

# Whelping Forceps

## Description

Whelping forceps are **surgical-grade, stainless steel instruments** with rounded, smooth jaws and locking mechanisms used to **gently grasp and guide** a fetus through the birth canal. They aid in **obstructed labour** or **malpresentation** cases, helping veterinarians avoid C-sections when possible.

## Specifications

- **Sizes:** 9 inch, 10 inch, 12 inch
- **Material:** AISI 410/420 or 304-grade **stainless steel**
- **Jaws:** Smooth, rounded tips (non-crushing)
- **Handles:** Ratchet lock or spring tension for controlled grip
- **Design:** Curved or slightly angled for better access
- **Weight:** Approx. 150–220 g depending on size
- **Finish:** Satin/matte finish to reduce glare
- **Sterilizable:** Yes (autoclavable)

## Sizes & Shapes

- **9":** Best for **small breeds**, kittens, or rodents
- **10":** **Mid-size breeds**, general purpose
- **12":** Large breeds or deep-pelvis assistance
- **Shape:** Straight or slightly curved jaws with non-toothed, smooth grip

## Types

- **Standard Whelping Forceps:** Straight or slightly curved, smooth grip
- **Obstetric Forceps with Stop:** Prevents over-insertion
- **Locking Forceps:** With ratchet system for controlled grip
- **Rubber-Coated Tips (optional):** To reduce trauma risk

## Material

- High-grade **medical stainless steel**
- Corrosion-resistant, non-magnetic, and autoclavable
- Matte/satin finish to avoid reflections under surgical light

## Category

- **Veterinary Surgical Instruments**
- **Obstetrics / Gynaecology Tools**

## Product Form

- Individually packed or as part of **OB kits**
- May be sold **sterile or non-sterile**
- Pouch, blister, or sterilization wrap packaging

## Usage

1. Sterilize instrument before use
2. Lubricate forceps and gently insert into the vaginal canal
3. Carefully secure the fetus with minimal pressure
4. Guide out with gentle traction while aligning with birth canal axis
5. Always monitor dam's response during use

## Advantages

- **Non-traumatic delivery assistance**
- **Reduces C-section need** in obstructed labour
- Available in **multiple lengths** for all breed sizes
- **Autoclavable and reusable**
- **Precise handling** in delicate situations

## **Disadvantages**

- **Requires veterinary training** to avoid trauma
- Inexperienced use can injure fetus or mother
- Not suitable for all whelping complications
- Not a replacement for emergency surgery if needed

## **Precautions**

- Use only by **trained professionals**
- Do not apply excessive force—risk of trauma
- Always lubricate adequately before insertion
- Inspect jaws and hinge before each use for smooth action
- **Sterilize before and after each use**

## **HS Code**

- **HS Code:** 9018.90
- **Description:** Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical, dental, or veterinary sciences – other instruments

## **HSN Code**

- **HSN Code:** 90189099
- **Description:** Other instruments and appliances used in veterinary medicine not elsewhere specified
- **GST (India):** 18%

## **Handling Instructions**

- Store in **dry, sterile conditions**
- Handle with care to avoid jaw misalignment
- Do not drop – precision hinges can be damaged
- Lubricate moving parts periodically for smooth operation

## Sterilization Details

- **Autoclavable** at 121–134°C
- Can also be sterilized using:
  - Ethylene Oxide (Eto)
  - Plasma sterilization
  - Cold chemical sterilant (glutaraldehyde, etc.)
- Dry thoroughly before storing to prevent rusting

## Veterinary Applications

- Used in **canine and feline whelping** to assist in safe neonatal delivery
- Essential in **small animal obstetrics**
- Suitable for **rodents, rabbits, dogs, and cats**
- Reduces fetal trauma and maternal stress during assisted deliveries

## Human Applications

- Not commonly used in human OB/GYN due to more advanced obstetric forceps and delivery methods
- **Human obstetric forceps** are longer, differently shaped, and regulated under separate surgical classifications

## FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the Harmonized System (HS) Code for Whelping Forceps?**
  - ▶ The HS Code is **9018.90**, covering surgical and veterinary instruments.
2. **What is the Harmonized System of Nomenclature (HSN) Code?**
  - ▶ The HSN Code is **90189099**, used in veterinary surgical tools category.
3. **Can all sizes be used on any breed?**
  - ▶ No. Use **9"** for small breeds, **10"** for medium, and **12"** for large or deep-set pelvis animals.
4. **Is training required to use whelping forceps?**
  - ▶ Absolutely. Only **licensed veterinarians or trained OB staff** should use them to avoid harm.
5. **Can they be reused after sterilization?**
  - ▶ Yes, they are **fully autoclavable and reusable**, provided they are well-maintained and undamaged.