

MOOSE JAW ANIMAL CLINIC

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Inducing Abortion in Heifers/Cows

Quite often, the need arises for inducing abortion in heifers. The drugs required to accomplish this depends on the stage of pregnancy at the time. In general, the following protocol should be followed:

Less than 3 months bred ----- prostaglandins

1. Estrumate: 2 mL IM injection
OR
2. Lutalyse : 5 mL IM injection

Bred greater than 3 months----- prostaglandin and steroids

1. Estrumate or Lutalyse
2. Dexamethasone: 30 mg (at least 6 mL IM injection)

Abortion will usually happen within 5 days of treatment. When deciding if it appropriate to abort heifers, you should consider that the chance of complications greatly increases the farther pregnant the heifer is. Problems like retained placenta and dystocia are common in heavily pregnant heifers that are aborted.