

Onderwerp: Footrot Sheep

Problem: Footrot

Summary: Footrot is caused by bacteria named *Bacteroides nodosus* and *Fusobacterium necrophorum*. *Bacteroides nodosus* is more relevant with sheep and cause lameness caused by an interdigital infection.

Symptoms: The feet are warm and painful, it produces a smell like rotten meat, the horn layer of the claws can loosen and in a further phase of infection, the new horn is of low quality. Maggots are commonly found in footrot lesions in warm environments. These are little 'worms', about 2-3 cm long and live from, for example, death meat and feces. But they will probably never appear alone, but always with at least 10 maggots.

Therapy/Advice: The weather is of great influence, wet surroundings are favourable conditions for the bacteria. So important preventive measures are dry and clean environments (as much as possible), regular claw-trimming (the feet must be trimmed down to the healthy tissue, bleeding may occur) and spraying with disinfectant afterwards. Bathing is probably the most effective method. Copper sulphate (20% solution) or 10% zinc sulfate (!) can be used daily (but you can do it every two weeks for example) for bathing. Formalin (10%) can also be used as a bath, but not daily because of irritation to the foot.

Trefwoorden: Footrot, maggots, interdigital infection