

LTS019-Poster

Lameness in Sheep: Frequency, Risk Factors, and Effect of Season and Management Type

\*Azizi S., Tehrani AA, Dalir Naghade B.

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Urmia University, Urmia, Iran

E-mail: sazizim@gmail.com

Sheep farming is one the main animal husbandry activities concerning rural and tribal communities in Urmia. Extensive areas of this region are under intense sheep farming in transhumance system. Locomotor soundness is vital for effective grazing, animal production and reproductive efficiency in this livestock. The importance of the lameness in these animals is not yet clearly defined. The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence of lameness as a function of season and husbandry type among sheep in Urmia and also to describe contributing agents in this regards as well. This study was carried on 9934 sheep including 28 flocks in semi-migratory and 18 flock in systems. Sheep were visited during summer and winter and locomotion scores were assigned to all adults/yearlings. The clinical findings were recorded in a self-administrated questionnaire. The rate of lameness was 13.05% during the winter and 9.21% during the summer among sheep in system. Also, its prevalence was 11.12% during the winter and 7.18% during the summer among sheep in semi-migratory system; these values were significantly different. The mean prevalence of the lameness due to foot rot and hoof overgrowth in winter were significantly higher than the rate of those in summer. But the rate of interdigital pouch abscess in summer was significantly higher than its rate in winter. The results suggested that the prevalence of lameness is high among sheep in Urmia and that lameness prevalence could be influenced by season and husbandry types. Lameness should be taken in to account for the most important welfare issues affecting the sheep production.

**Key words:** Lameness, Sheep



2nd International Symposium of  
Veterinary Surgery (ISVS)

21 -24 April 2008

Kerman - Iran

دومین سمپوزیوم

بین المللی جراحی دامپزشکی

کerman - ۵ - ۲ اردیبهشت ماه ۸۷