



Farm Veterinary Solutions

# OVINE PULMONARY ADENOCARCINOMA

# (OPA)

## FACT SHEET

### Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA) is an iceberg disease.

This means that the scale of the disease is not visible to us as a clinical problem such as a case of mastitis or lameness.

OPA is caused by a cancer causing virus. It is very contagious mainly affecting adult animals. It is characterised by weight loss, breathlessness, clear nasal discharge, increased cases of pneumonia and apparent sudden death. Affected animals will often die within 3 months of clinical signs - made worse by secondary infection.

### Transmission

- Primarily OPA is transmitted via the air through inhaling infective respiratory droplets.
- Close contact at housing and trough feeding provides ideal conditions for the virus to spread.
- The virus can also be spread from ewe to lamb via milk or colostrum.

### Prevention and Management



Maintaining good stock boundaries between neighbours.



Source replacements from OPA free flocks or scanning lungs prior to introduction.



Snatch lambing to prevent transmission through colostrum.



Keep housing times and stocking densities to a minimum.

### Diagnostics and Treatment

Unfortunately there is NO treatment or vaccination for the disease. It is best to euthanise any positive animals on welfare grounds.

Wheelbarrow test (UNDER VET SUPERVISION ONLY).

Ultrasound scan of the lungs.

No blood test is available.

Post mortem of affected animals.



To read more about OPA and iceberg diseases in sheep!



SCAN ME

Contact us:  
01664 567481  
farmteam@rutlandvets.co.uk