

CAPRINE ARTHRITIS- ENCEPHALITIS



Arthritis-encephalitis

- ▣ Caprine arthritis-encephalitis virus (CAE) is a single-stranded, icosahedral, RNA virus of the family *Retroviridae* and the sub-family *Lentivirinae*.
- ▣ It is a retroviral infection which may lead to chronic disease of the joints and on occasions encephalitis in goat kids that are less than six months of age.

Spread of the Virus

- ▣ The CAE virus is associated with white blood cells, therefore any biological material which contain white blood cells are potential sources of infection to other goats in the herd.
- ▣ Breeding of infected with non-infected goats can also spread the disease.

Signs of Infection

- ▣ There are five major symptoms associated with CAE including arthritis, encephalitis, interstitial pneumonia, mastitis, and progressive weight loss.

Testing for Virus

- ▣ To test for CAE simply gather (it is recommended though not required for a vet to gather the samples) a sample from the suspected carrier and mail it to a lab for testing.
- ▣ Not all goats that become infected with CAE virus progress to disease

Treatment

- ▣ Currently there are no existing treatments or vaccinations for CAE.
- ▣ Typically infected animals are culled from the herd.

Prevention

- ▣ Most recommend maintaining a closed herd status. All animals should be tested for CAE every 6 months beginning at 6 months of age.

Sources

- ▣ <http://www.vet.uga.edu/VPP/clerk/logan/index.php>
- ▣ <http://www.goatworld.com/articles/cae/cae-waddl.shtml>