

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Cornell Sheep Flock

JOINT (Navel) ILL

Signs

- Lambs 1 to 4 weeks old, occasionally older (polyarthritis)
- Lameness in one or more limbs
- May walk with stiff gait or arched back
- May carry a leg
- Joints may be swollen and warm
- Fever may be present (>104_ F)
- May appear unthrifty if anorexic or not competing for milk
- Often secondary to navel infection
- Vertebral body abscess may appear similar; same treatment
- Distinguish from a fracture (inappropriate movement or crunching, usually carries the leg) - see fracture SOP

Treatment

- Antibiotics as soon as signs noticed, unless imminent slaughter. Treat with only one antibiotic at a time, unless instructed by vet
- Penicillin:
 - 1 mL subcutaneously daily for 5-10 days especially if pus at the navel
 - 14 day withdrawal
- Oxytetracycline (Biomycin, 200 mg/mL):
 - 1 mL subcutaneously on abdomen or neck daily for 3 to 5 days
 - 1 mL per 20 pounds especially for older lambs with polyarthritis
 - 30 day withdrawal
- Flurfenicol (Nuflor, 300 mg/ml):
 - 1 mL per 25 pounds subcutaneously daily for 5-7 days
 - 30 day withdrawal
- If not better by next weekly vet visit, have veterinarian evaluate the lamb

Prevention

- Provide clean bedding in lambing area and jugs
- Dip navels in iodine to limit navel ill