

How to Identify and Goat Plague (PPR) Disease in Sheep and Goats

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What is Goat plague (PPR) Disease ?

Goat Plague is an infectious transboundary disease that mostly affects sheep and goats. The disease causes up to 100% mortality causing significant economic losses to the small ruminant industry

What causes Goat Plague?

The disease is caused by a morbillivirus that closely resembles the rinderpest virus that used to affect cattle but has since been eradicated. The virus is majorly transmitted when healthy animals come into contact with sick animals or materials that are contaminated by secretions from sick animals.

Clinical signs of Goat Plague

This disease starts with a high body temperature that lasts for 1 one to 3 days.

The disease appears 3 to 7 days from the time a high body temperature is observed. Affected animal produces a lot of mucus from the nose and also tears from the eyes.

Wounds develop in the mouth and tongue and the animal has difficulty breathing. Cases of diarrhoea are observed.

Animals either die or recover.



Wounds on the gums



*Tears from the eyes and
mucus from the nose*



Diarrhoea is common

Diagnosis of Goat Plague the disease

Goat Plague is suspected when the symptoms above are observed. When these symptoms appear, farmers should report to the livestock officers who take samples for testing in the laboratory.

Prevention and Treatment

The disease has no cure and is best prevented by vaccinating animals before they get the disease. Affected animals can be treated with antibiotics to prevent them from getting other diseases because Goat Plague makes them weak. Animals that recover from the disease develop lifetime immunity.

Control

Goat Plague is a notifiable disease and outbreaks should be reported to the veterinary department for action.

The disease is best controlled by avoiding contact of sick animals with healthy ones. When the disease occurs, ring vaccination is carried out.