

CASEOUS LYMPHADENITIS

CL in Sheep and Goats



Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) is a persistent infectious disease affecting sheep and goats, caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. Found worldwide, CL leads to ulcerative lymphadenitis in horses and superficial abscesses in various animals, including bovines, swine, rabbits, deer, laboratory animals, and humans. Despite being a zoonotic disease, CL is often underestimated as it is not a reportable disease in many countries, including the United States. CL can result in economic losses, such as the inability to market breeding stock, condemnation of carcasses due to internal abscesses, animal mortality, and devaluation of animal hides due to abscess formation. CL can potentially be transmitted to humans.

CAUSES OF CL

Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) in sheep and goats is caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. This infectious disease leads to the development of external and internal abscesses in affected animals. The bacteria are transmitted through direct contact with infected animals or contaminated objects.

PREVENTION OF CL

Prevention of CL in sheep and goats involves implementing several measures:

Practice strict biosecurity protocols to minimize the introduction of infected animals or contaminated objects.

Maintain clean and hygienic housing conditions, regularly disinfecting equipment, and removing potential sources of contamination. Regular monitoring and testing of the flock can help identify and isolate infected animals promptly.



***This is a
Notifiable disease***

SYMPTOMS OF CL

Symptoms of CL in sheep and goats include:

Presence of visible external abscesses, typically located behind the ears, beneath the jaw or neck, on the shoulders, or in the rear flank region.

Potential appearance of abscesses between the hind legs, where the scrotal sac or udder attaches.

Internal abscesses are not visible externally and can only be detected through necropsy.

Chronic weight loss may indicate the presence of internal abscesses on vital organs.

TREATMENT OF CL

To manage CL abscesses in animals:

Isolate the infected animal from the herd promptly, use clean tools to thoroughly drain the abscess/abscesses and consult a veterinarian immediately.

Sources

“Posted by Braden Campbell at 8:00am January 16, & Campbell, B. (2019, January 16). *Caseous lymphadenitis (CL) in sheep and goats*. OSU Sheep Team. <https://u.osu.edu/>

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