



# VIBRIONIC ABORTION

## *Campy or Vibrio in Sheep and Goats*

Campylobacteriosis, commonly known as "campy" or "vibrio" in sheep, is a bacterial infection caused by the *Campylobacter* species. It primarily affects the gastrointestinal tract and reproductive organs of sheep. Campylobacteriosis is one of the leading causes of abortion in sheep, resulting in significant economic losses for sheep farmers. The bacteria are typically found in the intestines of healthy sheep, but they can be shed in high numbers during abortion episodes, contaminating the environment and potentially infecting other sheep.

### CAUSES OF CAMPY

Campylobacteriosis in sheep is caused by the *Campylobacter* bacteria, primarily *Campylobacter fetus* subspecies *fetus*. Transmission occurs through ingestion of contaminated feed, water, or contact with infected sheep. Factors like poor hygiene, overcrowding, and stress can contribute to the spread. Proper management and biosecurity measures are vital for prevention and control.

### PREVENTION OF CAMPY

Prevention and control of campylobacteriosis in sheep involve practicing good biosecurity measures, maintaining a clean environment, and monitoring for any signs of abortion. Vaccination programs may also be employed to reduce the incidence of the disease. It is essential to work closely with a veterinarian to develop an effective prevention and management plan tailored to the specific flock's needs.



***This is a  
Notifiable disease***

### SYMPTOMS OF CAMPY

Symptoms of campylobacteriosis in sheep include:

- **Abortion:** The most common and characteristic symptom is abortion in late pregnancy, usually occurring in the last two weeks before lambing.
- **Stillbirths:** In some cases, lambs may be born dead.
- **Weak lambs:** Newborn lambs may appear weak and have difficulty standing or nursing.
- **Reproductive issues:** Ewes may experience reproductive problems, such as retained

### TREATMENT OF CAMPY

There is a vaccine for Campylobacteriosis in sheep. Antibiotics may be used to control secondary bacterial infections, but they do not eliminate the *Campylobacter* bacteria. The primary approach for managing the disease is focused on prevention and supportive care.

#### Sources

Sheep extension program. Animal and Range Sciences Extension  
- MSU Extension Animal and Range Science | Montana State

Factsheet provided by:

**The Idaho Sheep & Goat  
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