

## Diagnostic chart based on disease signs and observations

### Diseases of Sheep & Goats in East Africa

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#### 1. Lead symptom: Died suddenly – animal(s) not seen sick before death

All the diseases below can result in sudden death of sheep & goats. The additional observations listed intend to guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

##### Additional observations:

Esp. young sheep affected, grazing on fresh pasture - short grass	→ Enterotoxaemia
Un-clotted blood oozing out, grazing in dry flood zone	→ Anthrax
Bloat, uncontrolled access to grain (maize or other)	→ Acidosis
Wet conditions, many ticks, often exotic sheep/goats (= European breed)	→ Heart water
Esp. young sheep affected, abrupt change in feed	→ Septicaemic Pasteurellosis
Esp. young sheep in flood zone/swamp, also anaemia & bottle jaw	→ Black Disease/Liver fluke
Grazing after/during rain on/near recently fertilized field	→ Nitrite Poisoning
Only suckling lambs and kids affected	→ Lambs and kids problems

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#### 2. Lead symptom: Coughing and/or pus coming from the nose

All the diseases below can produce respiratory signs in sheep & goats. The additional observations listed will guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

##### Additional observations:

Only goats affected and dying, no sheep with respiratory signs	→ CCP
Climatic stress, all age groups of affected, mostly young animals dying	→ Pneumonic Pasteurellosis
Pox lesions on head and skin, lambs & kids with respiratory disease signs	→ Sheep and Goat Pox
Many sheep & goats affected, also diarrhoea, <b>most adult goats dying!</b>	→ PPR
Feeding normally, pus in the nose, sneezing especially in the morning	→ Nasal Bot Fly
Feeding normally, chronic cough, animals kept in cool highland region	→ Lung Worms
Only young animals affected	→ Pneumonia of the young

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### 3. Lead symptom: Diarrhoea - scouring

All the diseases below can produce diarrhoea in sheep & goats. The additional observations listed will guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

#### Additional observations:

Rainy season, feeding normally, not putting on weight	→ Round-Worms
Also respiratory signs, <b>most adult goats dying!</b>	→ PPR
Newborn lambs/kids all dying, very strong rains, <b>mass abortions</b>	→ Rift Valley Fever
Many sheep (incl. adults) dying from acute diarrhoea, some abortions	→ Salmonellosis
Small number affected, severe respiratory signs, sheep introduced recently	→ Nairobi Sheep Disease
Only lambs and kids affected	→ Diarrhoea of the young
Only in lambs/kids, sporadic colic, no serious scouring, flat worms ("spaghetti") in faeces	→ Tapeworms

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### 4. Lead symptom: Loosing condition and showing a rough coat

With all the diseases listed below sheep & goats can be in very poor condition. The additional observations listed will guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

**Additional observations:**

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|--|---|
| Feeding normally, not dewormed for long, often diarrhoea                             | → Round Worms                             |
| Pale around eyes, weak, feeding normally, sometimes diarrhoea                        | → Blood-sucking Round Worms               |
| Bottle jaw, pale eye membranes, feeding normally, grazing in marsh / near swamp      | → Liver Fluke                             |
| Sleepy, pale membranes (around eyes), kept in humid warm lowlands with Tse-Tse flies | → Trypanosoma                             |
| Feeding normally, dull or abnormally coloured hair coat (pale rings around eyes)     | → Mineral deficiency                      |
| Feeding normally, dull or abnormally coloured hair coat, lambs/kids with swayback    | → <a href="#">Copper deficiency</a>       |
| Ongoing severe respiratory disease problem in goat herd since weeks                  | → CCPP                                    |
| Very thin, drought, animals only have access to very poor quality feed               | → Starvation                              |
| Wet, grazing inside thicket, very high tick load                                     | → Tick worry                              |
| Animals irritated, rubbing/kicking the skin, poor condition, pale eye membranes      | → <a href="#">Lice (mass infestation)</a> |
| Animals itching, rubbing their skin, losing condition, bold skin with dry scabs      | → Mange                                   |

