

Managing Footrot

FOR SMALL RUMINANTS

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Signs of Footrot

- Lameness
- Pain & discomfort in hoof area
- Reddened or inflamed tissue between the toes
- Foul smell around hoof area
- Small ruminant grazing on knees
- Lying down for extended amounts of time

What Causes Footrot?

- A bacteria commonly found in wet soil conditions when mud & manure have been allowed to accumulate
- Highly contagious in wet or moist areas where animals congregate
- Infected animal spreading it to the herd or flock

How to Treat Footrot ?

- Call your local veterinarian to see what type of antibiotic they would recommend
- Foot bathing (Zinc & Sulfate Solution) for up to 15 minutes to dry the hoof tissue
- Separate the animals that are infected from the rest of the herd or flock

How to Prevent Footrot?

- Provide drainage of water in pastures or paddocks
- Pasture rotation
- Practice regular hoof trimming
- Quarantine new animals
- Buy animals from reputable breeders



Surveillance of Footrot

- Keep a close observation of livestock during wet seasons
- Do not buy any sheep or goats with footrot
- Quarantine new livestock for at least 30 days
- Trimming hooves 1 to 2 times per year
- Talk with your veterinarian if you see signs of footrot



How to Eradicate Footrot?

- Keep areas where livestock congregate high and dry
- Remove animals with signs of footrot from other livestock
- Enforce strict biosecurity protocols when introducing new livestock to herd or flock

