What is Peste des Petits Ruminants "Goats Plague"?

What is PRR?

Pestes des petits ruminants (PPR), also called "Goats plague" is caused by PPR virus. It is an acute infectious and highly contagious viral disease of domestic and wild small ruminants.



What are the signs of PPR?

- Fever (40°C).
- Pneumonia.
- Ocular and nasal discharges.
- Sticking together of eye lids and external nares.
- Rotten and wounded mucous membranes.
- Swelling and redness of gastro-intestinal tract with profuse mucoid and blood tinged diarrhea.
- Mortality and morbidity of 90% and100%, respectively.

How does PPR Spread?

- · Mainly through air droplets from the eye, nose, mouth discharges and faeces.
- · Through beddings, feeds and water troughs.
- Crowding at limited grazing/watering points.
- Introduction of new stock and those returned unsold from livestock market.
- Through the air over long distance without animal movement.

How is PPR prevented

- Avoid entry or exit of animals into a zone or area by strictly following regulations which govern livestock movements (observe quarantine restrictions).
- Avoid wrestling and mixing animals from different areas.
- Control movement of goats and sheep, as to prevent contact between domestic and wild small ruminants.

How is PPR controlled

- Monitor goats and sheep for development of clinical signs and report to area veterinary staff.
- Separate all sick goats from the rest of flock immediately signs of disease are seen.
- PPR has no treatment; may only treat control signs and symptoms.
- Where the disease commonly occurs, farmers should regularly vaccinate all goats and sheep.
- Vaccination should be done using a similar PPR vaccine virus strain, directed at kids and lambs 3-4 months old, due to their high susceptible following reducing maternal immunity.
- Segregate and isolate the sick and unsold returned animals from markets.

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