

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Cornell Sheep Flock

LAMENESS

Mild cases (e.g., foreign body in hoof, minor twisting of a toe)

1. Farm personnel will identify the cause of lameness and will try to eliminate causative agent if possible.
2. Sheep will be marked to facilitate observation and placed in a small pen with other sheep of similar size and sex to reduce stress associated with isolation. Animals on pasture will become more stressed if chased around to be gathered and brought into isolation than if left on pasture, so in mild cases they will be left on pasture and checked regularly to see the evolution of the condition.
3. A note will be made on the records to identify the presence of a lame animal with an indication of where this animal can be found.
4. The principal investigator will be notified if the animal is on a specific research trial.
5. In any case, affected sheep will be observed for 24 to 48 hours for evolution of the condition.
6. If the animal is recuperated within that period of time it will be returned to the flock or to the experimental project.
7. If there is no improvement after 24 to 48 hours, the animal will be culled to slaughter or euthanized on site, or a veterinarian will be contacted for diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

Severe cases (e.g., leg fractures, swollen joints)

1. Farm personnel will identify the cause of lameness and will try to eliminate causative agent if possible.
2. Weaned lambs occasionally develop stiffness and mild joint swelling. This condition will be treated by trained farm personnel with *Biomycin-200* (1 to 3 treatments with 5 cc per 100 lbs SQ every other day). If there is no improvement in 3 days, a veterinarian will be contacted for assistance, or if the animal is severely lame it will be euthanized. The veterinarian will evaluate the condition of treated lambs at the next scheduled visit.
3. If a clean fracture with intact skin affects the lower leg, trained farm personnel will splint the limb as per the instructions of the clinical veterinarian. If the condition of this animal worsens with time, it will be culled to slaughter, euthanized or a veterinarian will be contacted. Otherwise, the veterinarian will evaluate this animal at the next weekly visit.
4. Fractures high in the limbs are harder to splint, and in these and other cases of more severe fractures the animal will be euthanized immediately or a veterinarian will be contacted. Sheep with severe fractures will not be shipped to slaughter unless splinted.
5. Foot abscesses and foot rot are initially treated by paring the foot by trained farm personnel. If the animal is not shipped to slaughter or euthanized immediately it will be given Penicillin G (5 cc per 100 lbs SQ daily for 3 to 5 days) or *Biomycin 200* (1 to 3 treatments with 5 cc per 100 lbs SQ every other day). If a joint is infected, toe amputation may be warranted and it will be performed by veterinary staff. The clinical veterinarian will evaluate the condition of these animals at the next weekly visit.
6. In any case, sheep will be placed in isolation in a small pen. In some cases it might be counterproductive to place a companion sheep in the same area, but all attempts will be made to have the affected sheep placed in visual and olfactory contact with other sheep. .

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Nursing lambs with splinted fractures will remain with their dams and in a group pen if moving well.

7. A note will be made on the records to identify the presence of a lame animal with an indication of where this animal can be found.
8. The principal investigator will be notified if the animal is on a specific research trial.
9. In any other cases not described here, the sheep will be euthanized immediately or a veterinarian will be consulted for diagnosis and treatment recommendations.