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**5. Lead symptom: [Abortion](#)**

All the diseases below can cause abortions in sheep & goats. The additional observations listed will guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

**Additional observations:**

Many abortions, most foetuses near term, often retained placenta after the abortion	→ Brucellosis
Fresh dead lambs & kids expelled almost on term	→ Enzootic Abortion of Ewes
Sporadic abortions, often with retained placenta, poor herd fertility	→ Q-Fever
Very strong rains, <b>almost all pregnant females abort</b> , new-borns dying	→ Rift Valley Fever
Animals were fed silage	→ Listeriosis
Some sheep with severe diarrhoea, lambs dying	→ Salmonella
Sporadic abortions, dark urine, jaundice around the eyes	→ Leptospirosis

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## 6. Lead symptom: Lameness & Stiffness

With all the diseases listed below sheep & goats can become stiff or go lame. The additional observations listed will guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

### Additional observations:

Many affected, feeding normally, losing condition, smelly lesions on feet	→ Foot Rot
Many affected, fever, salivation	→ Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD)
Few affected, small abscess between the claws	→ untreated injury (thorns)
Many affected and going stiff, swollen face, fever, salivation, crusts around nose	→ Blue Tongue
Stiffness, tremors, spasms, quickly getting worse, stiff tail, animal stands like a sawbuck	→ Tetanus

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## 7. Lead symptom: Lesions and swellings of the skin

All the diseases listed below can produce lesions and swellings on the skin in sheep & goats. The additional observations listed will guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

**Additional observations:**

Pox lesions, scabs and crusts on lips, mouth and on the head, only in the young	→ Orf
Pox lesions, scabs/crusts on lips head and on whole skin, pneumonia in young	→ Sheep & Goat Pox
Open wound with pus, swelling oozing pus, hot painful swelling	→ Wounds and Abscesses
Swelling oozing smelly liquid or pus, contains small larva, attracts flies, sheep/goat very sick	→ Fly Strike
Animals in poor condition, itching and rubbing, losing hair, bold skin, loose crusts	→ Mange
Itching / rubbing, losing hair, bold/rough skin, loose crusts ONLY on limbs and scrotum	→ Foot Mange
One or two lymph-glands hard and swollen, contain dry or creamy pus	→ <a href="#">Pseudotuberculosis</a>
Round hairless skin lesions with crusting, sheep/goat housed together with cattle	→ Ringworm

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**8. Lead symptom: Lesions inside the mouth and on the head**

All the diseases listed below can produce lesions inside the mouth, on the lips or on the skin of the head in sheep & goats. The additional observations listed will guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

**Additional observations:**

Pox lesions, scabs and crusts on lips, mouth and head, only in the young	→ Orf
Pox lesions, scabs/crusts on lips head and on skin, pneumonia in the young	→ Sheep & Goat Pox
Lameness, fever, salivation	→ Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD)
Stiffness / lameness, swollen face, salivation, crusts around nose and eyes	→ Bluetongue

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## 9. Lead symptom: Paralysis / abnormal movement & behaviour / circling

With all the diseases listed below sheep & goats can be paralysed or show abnormal movement and behaviour. The additional observations listed will guide you towards the most likely causes - but do not allow for confirmation of any particular disease. To get more information please follow links below.

### Additional observations:

Mostly single animal affected, circling movement	→ Hydatid cysts
Mostly single animal affected, <b>paralysis</b> (most common sign!), also hypersexual behaviour	→ Rabies
Group affected, coordination problems, circling movement, paddling on side before death	→ Heart water
Group affected, fed on silage, tilted head, drooping ear, circling movement, abortions	→ Listeriosis
Lambs/kids show trembling twitching and swayback, adults with pale/dull hair	→ <a href="#">Copper deficiency</a>
Stiffness, tremors, spasms, quickly getting worse, stiff tail, animal stands like a sawbuck	→ Tetanus