Case report: diagnosis of congenital short penis with a filling defect in a bull
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A 22-month old Brangus bull presented for infertility with a history of premature ejaculation and an inability to achieve intromission. A breeding soundness examination and three *Trichomonas foetus* cultures revealed the bull to be a satisfactory potential breeder and negative for trichomoniasis. However, the results of the test mating determined that intromission could not be achieved due to what appeared to be an inability to fully extend the penis. A contrast cavernosogram was performed which highlighted inadequate filling of the corpus cavernosum penis specifically involving the dorsal portion of the distal bend of the sigmoid flexure. The cavernous spaces proximal and distal to the defects were uniformly filled, and it was unclear if the filling defects were congenital or due to injury and fibrosis. Additionally, the length of the penis, even with full extension, was determined to be much shorter than that of a normal bull (90 cm), leading to the diagnosis of congenitally short penis with filling defects of the corpus cavernosum penis.

The consequences of this condition include the inability to naturally service cows. Bulls harboring these abnormalities should be removed from the breeding pool to prevent passing these traits on to offspring. The only possible use for the bull’s semen would be utilization as a terminal sire in an artificial insemination program.

A congenitally short penis in a bull is an unusual finding with no reasonable treatment options. A breeding soundness examination only evaluates physical soundness and semen quality, but to be sure a bull is in fact a breeder, observation of intromission must be made. This case emphasizes that a breeding soundness examination alone does not deem a bull a satisfactory breeder, but additional test mating is warranted to fully assess the true breeding potential of the bull.

**Keywords:** Bull, short penis, cavernosography, breeding soundness examination

**References**