

Biosecurity measures to prevent the pox viruses

The following biosecurity measures are useful in controlling Sheep and Goat Pox:

- o Restrict movement of sheep and goats during periods of drought to avoid mixing of flocks.
- o Separation of sick sheep and goats from the healthy flock
- o Seeking the services and notifying veterinary personnel for prompt treatment and reporting
- o Avoiding the introduction of sheep and goats from farms or markets without confirming their disease status
- o Ensuring appropriate sheep and goat housing
- o Dead animals should be buried

KCSAP Brochure No.



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How to Identify and Control Sheep and Goat Pox for Healthy Flocks



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Introduction

Sheep pox and goat pox are closely related viral diseases causing huge losses in sheep and goat farms. The death rates in young animals are between 50%-100% .

The economic importance of sheep and goat poxes

These diseases are economically important because they:

- Cause decreased milk production
- Lead to poor quality hides/wool
- Result in trade losses/barriers
- Prevent the development of intensive and improved livestock production systems.

How are Sheep and Goat Pox Spread?

The diseases are transmitted through close contact with sick animals, inhalation of contaminated aerosols, contact with infectious body secretions, and biting insects and ticks.

The following are some of the potential sources of the disease to susceptible flocks:

- Introduction of infected sheep and goats into the flocks
- Concentration of sheep and goats during transportation and housing
- Sick sheep and goats flocking together during periods of cold temperatures
- Contact with sick sheep and goats at grazing areas and watering points



Concentration of sheep and goats resulting in spread of Sheep and Goat Pox

Clinical Signs of Sheep and Goat Pox

- Animals are stressed and depressed
- They have high body temperatures
- There are swollen lymph nodes
- Nodules appear on the skin
- Tears from the eyes and mucus from the nose
- Hard papules form from the nodules
- Wounds occur and may cover the whole body
- Death may occur at any stage



Papules, nodules and wounds in an infected animal

Detection of Sheep and Goat Pox Viruses

Detection is mainly by;

- Clinical signs
- Laboratory (culture and isolation of viruses, PCR, and electron microscopy)

How to control Sheep and Goat Pox viruses

- Control measures for sheep and goat pox include:
 - Vaccination
 - Quarantine
 - Depopulation of infected and/or exposed animals
- Vaccination is considered an economically feasible way to control the Sheep and Goat to improve small ruminant output.
- Currently, live attenuated sheep and goat pox viral vaccine (S&GVAX™) prepared from the KSGP O-240 and/or KSGP O-180 Kenyan sheep and goat pox strains are used for vaccination of naïve animals.



Recommendation for vaccination of flocks with S&GVAX™