

Goat and Sheep: Disease eradication in Switzerland



Swiss Extension and Health service of small ruminants
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Swiss Extension & Health
service of
small ruminants



- ⌘ Co-operative of farmers with small ruminants
- ⌘ Departments for sheep, dairy sheep, goats and deer on farms
- ⌘ Number of members: 7'000
- ⌘ It was founded for CAE-controlling

Goat and sheep farmers in Switzerland

Sheep and goat production plays a rather small role in our agriculture

	Sheep	Goats
Average flock size	12 ewes	7 goats
Total head of	421 000	62 000

Goat keeping:
epidemiological
important facts



- ⌘ Goats are kept extensively
- ⌘ Alpine farming in summer
- ⌘ Alpine pastures are co-operatives
- ⌘ Bucks are often shared
- ⌘ Trading is a hobby with farmers

Nera Verzasca

Disease eradication in Switzerland

The state veterinary services are responsible for disease control

- ⌘ CAE is a disease to be eradicated
- ⌘ Pseudotuberculosis (CLA) and Paratuberculosis are a disease under surveillance


Paratuberculosis

- ⌘ No in-depth information
- ⌘ Not many clinical cases



Appenzell

Pseudo-tuberculosis



- ⚡ **10% of the goats have clinical findings**
- ⚡ **No serology available**
- ⚡ **To prevent the spreading: Flock certification based on clinical examination**
- ⚡ **Yearly visits, bacteriological confirmation**

Chevre bottee

Caprine arthritis-encephalitis

Achievements of the control programme

	In flocks	In goats	Clinical cases
Around 1985	98 %	85 %	32 %
2001	1.0 %	0.3 %	0 %

Control measures in CAE

- ⚡ **If necessary artificial rearing of kids**
- ⚡ **CAE-positive flocks / goats are culled**
- ⚡ **Strict regulations for trading**
- ⚡ **Regular testing and CAE-negative flocks after 3 years**
- ⚡ **Certificate for CAE-negative flocks**

Control measures in CAE

CAE is a disease to be eradicated


1985 - 1991	Voluntary controlling in regions
1991 - 1997	Voluntary controlling nation-wide
After 1998	Compulsory controlling nation-wide

Guidelines in the eradication

- ⚡ **Instructions in the ordinance on animal diseases**
 - Since 1995
- ⚡ **Technical instructions and interpretation of results**
 - Instructions available since 1999

Emerging problems (I)

- ⚡ **On behalf of goat owners**
 - Small farmers ignore their duty
 - Not all goats can be reached (e.g. pygmy goats)



Bündner Strahlen

Emerging problems (II)

- ⌘ **On behalf of veterinarians:**
 - Blood sampling
 - Animal identification
 - Interpretation of test results

Testing for CAE

- ⌘ **ELISA as screening test in 14 laboratories**
 - Chekit CAE/MVV ELISA (Dr. Bommeli AG, Bern)
- ⌘ **Confirmation in the reference laboratory**
 - Immunoblot (Western Blot)
 - Institute of veterinary virology, university of Bern

Emerging problems (III)

- ⌘ **On behalf of the test systems:**
 - Undetermined test results
 - CAE-positive – CAE-negative

Problems with re-infections

- ⌘ **CAE-positive goats in long-time negative flocks**
- ⌘ **Enormous infections after 2 exhibitions**



Pfau or Peacock

Will the Swiss goats get CAE-free?



Saanen