

TECHNICAL INFORMATION UPDATE



Vaccination against Pulpy Kidney – Sheep & Goats

Pulpy Kidney (enterotoxaemia) is a disease that can cause sudden death in sheep and goats. It often affects animals in good body condition and can be difficult to diagnose. Vaccination is an important tool in the prevention of deaths due to Pulpy Kidney disease.

What is Pulpy Kidney disease?

Pulpy Kidney disease generally presents as sudden death. Occasionally excitement, in-coordination and convulsions may be observed prior to death. Multiple animals may be affected, often the heaviest animals in a mob.



What causes the disease?

The disease is caused by the bacteria *Clostridium perfringens* Type D and the toxin it produces. The bacteria and toxin can exist in small amounts in the gut of healthy animals. Normal movement of material through the intestine keeps the levels of bacteria and toxin very low so that no disease occurs.

Factors that alter the environment in the gut may allow these bacteria to multiply rapidly and produce high levels of toxin, resulting in disease and death.

What are the risk factors?

Sudden changes in the amount or quality of feed, such as introduction to lush pasture or grain-based diets, can alter the gut environment and allow the bacteria and toxin to proliferate. Pulpy Kidney is therefore most likely to occur during periods of rapid pasture growth and high feed availability.

Managing the risk

There is no treatment for Pulpy Kidney disease so prevention is critical.

The first defence against Pulpy Kidney is to avoid those situations that can contribute to bacterial growth and toxin production within the animal, such as a sudden change in diet. In practice these situations may be difficult to avoid during normal farm management practices.

Thus vaccination against Pulpy Kidney is an important, and practical, tool in the management of this disease.



Vaccination

Zoetis offers a range of vaccines for the prevention of Pulpy Kidney disease in sheep and goats.

- **Glanvac 3**
- **Glanvac 6**
- **Ultravac 5in1** (not registered for use in goats)

In previously unvaccinated animals, a primary course of two vaccinations, 4-6 weeks apart, is required, followed by annual boosters.

In areas where the risk of this disease is known to be high, annual booster vaccinations are required to maintain protection.

Where possible, these booster doses should be given approximately 14 days prior to the time of maximum risk, for example transfer to lush pasture or grain feeding.

The risk of Pulpy Kidney disease will vary depending on farm management practices. Contact your local Zoetis Representative, Zoetis Technical Services or your local veterinarian for specific advice to suit your situation and level of risk.

Both Glanvac and Ultravac can be used for up to 30 days after opening (see label for storage instructions).



For further advice, please contact Zoetis on 1800 814 883.

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