

EXOTIC

Sheep pox and goat pox

Fact sheet

Introductory statement

Sheep pox and goat pox are **not found** in Australia. They are highly contagious viral diseases, often with a high mortality rate.

Both diseases are caused by members of the *Capripox* virus genus, similar to the virus that causes lumpy skin disease in cattle.

Sheep pox and goat pox are generally specific to sheep and goats, respectively, but strains from some areas have been reported to affect both species. The viruses are very resistant to inactivation in the environment and insects may be involved in spreading them.

Should these diseases be introduced, feral goats could be involved in maintaining the disease in some areas of Australia.

If you suspect a case of sheep pox or goat pox you should immediately call the free **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline (1800 675 888)**.

References and other information

The latest information on sheep pox and goat pox is available from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) website:

www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Health_in_the_World/docs/pdf/Disease_cards/SHEEP_GOAT_POX.pdf and www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/2.07.13_S_POX_G_POX.pdf

OIE detection, reporting and control measures (2017) are located at:

www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_sheep_pox_goat_pox.htm

The Disease Strategy for the control and eradication of sheep pox and goat pox, version 3.1, 2011 is available as part of the AUSVETPLAN series. Wildlife considerations as part of response are addressed in the WARS AUSVETPLAN. Both can be found at: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/

Information available on distribution and abundance of feral goats in Australia can be accessed at www.pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/West2008_3.pdf.

Acknowledgments

This sheet summarises information available in the WARS AUSVETPLAN:

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/

We are grateful to those who have had input into this plan and Animal Health Australia who maintain the plan. The full AUSVETPLAN is available at: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/.

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To provide feedback on this fact sheet

Wildlife Health Australia would be very grateful for any feedback on this fact sheet. Please provide detailed comments or suggestions to admin@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au. We would also like to hear from you if you have a particular area of expertise and would like to produce a fact sheet (or sheets) for the network (or update current sheets). A small amount of funding is available to facilitate this.

Disclaimer

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