

AN OUTBREAK OF ACUTE HELMINTHOSIS IN A SHEEP AND GOAT FARM IN MACHAKOS COUNTY

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ABSTRACT

An outbreak suspected to be acute helminthosis in a sheep and goat farm in Machakos County was reported to the Faculty of Veterinary medicine clinic in Kabete. A total of 34 sheep and 12 goats had died within a period of two months prior to intervention. Clinical examination of the animals was carried out and rectal faecal samples collected for egg per gram of faeces (EPG) counts. After confirming the level of helminthosis, rectal faecal samples were collected from 20 sheep and goats before and after treatment for EPG counts and also for culture to identify the strongyle larval stage three (L₃). The animals were then dewormed using Closantel and Oxfendazole combination. The major clinical signs noted were diarrhea, pale mucous membrane, submandibular edema and dyspnoea. The mean EPG counts for sheep and goats sampled before treatment was 1380 and 830 respectively. The worms identified after culturing were *Haemonchus* (65%), *Trichostrongylus* (25%) and *Oesophagostomum* (10%). The EPG counts in all the animals were reduced to 0 on day 13 post treatment. It is concluded that helminthosis is still a major challenge and could be fatal and therefore the need to evaluate the control methods.

Key words: Machakos, Helminthosis, closantel, Oxfendazole, EPG