

Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) Fact Sheet



Introduction

- Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) is a severe and highly contagious lung disease of goats and sheep. It makes large numbers of animals sick; up to 60–100% of affected animals can die.
- Goats are particularly affected by CCPP, but sheep can become infected too.
- CCPP is not infectious to humans.

What causes CCPP

This respiratory system disease is caused by a bacteria (germ) that infects the lungs of goats and sheep.

What signs are shown by animals affected by CCPP?

The disease can cause a variety of signs:

- Animals can be affected very quickly and die a few days after becoming sick with few other clinical signs.
- If animals don't die straight away, they stop eating; become weak, depressed and lethargic, develop a high fever, severe cough and laboured breathing with an extended neck
- Long-term infected animals have less obvious clinical signs, including a cough, sticky yellow-green nasal discharge and weakness



*Common respiratory signs of CCPP:
Significant nasal discharge; Extended
neck of an animal with severe breathing
difficulty*

How do animals get CCPP?

- Animals become infected by direct contact with other infected animals and breathing in droplets exhaled by them containing bacteria.
 - ✓ Infectious animals can include long-standing cases with mild clinical signs that may be difficult to identify as having CCPP.
- Animals usually start to show clinical signs 6-10 days after coming into contact with another infected animal
- Animals may be particularly susceptible to becoming infected if they are malnourished, have been transported long distances and at the start of the rainy season.



How CCPP is diagnosed

- **CCPP should always be suspected if many goats and/or sheep are affected by severe respiratory disease, including coughing, nasal discharge, breathing difficulty and death**
- Dead animals will have thickened, heavy, dark lungs and frothy material in the lung's airways. Yellow fluid will often ooze from the lung if it is cut open.
- Veterinarians will confirm a diagnosis of CCPP by taking lung samples from dead animals, and blood samples from healthy and sick goats and sheep.

Other diseases that resemble CCPP

- Peste des Petits Ruminants ('PPR'): can also cause high fever, high mortality, sores in mouth, eye discharge, diarrhoea
- Other infectious bacterial respiratory diseases

What to do if you suspect your animals have CCPP

If you suspect your animals have CCPP, immediately contact your local government veterinary officer, veterinary assistant or a private animal health organization working in your area

Treatment

- Antibiotic treatment may be effective if animals are treated before they become very sick, and they must be treated with a full course (> 1 week) of daily antibiotic injections. Seek advice from your local veterinarian.
- Infection control/hygiene
- During an outbreak, separate sick animals from healthy ones so that they receive better care and feed.
- Feed sick animals after healthy ones, to avoid spreading the disease within your herd. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling sick animals.
- Use household bleach to disinfect feed troughs and equipment that has been in contact with sick animals.

Prevention

- Animals can be vaccinated against CCPP. Seek advice from your local veterinarian.
- Buy animals from a reputable source. Do not place sick animals in your herd— isolate them from other animals until they have been checked by a vet and are well again.



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