

CODD: Contagious Ovine Digital Dermatitis

CODD is a highly infectious foot condition of sheep, the incidence of which has increased in recent years. It is associated with *Treponeme* bacteria and begins as an ulcer at the coronary band – where the hoof wall and the skin meet. Upon inspection the lesion may appear small, but it can underpin the hoof capsule to the extent that the entire hoof wall is sloughed. Some important points about CODD are outlined below:

- Highly contagious
- Causes severe lameness, typically affecting one foot
- Accurate diagnosis is necessary for appropriate treatment – antibiotics that are effective for footrot will not treat CODD so consult your vet to discuss treatment
- Consider administration of anti-inflammatories to affected animals
- Infection can be brought-in by purchased animals - quarantine new arrivals
- Outbreaks can occur involving up to 50% of a flock
- Trimming is seldom necessary and can exacerbate the problem by damaging underlying tissue
- Organism can persist in the environment and can be transmitted on gloves or hoof knives (if used) – change gloves and disinfect tools between feet
- Prompt quarantine and treatment reduces the impact of disease
- Risk factors that increase the likelihood of CODD outbreaks include large flock size, lush pasture, and poached ground
- CODD infection levels often peak in the late summer and early autumn
- Footrot can predispose to CODD - control footrot to help in the control of CODD
- Welfare and productivity can be impacted as a result of pain and increased lying times

Once established on a farm, eradication can be difficult but is possible with appropriate biosecurity and prompt quarantine and treatment of cases.



These pictures show some examples of CODD.

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