

AN OUTBREAK OF PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS IN A GOAT FLOCK

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Received: 17.03.2013; Accepted: 07.05.2013

SUMMARY

An outbreak of PPR was investigated at a private organized goat farm in the month of March-April. A total of 120 goats were affected and of these, 5 goats died in three days. All the affected animals showed signs of stomatitis, ocular-nasal discharge and diarrhoea. Post mortem lesions included typical zebra striped haemorrhages in large intestine.

Key words: PPR, Goats, Rajasthan

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is an acute or sub-acute viral disease of goats and sheep and is characterized by fever, necrotic stomatitis, gastroenteritis and pneumonia. In India, the disease was first reported in sheep in Tamil Nadu (Shaila *et al.*, 1989). Later on, the disease has been reported from other states of the country viz. Orissa (Nayak *et al.*, 1997), Andhra Pradesh (Anjaneyalu and James, 1999), Uttar Pradesh (Kumar *et al.*, 2001), Punjab (Dhand *et al.*, 2002), West Bengal (Jana and Ghosh, 2002), Haryana (Jindal *et al.*, 2005) and other states as well. An outbreak of PPR in Rajasthan in a goat flock having Sirohi breed is reported.

The disease was characterized by sudden onset at the farm. The affected animals were dull, depressed and had high fever (104°F to 106°F). In addition, there was ocular-nasal discharge and diarrhoea. Due to diarrhoea, the affected animals were weak and dehydrated, and were unable to move properly. In the flock, 120 animals were affected and of these five animals died. Post-mortem examination revealed zebra markings in the intestines. The lungs were congested and there were erosions in the buccal cavity. The carcasses were dehydrated. Severely affected goats were mostly more than two years of age. The affected animals were segregated from the apparently healthy animals. More or less similar clinical findings have earlier been reported (Nayak *et al.*, 1997; Anjaneyalu and James, 1999; Dhand *et al.*, 2002; Jana and Ghosh, 2002; Jindal *et al.*, 2005).

A presumptive diagnosis of PPR was made on

the basis of clinical findings and necropsy. The disease was confirmed by the identification of virus from blood sample and nasal discharge swabs by the Apex Centre Veterinary College, Bikaner. Symptomatic treatment was given in affected animals for 3-5 days for prevention of secondary bacterial infection with antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drugs. After 5-7 days, there was no mortality in the affected animals. The owner was advised to vaccinate their animals on routine basis against PPR.

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