

1 **Evaluation of the treatment of the congenital articular rigidity in calves depending on**  
2 **the grade of severity.**

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5 Several congenital anomalies are notified in the Belgian blue calves. Congenital Joint Rigidity is the  
6 most frequent as it concerns 5% of consultations in our department.

7 Our study is based on 74 referred clinical cases in 3 years (2009 to 2011). It highlights predisposing  
8 factors of this disease. Indeed, 84% of the cases are males. The average weight of calves is 9% higher  
9 than the other calves and the disease's severity is influenced by the combination of these two  
10 parameters with the number of the mother 's parity. Diagnosis technical classify the calves into 4  
11 degrees from the less to the most severe. This classification allows us to get a diagnosis, a prognosis  
12 and apply the adequate treatment.

13 Grade I: achieving a biped. Slight bending at the fetlock joint. The general condition of the animal is  
14 good. The calf stand up, moves. Manual reduction of the bending is complete.

15 Grade II: achieving a biped. Slight bending at the fetlock joint. The general condition of the animal is  
16 good. The calf stand up, moves on his fetlock joint. Manual reduction of the bending is possible.

17 Grade III: achieving a biped and two joints (fetlock and carpus joints or fetlock and hock joints). The  
18 general condition of the animal is altered. The calf does not stand alone, but when we aid, he standing.  
19 Manual reduction of the bending is incomplete.

20 Grade IV: achievement of four members with one or two joints. The general condition is bad. The  
21 animal does not get up and do not move. Does not stand up when we aid him. Manual reduction is  
22 impossible.

23 In our study, the percentage of the treated calves is 91% the others 9% are euthanized for bad  
24 prognosis. Usually, grades I receive vitamins , the others grades are treated by surgery or with a splint  
25 too.

26 The treatment success rate is 72%, with 100% on grades I, 81% on grades II, 65% on grades III and  
27 40% on grades IV. Usual complications of this disease are omphalitis and arthritis, which decrease the  
28 prognosis.

29 As well as having evaluated the efficacy of diagnosis and treatment carried out, this study allowed us to  
30 realize the monitoring and the fate of animals after their hospitalization.