

Respiratory Disorders

| Disorder | What do you See? | Cause | Treatment | Prevention |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Pneumonia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any animal under stress may develop pneumonia – weak lambs are the most susceptible lambs become feverish (40 to 41°C ;104 to 106°F), stop suckling and/or go off feed, become listless, weak and gaunt fast shallow breathing at first, followed later by laboured breathing (puffing of sides), discharge from the nose in poor conditions there can be a high death losses in a short time. some affected lambs appear initially to respond to treatment but will show chronic signs (coughing, especially after moderate exercise and poor growth), that do not respond to antibiotics post mortem: lung abscesses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stressed lambs (cold/wet, underfed) in presence of a variety of bacteria and viruses normally found in environment (PI-3 virus, pasteurilla bacteria) stress factors such as sudden changes in temperature, drafty, poorly ventilated overcrowded conditions sudden chill, starvation, exhaustion, allows the bacteria and viruses to invade the lungs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make sure of diagnosis before treatment is started take dead lambs to a veterinary clinic or laboratory immediately to differentiate from other causes. treatment with antibiotic, as recommended by veterinarian. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep lambing area clean and dry ventilation of lamb barn is very important. If pneumonia is a persistent problem consider contacting an agricultural engineer or government specialist to assess barn avoid stress and overcrowding of lambs vaccine may be helpful in some cases |
| Shipping Fever | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> following weaning, transport, auction sales and other stress factors. high fever, droopy ears, off feed, reluctant to walk, rapid shallow breathing, progressing to laboured, frothy open- mouth respiration sudden deaths are common when septicemia (blood poisoning) occurs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> variety of viruses and bacteria that are normally present in the respiratory tract take advantage of lowered resistance of lambs causing pneumonia. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> separate healthy from sick lambs treat sick lambs with antibiotics (consult a veterinarian) drench or stomach tube to prevent dehydrated lambs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> avoid excessive stress at weaning delay deworming, castration, vaccination until about ten days after shipping introduce lambs to feed gradually provide good housing, dry bedding and avoid overcrowding try not to mix lambs of various sources too quickly after arrival using medicated feeds during stress periods may help (consult with vet) |
| Maedi Visna | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> slowly progressing of sheep usually seen after 3 years of age some infected animals never show symptoms, but can infect others gradually increasing respiratory distress, loss of body weight and death. (occasionally neurological) decreased milk production due to ‘hard-bag’ mastitis of both sides of udder (decreased lamb growth) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> virus, spreads primarily from ewes to their lambs through colostrum and milk also spread from sheep to sheep by direct contact (respiration) possibly through blood healthy seeming, infected sheep can spread the virus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none | <p>Active Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your veterinarian or OSMA for details on the Maedi-Visna testing program Blood sample flock and cull positive animals Maintain tight biosecurity to prevent re-introduction <p>Passive Prevention: cull all sheep showing signs of progressive respiratory disease</p> |