Dystocia is defined as a difficult birth. Can vary from prolonged spontaneous calving to the complete inability of calving. Dystocia may determine economic losses, with a mortality rate of cows, calves and infertility. This study aimed to conduct a study of cases of dystocia in the Large Animal Hospital of the University of Brasilia, Brazil, the period 2002 to 2009. We used data contained in medical records of 62 cows treated, with a history of dystocia. Fetal dystocia contributed 77.42% (48) of cases, while the maternal 19.35% (12). Among dystocia of fetal origin were numerous causes, ranging from fetal malformations with 3.22% (2 / 62) of cases, malposition 46.77% (29/62), and in 17.24% (5 / 29) of these was identified posterior malpresentation. Other causes observed in this study were those of maternal origin, and insufficient dilation of vulva or cervix (12.9%, 8 / 62) and hydrops, abdominal hernia, uterine torsion (4.8%, 3 / 62, each cause). Among the techniques used to aid the delivery, the most used was cesarean section for standing left paralumbar fossa in 25.8% (16) of cases, followed by partial fetotomy with 20.97% (13) cases. We also used traction (11.29% / 7), caesarean section for standing right paralumbar fossa celiotomy (1.6% / 1), cesarean section for ventral paramedian celiotomy (17.74% / 11) or total fetotomy (1.6% / 1). In this study dystocia of fetal origin were important, with emphasis on those caused by fetal malposition. Between the techniques used to solve the dystocia, the cesarean section was widely used in those cases where other techniques such as traction and fetotomy were not effective. The month of February had the largest number of cases, becoming one months critical for the occurrence of dystocia in cattle in this region.

Keywords: Dystocia, fetal, maternal, cesarian section