

What Disease Does This To Goats?

From this



to this, 12 month later



There is NO treatment and NO vaccine.

But, it is not Johne's disease nor gastro-intestinal parasitism (although it wasting is a common sign and these goats could have these conditions as well as their resistance is reduced). It is – see over

CAPRINE ARTHRITIS ENCEPHALITIS (CAE)

CAE is caused by a slow virus and a member of the retrovirus family (like HIV-AIDS). It is from the subgroup, lentivirus, the same as the sheep disease Maedi Visna (also called Ovine Progressive Pneumonia), which is exotic to Australia and New Zealand. MV/OPP and CAE are so similar that it is suggested both must be controlled at the same time for either eradication programs to succeed and are now both called the Small Ruminant Lentivirus. CAE viruses are attached to monocytes and macrophages (types of white blood cells).

Large numbers of viruses are in inflamed brain, spinal cord, lung, joints, & mammary gland cells of CAE positive goats. Smaller numbers are in uterus, lung, liver, spleen, lymph nodes, lining the vessels of brain, joint linings, intestines, kidneys & thyroid.

Transmission is via bodily fluids. Milk and colostrum are the main sources of infection. Horizontal transmission between dry goats is less likely, but still possible. Positive goats must be kept separate behind solid or double fences. There is very high risk of spread if carrier goats are milking or kidding. A single tiny intra-mammary dose can transmit CAE, so CAE positive goats should be milked last and milking machines well maintained. Overseas, sheep have acted as carriers.

The key message to goat producers is NEVER feed pooled milk to goat kids (unless it is pasteurised first).

Clinical signs take one or more of these following forms:

- Chronic Arthritis which starts as a peri-arthritis and progresses to deformed limbs and wasting
- “Hard Udder” - udder feels like a smooth stone under the skin with only a small amount of milk produced
- Chronic interstitial pneumonia with wasting and difficulty breathing
- Nervous signs (generally in kids)

Clinical signs can be very slow to show up and initially can be very mild e.g. just swollen carpus joints as shown in next photo. Signs increase with increased viral

load in a herd. However many adults goats remain carriers with their virus in their body secretions but do not show signs for years or they may never show signs.

If buying goats only buy from herds that have been tested annually with negative results or keep any new goats isolated on your farm until 2 negative tests 6 months apart or ideally, in a Market Assurance Program.



Further Information

Facebook page – Let’s Eradicate CAE from Australian Goats see <https://www.facebook.com/EradicateCAEInGoats?ref=hl>

Slideshare presentations on CAE

(<http://www.slideshare.net/SandraBaxendell>)

Animal Health Australia site with the Market Assurance Program for CAE

<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/goatmap/>

The Australian National Kid Rearing Plan to prevent CAE and Johne’s disease

<https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/National-Kid-Rearing-Plan-2016.pdf>