle is important
- Positive or negative

The End



Questions?