

Tick Infestation Fact Sheet



Introduction

Ticks are external parasites that live by feeding on blood of different animals. They can affect animals directly and also transmit the important infections babesiosis and theileriosis.

Signs & symptoms

Ticks are often visible on animals. When they first attach they may be flat and red-brown in colour. When they engorge with blood they become much are larger and are often blue-grey and round.

Heavy infestations can cause:

- Anaemia (low blood count)
- Weight loss
- Loss of milk production
- Fever
- Failure to gain weight

Diagnosis

Ticks can be seen with the naked eye. Important areas to check are the anal region, in the armpits and groin, and under the ears



How do animals get ticks?

- Female ticks on animals lay eggs in grass or buildings that hatch into juvenile ticks – different species of ticks prefer to lay their eggs in different places
- Animals may become infected by juvenile ticks during grazing or when housed
- Some species of ticks spend their whole life on one animal but others move between animals as they grow

Treatment

A small number of ticks might not require treatment. Animals affected with heavy tick burdens can be treated with injection or spray/wash chemicals. Choose the method that is most convenient for the number of animals requiring treatment, the availability of the product and your facilities. Follow



all label directions for the product, as some cannot be used in pregnant or lactating animals.

- **Injection:**

- ✓ **Ivermectin injection:** 1 mL per 50 kg bodyweight injected under the skin

- **Spray-/pour-on chemicals:**

- ✓ **Cypermethrin (e.g. Cyprin, Ectofleece):** Make up active solution with 1 mL per 1 litre of water

- ✓ Wear gloves when mixing chemicals and minimise contact with when applying to animals; do not dispose of waste chemical in waterways

- ✓ Precautions:

- Do not spray animals in a confined and non-ventilated area
- Do not dip animal when animal is thirsty or overheated
- Do not contaminate with feed or drinking water
- Do not apply to lamb or kid less than 3 months
- Do not apply on lactating or pregnant animals



- **Natural tick repellents:** Chickens and other domestic fowl prey on ticks so they are very effective in reducing the load of ticks around animal pens and housing

- **Homemade tick repellent:** Add 2 cups of white vinegar and 1 cup of water and spray solution around pens and housing to discourage ticks

Ticks Management and Control

The following measures can help manage and control ticks

- Smoke from slow burning waste near the walls of the animal sheds can help repel ticks
- Remove leaf litter and move wood piles away from animal sheds to eliminate the places where young ticks live
- Manually remove ticks from animals by grasping with fingers close to the body, twisting and pulling
- Heavily contaminated pens or housing can be treated with trichlorfon spray (examples of trichlorfon products include Tegafon, Ectofon and Seguan)
 - ✓ To use, mix 1.5 g trichlorfon per 1 litre water
 - ✓ Precautions: Follow all instructions on label; do not contaminate feed or water; avoid human contact with chemical



حکومت سندھ
Government of Sindh

