

ORF (Sore Mouth) Disease

Abattoirs: ORF - SORE MOUTH DISEASE



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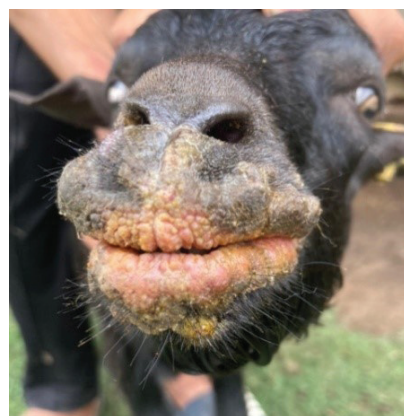
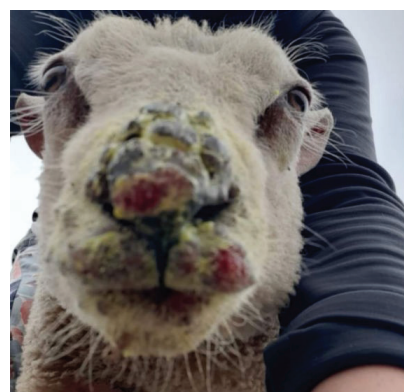
WHAT IS ORF (Contagious Ecthyma)/(Sore Mouth Disease)

- A highly contagious (spreads easily) virus that can affect sheep and goats causing painful sores
- Sores are commonly found on the mouth and muzzle but can also develop on teats and around feet
- Can cause huge financial losses:
 - Animals do not want to eat due to painful mouths leading to condition loss
 - Females with sores on teats abandon their young as suckling is painful
 - Foot sores cause lameness so animals are reluctant to walk for food and water
- **Most importantly for people working with sheep and goats, the virus is ZONOTIC meaning humans can become infected**

Orf in humans



- People can be infected when in contact with infected animals or equipment that has been used on these animals
- It is unlikely the virus is spread from one infected person to another
- People working with animals that show suspected Orf must treat all the animals in the group as infected, even if they do not show any signs of having it as these animals can still spread the virus
- Orf infection in people is usually mild, with one or two sores where direct contact occurred (typically a finger or a hand) and these usually heal on their own within a month or two.
 - However, Orf can be very serious in immuno-compromised people – such as those living with HIV or undergoing cancer treatment
- If you become infected and develop sores, they must be kept dry and covered to prevent them becoming infected with bacteria



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- o If the sore worsens, or you experience severe pain or fever, you must see a doctor
- It is best to prevent yourself from becoming infected with Orf through awareness of what the disease looks like in infected animals and how to protect yourself
- If you suspect Orf, notify those working with you and take precautions:
 - o Wear non-porous or latex gloves
 - o Ensure proper handwashing after contact with animals – hand wash with soap and water for 20 seconds (can also use alcohol-based sanitiser if soap not available)
- It is important to disinfect the premises and equipment if there is a suspected Orf outbreak
 - o Hypochlorite solution readily deactivates the virus but you must clean premises first to remove dirt as this stops the Hypochlorite solution working

Reference:

Spickler, Anna Rovid. Contagious Ecthyma. August 2023.

https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/contagious_ecthyma.pdf

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