

CAE/OPP

ABOUT: Maedi-visna virus (MVV) infection of sheep is characterized by slowly progressive arthritis, pneumonia, mastitis, and encephalomyelitis. MVV infection is found all over the world. This classification also includes Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Virus (CAEV), which manifests itself in adult goats mainly in the form of severe arthritis of the Carpal Joint ("Big Knee").

SYMPTOMS: Animals with CAEV become emaciated despite an intact appetite and show poor milk yield.

PREVENTION: An effective vaccination does not exist. For this reason, eradication programs are based on colostrum deprivation, separation, and serological detection of infected animals.

GETTING TESTED: Sheep and goat's blood can be tested for this disease. At least 3 mL of whole blood should be collected in a "red top" vacuum tube. Samples should be refrigerated after collection and be shipped with an ice pack and tested within 2 weeks of the collection date.

CAE samples are processed and results are reported on Tuesday.

