

Sheep diseases (Part 1)

Every year, farmers across the country lose thousands of rand due to disease among their livestock. In this series, we look at sheep health, starting with diseases.

Pulpy kidney

Pulpy kidney is also known as enterotoxaemia and overeating disease. This disease is one of the most important occurring among sheep. It is usually found in young sheep between the ages of 3 weeks to 3 months as well as 6 to 12 months.




The disease is caused by the bacteria, *Clostridium perfringens* type D, which is found in the animal's intestinal tract (usually the small intestine). The main cause of the disease is a sudden change in diet.

The **serious (acute)** form of pulpy kidney causes sudden death. Signs include listlessness, lack of appetite, staggering, convulsions, teeth grinding and kicking movements when lying down. Slight diarrhoea may be present. Young lambs may suffer from colic.

In **chronic** pulpy kidney, the brain is also affected and animals show nervous clinical signs.

Prevention and treatment

- Immunise your sheep immediately during an outbreak of pulpy kidney.
- The sheep may be treated with antibiotics to help prevent death.
- Do not change the diet too suddenly and too soon.
- Immunise lambs between ages 4-5 months (or earlier if they are weaned at a young age). An annual booster vaccination must be given.
- Ewes that were immunised previously, must be immunised four weeks before lambing. This will give the lambs colostrum-derived immunity up to the age of 12-16 weeks.
- Perform processes such as tail-docking and castration early in life (2 months of age) so that the lamb doesn't become stressed and takes in less food and milk.

In the next edition, we will look at bluetongue. 

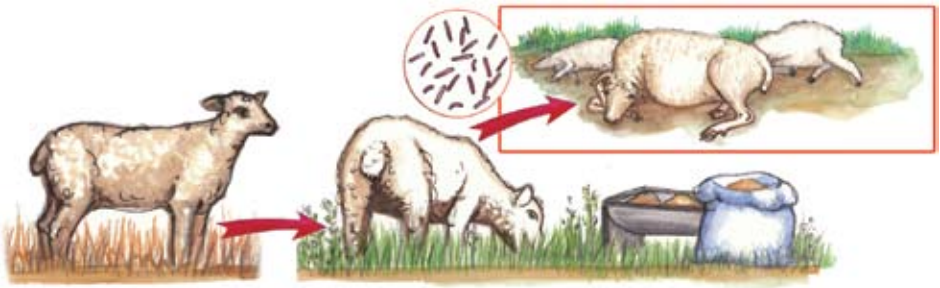
Sheep diseases: Pulpy kidney

Symptoms: Listlessness, lack of appetite, staggering, teeth grinding and kicking movements, death.

Treatment: Antibiotics.

Prevention:

- Avoid sudden changes in diet and overeating.
- Immunise lambs between ages 4-5 months and sheep during an outbreak.



Skaapsiektes: Bloednier

Simptome: Lusteloosheid, swak aptyt, steierbewegings, tande kners, skoppende bewegings, dood.

Behandeling: Antibiotika.

Voorkoming:

- Verhoed skielike verandering in eetgewoontes en voorkom dat die dier oorvreet.
- Immuniseer lammers tussen die ouderdom van 4 tot 5 maande en immuniseer skape tydens 'n siekte-uitbreek.



Izifo zezimvu: Inso eyindaphundaphu (Pulpy kidney)

Izimpawu zesifo: Ukuba isinambanamba, ukungathandi ukudla, ukudiyazela, ukudla amazinyo nokunyakaza ngokukhahlela uma silele, ukufa.

Ukwelashwa: Ama-antibhayothiki.

Ukuvimbela:

- Gwema izinguquko ezisheshayo ekudleni kanye nokudla ngokweqile.
- Goma izinyane lemvu eliphakathi kwezinyanga ezi-4-5 kanye nezimvu ngesikhathi sokubheduka kwesifo.

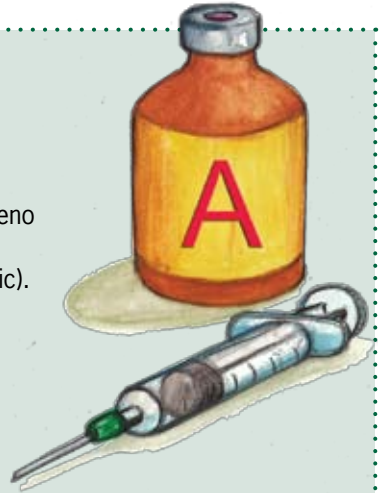
Malwetse a dinku: Bolwetse bo bitswang Pulpy kidney

Matshwao a bolwetse: Ho fellwa ke matla, ho fellwa ke takatso ya dijo, ho thekesela, ho loma meno le ho raha-hara ha phoofolo e bothile, ho shwa.

Kalafo: Meriana e lwantshang mahloko (di-antibiotic).

Thibelo:

- Qoba ho fetoha dijo tsa diphoofolo kapele le ho di fepa haholo.
- Enta dikonyana tse pakeng tsa dikgwedi tse 4-5 le dinku nakong ya sewa sa lefu lena.



Izifo zeequsha: Intso ethambileyo (i-Pulpy kidney)

Imiqondiso: Ukudangala, ukungacaceli ukutya, ukugxadazela, ukutshixiza amazinyo neentshukumo zokukhaba xa ilele phantsi, ukufa.

Unyango: Izibulala-ntsholongwane.

Uthintelo:

- Phepha utshintsho lwesiquphe lwesidlo nokutya ngokugqithisileyo.
- Gonya amatakane phakathi kobudala beenyanga ezi-4 ukuya kwezi-5 kwakunye neequsha ngexesha lokuhla kwesifo. 