

# Scours

Sheep and Goats.

# Symptoms

Scours shouldn't be considered an illness in itself, but rather a symptom of a more serious illness.

- Increased fluidity of fecal excretion.
- Increased frequency of fecal excretion.
- Increased volume of fecal excretion.
- Feces may contain blood or mucus.



# Causes

Diarrhea in sheep and goats is a complex, multi-factorial disease involving the animal, the environment, nutrition, and infectious agents.

## Infectious causes of diarrhea in sheep and lambs

<b>Bacterial</b>	<i>E. coli</i> <i>Salmonella sp.</i> <i>Clostridium perfringens</i>
<b>Viral</b>	Rotavirus Coronavirus
<b>Protozoa</b>	Cryptosporidia Coccidia ( <i>Eimeria sp.</i> ) <i>Giardia sp.</i>

## Non-infectious causes (or contributing factors)

<b>Parasitic</b>	Gastro-intestinal worms (not <i>Haemonchus</i> )
<b>Nutritional</b>	Dietary changes Overfeeding Simple indigestion Inadequate consumption of colostrum Poor quality colostrum Poor quality or stagnant water Lush or wet pasture Plant and fungal toxins Allergies
<b>Management (Poor environment)</b>	Overstocking / overcrowding Poor sanitation
<b>Stress</b>	Weaning Handling

# Treatment

- Take animals temperature to determine if fever is present.
- Administer fluids and electrolytes to rehydrate the animal.
- Can orally dose Pepto-Bismol, Kaopectate for non-infectious causes of scours
- Probiotics such as ProBios can be administered to help treat scours.
- For bacterial causes, antibiotics such as oxytetracycline, penicillin can be used.

