Diagnostic chart based on disease signs and observations

Diseases of Sheep & Goats in East Africa

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
Bloot, 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

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 \(\rightarrow\) CCPP

Climatic stress, all age groups of affected, mostly young animals dying \(\rightarrow\) Pneumonic Pasteurellosis

Pox lesions on head and skin, lambs & kids with respiratory disease signs \(\rightarrow\) Sheep and Goat Pox

Many sheep & goats affected, also diarrhoea, **most adult goats dying!** \(\rightarrow\) PPR

Feeding normally, pus in the nose, sneezing especially in the morning \(\rightarrow\) Nasal Bot Fly

Feeding normally, chronic cough, animals kept in cool highland region \(\rightarrow\) Lung Worms

Only young animals affected \(\rightarrow\) 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 \(\rightarrow\) Round-Worms

Also respiratory signs, **most adult goats dying!** \(\rightarrow\) PPR

Newborn lambs/kids all dying, very strong rains, **mass abortions** \(\rightarrow\) Rift Valley Fever

Many sheep (incl. adults) dying from acute diarrhoea, some abortions \(\rightarrow\) Salmonellosis

Small number affected, severe respiratory signs, sheep introduced recently \(\rightarrow\) Nairobi Sheep Disease

Only lambs and kids affected \(\rightarrow\) Diarrhoea of the young

Only in lambs/kids, sporadic colic, no serious scouring, flat worms (“spaghetti”) in faeces \(\rightarrow\) 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:

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 → Copper deficiency
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 → Lice (mass infestation)
Animals itching, rubbing their skin, losing condition, bold skin with dry scabs → Mange

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, almost all pregnant females abort, 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 → Pseudotuberculosis

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
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, **paralysis** (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 ➔ Copper deficiency
- Stiffness, tremors, spasms, quickly getting worse, stiff tail, animal stands like a sawbuck ➔ Tetanus