

ABSTRACT**38th GIRI meeting****Use of homeopathy to control buller steer syndrome in bulls kept in the feedlot****Ana Gabriela Francisco da Silva¹, Renata Padovan Barboza Carneiro¹, Gabriela Damasceno Jacques², Pedro Henrique de Souza Cucco³, Mônica Filomena Assis de Souza^{3,4*}, Leoni V Bonamin⁴, Marco Antonio Cucco³, Karine Bonucielli Brum⁵, Gustavo Guerino Macedo⁵, Eliane Vianna da Costa e Silva⁵**

¹ Graduate Program in Animal Science - Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, MS, Brazil.

² Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, MS, Brazil.

³ Sigo Homeopatia, Campo Grande, MS, Brazil

⁴ Graduate Program in Environmental and Experimental Pathology – Universidade Paulista, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

⁵ Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, MS, Brazil

*monica.rt@sigohomeopatia.com.br – <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-4716-8690>

Buller steer syndrome (BSS) is the intercourse behavior between young or adult bulls that frequently occurs when they are kept together in feedlots. The objectives of this work were to verify the effects of a homeopathic complex composed of Chamomilla 12cH and Absinthium 12cH on BSS in not-castrated male crossbred feedlot cattle by evaluating the average daily live weight gain (ADG), carcass yield, cost, and BSS behavior for seven weeks, by the analysis of incidence of the following registered social interactions: headers, head crash, head-head (H-H), Flehmen reflex, mounts (MT), attempted mounts (AM) and trail rides. When the AM and MT occurred together, they were defined as BSS. The feedlot costs were calculated based on the expenses for treatment. The choice of homeopathic compounds for the composition of the complex was based on the totality of the symptoms from the Vijnovsky Homeopathic Materia Medica [1] described for behavior characterized by BSS. The animals (n=225, average body mass=384.8 kg, age=24-36 months, fed a patterned diet) were divided into four groups of 100 animals each: control, vehicle, HOM1 (10g/head/day), and HOM2 (20g/head/day). Each of the four treatments (Baseline, Vehicle, HOM1, and HOM2) was administered in calcium carbonate powder mixed in the concentrated food powder and homogenized separately according to each treatment. The concentrate was mixed with the green food at the manger. Animals were kept in a 30m² area; each bull had access to linear 0.46 m of the whole manger. The Committee of Ethics and Animal Experimentation of the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul, protocol 285/2010, approved the manipulation of the animals during the

experimental phase. As a result, H-H and BSS differed between treatments ($P < 0.05$), being H-H: HOM1 (4.68 ± 1.24), HOM2 (4.17 ± 0.96), control (6.11 ± 0.97), and vehicle (7.67 ± 1.16), with no statistical difference between both HOM treatments and both controls. Considering BSS: HOM1 was different from the other groups, being HOM1 (4.00 ± 0.86^c) vs Control ($9.04 \pm 1.16^{a,b}$), Vehicle (12.00 ± 3.16^a) and HOM2 ($6.32 \pm 1.91^{b,c}$). Considering all the data, in the HOM1 group, BSS was the most reduced, while ADG was the most superior. The total costs of the feedlot, plus the spending on homeopathy, were US\$256.49, US\$211.67, US\$202.90, and US\$203.91 for the control, vehicle, HOM1, and HOM2, respectively. This means that for HOM1, there was a saving of US\$53.60 compared to the control. Using the homeopathic complex significantly reduced BSS in non-castrated male crossbred cattle feedlots, improving animal welfare through an economically viable strategy by offering only 10g of the homeopathic complex per animal per day. This approach offered a better cost-benefit ratio for large-scale bovine breeding activities compared to conventional ones.

Keywords: Chamomilla, Absinthium, beef cattle, social behavior

Acknowledgments and conflict of interest

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References

- [1] VIJNOVSKY, B. Tratado de Matéria Médica Homeopática. Ed. Organon. v.1, 2003.