



Influence of dystocia on lamb mortality and postpartal ewe health compared to uneventful vaginal delivery and planned caesarean section

Einfluss von Geburtsstörungen auf Lämmersterblichkeit und postpartale Gesundheit des Muttertieres im Vergleich zu Normalgeburten und geplantem Kaiserschnitt

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TABLE 1: Lamb mortality parameters and postpartal ewe health indicators following uneventful vaginal delivery (uneventful), assisted vaginal delivery (dystocia) and near-term elective caesarean section (planned C section), and descriptive characteristics of the studied parturitions (576 parturitions of 232 Bavarian Alpine sheep, delivering 980 lambs).

	Uneventful (n=283)	Dystocia (n=75)	Planned C section (n=218)
Total number of lambs delivered	461	135	384
Stillbirth rate	3.9%	11.1%	0%
Mummified lambs	0.9%	4.4%	2.9%
Perinatal mortality	6.7%	14.1%	5.2%
Retained foetal membranes	2.5%	4.0%	29.4%
Fever >40°C (including clinical metritis cases)	8.5%	17.3%	13.3%
Metritis	0.4%	4.0%	1.4%
Parturition-related ewe mortality within 14 days post partum	0%	0%	0.5%
Mean litter size (median; range)	1.8 (2; 1–3)	2.1 (2; 1–3)	2.1 (2; 1–7)
Mean lamb birth weight (kg) (median; range)	3.9 (3.9; 0.9–6.9)	3.9 (4.0; 1.3–7.2)	4.0 (4.1; 0.4–6.8)
Mean parity (median; range)	1.9 (2; 1–5)	2.5 (3; 1–5)	2.4 (2; 1–6)
Mean ewe age (years) (median; range)	2.7 (3; 1–7)	3.4 (4; 1–6)	3.6 (4; 1–8)