

WHAT ARE SHEEP AND GOAT POX?

Sheep and goat pox are a contagious viral disease characterized by high body temperature and skin changes that are not covered with wool in the form of generalized papules or nodules, vesicles or pustules.

WHICH SPECIES OF ANIMALS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SHEEP AND GOAT POX?

Sheep and goat pox only affect sheep and goats; The disease especially affects young animals or animals that are already suffering from another disease or under stress;

WHY SHEEP AND GOAT POX ARE IMPORTANT TO BE CONTROLLED?

Presence of disease can limit trade, export and import of new breeds and development of intensive livestock production. The disease can have a high rate of morbidity and mortality, up to 100% in areas where it occurs for the first time;

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF SHEEP AND GOAT POX VIRUS?

Sheep and goat pox are endemic in parts of Africa, Asia, the Middle East and India. Outbreaks of sheep and goat pox were reported in Greece and Bulgaria in 2013–2014 and in Greece in 2016 and 2017.

HOW SHEEP AND GOAT POX CAN BE TRANSMITTED?

- Direct contact;
- Inhalation of aerosol (respiratory secretions);
- Indirect contacts through contaminated materials (litter, fodder), equipment, clothing, clippers and vehicles;
- Indirect transmission by insects (mechanical vectors), such as stable flies (*Stomoxys calcitrans*);

The virus is present in all secretions (nasal and ocular secretions) as well as in milk, urine, feces and scabs. The viruses can also be found after three months on the hair and wool of an infected animal.



SWELLING OF THE NOSTRILS AND THICK SECRETION FROM THE EYES AND NOSE



NECROTIC LESIONS IN THE ORAL CAVITY



PUSTULES ON THE UBER

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF SHEEP AND GOAT POX?

The disease can vary from mild to severe, depending on the age of the animal, race, immunity and other factors.

Clinical signs of the disease:

- High temperature;
- High pulse and respiratory rate;
- Redness of the conjunctiva and swollen eyelids;
- Depression, anorexia;
- Dyspnoea;
- Nasal or ocular discharge;
- Redness of the skin (initial lesions), maculae appear on non-overgrown parts of the skin (around the lips, nasal apertures, eyes, udder, genital organs, tails and parts of the legs);
- The macules turn into red papules, which grow into vesicles or pustules;
- The mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, mouth, vulva and prepuce may be necrotic or ulcerated;
- Increased lymph nodes on the body;
- Frequent secondary bacterial infections.



PAPULES AND NECROTIC LESIONS AROUND THE MOUTH, NOSE AND EYES



DEAD ANIMALS

HOW SHEEP AND GOAT POX CAN BE PREVENTED AND CONTROLLED?

- Animal and vehicle movement controls within infected areas;
- Quarantine of new animals before introduction into herds, and diagnostic testing of animals;
- Cleaning and disinfection of animal holding facilities;
- By applying biosecurity measures.

The disease cannot be treated.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I SUSPECT SHEEP AND GOAT POX?

If you suspect the disease, consult your veterinarian or veterinary inspector immediately.



The project “**Reinforcement of animal health and welfare**” funded by the European Union supports the development and improvement of agriculture in Serbia.

It provides support to the Veterinary Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management in the process of harmonization with EU and international standards in the area of animal health, biosecurity and animal welfare.



WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS DISEASE?

This publication is produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Veterinary Directorate and “Opera” s.r.l. Italy, and may in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

