Calving Paralysis

We have seen some big calves already this season. Calving paralysis is a commonly-used term to describe the paralysis of the hind legs which is seen in cows just after calving. It is caused by damage to the obturator nerve as the calf passes through the pelvic canal. This condition is most often seen after difficult calvings, the birth of large calves, or prolonged calvings. The cows are down, but alert and bright, usually eating. To give these cows the best chance of recovery anti-inflammatory needs to be given to these cows ASAP after calving. *(The Cow Vets encourage all our clients to have a bottle of anti-inflammatory on the farm for emergencies such as this).* Other treatment options include using splints, moving the cow to an area with soft bedding such as a barn with shavings on the floor, and ensuring adequate feed and water is available to the cow while she is recovering. Get a vet to check the cow over if she is unable to rise with the aid of splints or hip lifters. If there is loss of sensation in both back legs then the prognosis for these cows is very poor.