

Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma

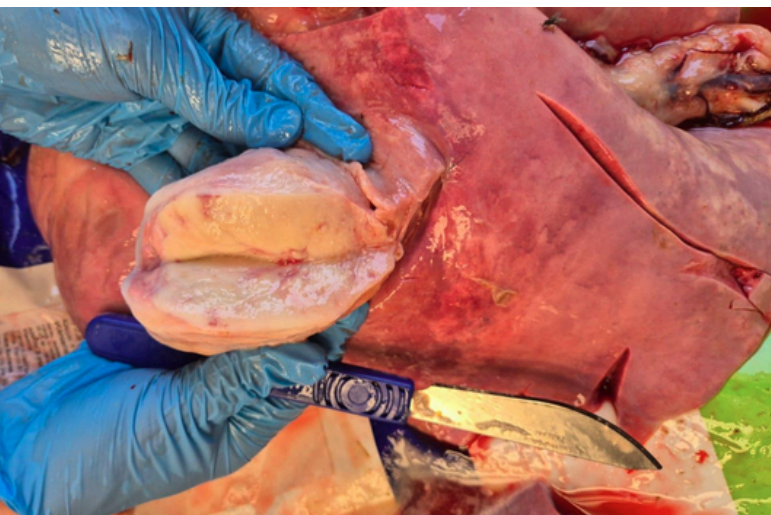
Ovine pulmonary adenocarcinoma (OPA, also known as Jaagsiekte) is an infectious and fatal lung disease of sheep, first recognised over 200 years ago. It is caused by a retrovirus, which infects cells in the lungs causing slow growing tumours. Due to the nature of the virus, there is a long incubation period between infection and disease. Therefore, the number of animals in a flock that are infected may be much greater than the number that develop clinical signs of disease.

Clinical signs of OPA include a loss of condition, exercise intolerance, respiratory difficulty and in some cases a clear or frothy discharge from the nose of affected individuals. This fluid originates from the lungs and can be highly infectious. It is spread through the air by inhalation of the virus or direct contact with infected respiratory secretions.

Affected sheep may survive for weeks after showing signs of the disease or may die suddenly (often due to secondary bacterial infection). Along with primary issues the disease can also cause secondary production losses such as reduced fertility and is typically termed an 'iceberg disease'. Losses in affected flocks can range from 1-20%.

One of the challenges facing the industry is the difficulty in diagnosing and controlling the disease. Due to animal movements it can be commonly introduced to flocks in apparently healthy animals which are infectious, but not yet showing clinical signs.

Definitive diagnosis is made on postmortem examination and histopathology of infected lung tissue. Suspected animals should be isolated to avoid any further spread of disease.



Transthoracic ultrasound scanning of lungs can be used to detect individuals with lung tumours before they start showing symptoms of OPA, however this is not exclusive to OPA (and will detect lung issues caused by other diseases). There is no blood test available, however there is ongoing research into improving diagnostics for OPA.

There is no available treatment and affected animals should be culled. Flock management methods, including 'test and cull' based on ultrasound scanning is currently the best available approach for control.

If you wish to discuss this or any other flock health issue, please do not hesitate to contact the Farm Office on 01889 567200 and you can discuss it with a member of the team.

GLENTHORNE
Farm Vets

WARMLY INVITE YOU TO OUR
CHRISTMAS PARTY

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
7:30PM

HOG ROAST - LICENSED BAR - MINCE PIES
- CHRISTMAS CHEER -

Hanbury Memorial Hall,
Anslow Road, Hanbury
DE13 8TJ

Please RSVP to the Farm Office
on 01889 567200

AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATE

Following a sharp increase in cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) across the UK, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has confirmed that a mandatory housing order is in place. The new order applies to all bird keepers — whether you run a large commercial poultry unit or keep a few hens in your garden.

Over recent weeks, avian influenza has been detected in wild birds and domestic flocks across multiple regions, particularly along migration routes and wetland areas. To limit contact between wild birds and kept flocks, DEFRA, together with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), has made bird housing a legal requirement across England, Scotland, and Wales.

From 30th October, all poultry and captive birds must be kept indoors, or otherwise fully enclosed to prevent any contact with wild birds. Poultry keepers must ensure:

- Birds are kept in secure housing, such as sheds, barns, or covered runs
- Feed and water are provided indoors or under solid cover to avoid contamination
- Outdoor areas are netted or roofed to prevent wild bird access
- Biosecurity standards are maintained — including cleaning and disinfecting housing, equipment, and footwear regularly

The housing order forms part of the ongoing Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ), meaning all existing biosecurity requirements remain in force. Failure to comply with the housing order or biosecurity rules can lead to enforcement action, including fines or movement restrictions.



Be vigilant for symptoms of avian influenza, which can include:

- Sudden or unexplained deaths
- Swelling of the head, comb, or wattles
- A drop in egg production or misshapen eggs
- Coughing, sneezing, or nasal discharge
- Lethargy, loss of appetite, or diarrhoea

If you suspect bird flu in your flock, you must report it immediately by calling the DEFRA Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.

Do not move birds, products, or equipment off your premises until advised by an APHA officer.

We need your help!

As part of our ongoing efforts to increase clinical records and to comply with RCVS regulations we are striving to ensure all our client details and information are up to date. With the use of VetImpress on our vets tablets we can document individual animal treatments, however for this information to be downloaded from BCMS we need your CTS web services username and password. These are in the following format:

CTS web services username -
9 digits in the format 123-456-789
(not to be confused with your 11 digit gov gateway ID used to log into the CTS site)

CTS web services password -
7 digit password in the format nLLnLLn
(n=number, L=capital letter)

If you manage to find this information, please pass it to one of our vets or into the Farm Office and we can add it onto our systems.

CTSonline
the easy way to check and report your cattle information



British Cattle
Movement Service

DIRECT DEBIT

Sign up to pay by direct debit and automate your payment process – saving you time, effort and money. You have freedom to choose your payment date for total control.

★ DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ★

10% NSAIDs (Metacam, Ketofen)

10% BVD, Lepto, IBR vaccines

10% Respiratory Vaccines

10% Orbeseal

For more information please speak to Grace in the Farm Office on 01889 567200.
Terms and conditions apply

