



HAEMONCHUS CONTORTUS

Barber's Pole Worm in Sheep and Goats

Barber's pole worm, also known as *Haemonchus contortus*, is a significant gastrointestinal parasite that affects sheep and goats. It is one of the most economically important and challenging parasites to manage in small ruminants worldwide. This worm is named "barber's pole" due to its unique appearance, with the adult female worms coiling around each other in a barber pole-like fashion.

CAUSES OF BABER'S POLE WORM

The life cycle of barber's pole worm involves both direct and indirect transmission. Adult worms in the abomasum lay eggs, which pass out with the host's feces. The eggs hatch, and the larvae develop to infective stages on pasture. Sheep and goats consume the infective larvae while grazing, completing the cycle.

PREVENTION OF BARBER'S POLE WORM

Effective management and control strategies are essential to prevent and manage barber's pole worm infestations. Practices include strategic deworming, rotational grazing, maintaining good nutrition, and reducing exposure to contaminated pastures.



***This is a
Notifiable disease***

SYMPTOMS OF BABER'S POLE WORM

Infected animals may show signs of anemia, weakness, weight loss, and reduced growth rates. Anemia is often characterized by pale mucous membranes (e.g., gums and eyes). In severe cases, animals may become lethargic and have difficulty standing.

TREATMENT OF BARBER'S POLE WORM

The treatment of barber's pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) in sheep and goats involves the use of anthelmintic (deworming) medications. It is essential to choose the appropriate dewormer and follow proper dosing guidelines to ensure effective treatment and reduce the risk of developing resistance.

Sources

Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. (n.d.). <https://www.addl.purdue.edu/Newsletters/2011/Fall/Haemonchus.aspx>

Factsheet provided by:

**The Idaho Sheep & Goat
Health Board**

