

Health and Disease Issues

Urea poisoning

Predisposing Factors:

Ingestion of excessive amounts of urea in blocks, in mixed feed, or when sheep drink pools of water on the top of urea blocks after rain. Excessive rumen ammonia is absorbed through the rumen wall into the blood stream, leading to paralysis of the muscles and brain. This condition is usually fatal.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Abdominal pain,
- Nervous signs
- Excess salivation
- Sudden death.

Control and Prevention:

Ensure that urea is mixed thoroughly with feed when used as a supplement. Keep blocks out of the rain in sheltered areas to ensure excessive intake cannot be achieved through drinking water pooled on top the block.

Treatment:

Not usually successful.

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