

# Birthing

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Many of us by now are done kidding, in the middle of kidding or kidding soon. We all have experienced one kind of problem or another during kidding, but many of the kids have no problems in coming into this world, but a small percentage do. Birthing can present many issues that may require your assistance, so have plenty of towels and water on hand and help out the moms who are having a hard time birthing.

There are several ways for kids to present themselves for birthing and careful observation will determine if assistance is needed.

**NORMAL** – The kid's nose is positioned between the front hooves facing out. This is the easiest birth and all you have to do is observe and make sure the Mom takes care of her kids.

**MULTIPLE BIRTHS** – Having twins is common and expected. On a rare occasion, a doe can have triplets or just a singleton. I have heard of quadruplet births. It's best to only have twins or a singleton.

**FORELEG BACK** – One leg is bent back and may complicate the birth. If the Mom is having difficulty, it will be required of you to reach in and bring the leg forward.

**BREECH** – A breech is when the kid is facing the opposite direction and can cause a very difficult birth. The main concern here is that the sac could break before the kid is completely out and could suffocate. Your assistance here is very important and you can help the birth by gently pulling the kids out.

**HEAD TURNED BACK** – If the kid's head is turned back, it may have difficulty entering the birth canal. It will be required of you to reach in and turn the head forward between the kid's hooves.

I'm sure there are many more incidents that can cause problems in birthing, but in careful observation, you can help the Moms in giving birth and in some cases, save a kid's life.

Once the kid is on the ground and you make sure the kid is breathing, check on the umbilical cord. If still attached, tie off the cord with a soft string, about 2 inches below the kid's belly and then cut the cord on the Mom's end of the tie off. Disinfect the kid's umbilical cord with iodine.

When the afterbirth is expelled, dispose of it. In nature, the Moms will eat the afterbirth to protect their young. There is no benefit to the Mom for eating the afterbirth. If the Mom doesn't expel the afterbirth, call the veterinarian, as you don't just want to pull it out which could cause hemorrhaging.

This is a very brief article on birthing, one could write several pages on it. If you have a birthing experience you would like to share with other members, feel free to write to the editor of the newsletter at [littlepieceofheaven@q.com](mailto:littlepieceofheaven@q.com)