



PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS

PPR in Sheep and Goats

Peste des petits is caused by a Morbillivirus closely related to but distinct from rinderpest virus. The main organ systems affected are the respiratory and digestive systems. Treatment is restricted to supportive care; a vaccine is available for prevention. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is an acute or subacute viral disease of goats and sheep characterized by fever, necrotic stomatitis, gastroenteritis, pneumonia, and sometimes death. It was reported first in Ivory Coast in 1942, and subsequently in other parts of West Africa. Goats and sheep appear to be equally susceptible to the virus; however, goats exhibit more severe clinical signs. The virus also affects several wild small ruminant species. Cattle, buffalo, and pigs are only subclinically infected. Humans are not at risk.

CAUSES OF PPR

Peste des petits ruminants primarily spreads through close contact. Infections often occur when a susceptible animal inhales the virus released through coughing and sneezing by infected animals. The virus is present in secretions from the eyes, nose, and mouth, as well as in feces of infected animals. Transmission through fomites, such as water troughs and bedding, can also happen temporarily, but objects do not remain infectious for extended periods.

PREVENTION OF PPR

Animals arriving from countries with peste des petits ruminants must undergo thorough veterinary examinations upon entry into the United States. New animals should be quarantined separately from the existing herd until their health is confirmed, and there is no risk of infection to other animals on the farm. The virus can survive in the environment for a brief duration but is susceptible to destruction by ultraviolet light and drying. In regions where the disease is prevalent, a vaccine is accessible for animals.



***This is a
Reportable disease***

Sources

Peste des Petits Ruminants Fast Fact - CFSPH. (n.d.-e). <https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/FastFacts/pdfs/>

SYMPTOMS OF PPR

Symptoms of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goats include:

- Fever & Nasal and ocular discharge
- Coughing and sneezing & Respiratory distress
- Diarrhea & Pneumonia
- Ulcers in the mouth and nose & Swelling of the head and neck
- Inflammation and redness of the eyes
- Lameness & Dehydration
- Abortion in pregnant animals

TREATMENT OF PPR

There is no specific treatment for peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in sheep and goats. Supportive care includes isolation, providing clean water and feed, and managing symptoms. Vaccination is essential in endemic regions to prevent the disease. Consult a veterinarian for specific guidance.

Factsheet provided by:

**The Idaho Sheep & Goat
Health Board**

