

MORBIDITY IN SHEEP AND GOATS OF SOUTH-WESTERN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study was designed to determine common clinical signs, proportion of morbid animals, and associations between socio-economic features of stock keepers, age and sex of animals, and level of morbidity in sheep and goats in three local government areas (LGAs) of south-western Nigeria. Fifty sheep and goat keepers were purposively selected in each of the three LGAs, namely, *Odeda*, *Abeokuta North*, and *Abeokuta South*. Structured interview guide was administered to elicit information on socio-economic characteristics of stock keepers, information on herd management, age, sex and clinical signs of the animals. Clinical signs observed and proportions of morbid animals were expressed in percentages. Chi square test was used to establish associations between socio-economic characteristics of keepers, age and sex of animals, and the level of morbidity in the herds. Clinical signs observed, in order of incidence, were fever (rectal temperature $>39.5^{\circ}\text{C}$), rough coat, anorexia, diarrhoea, nasal discharge, alopecia, lameness, pale mucous membrane, bloody discharge, abscesses, foot rot, and convulsion. Of the 369 sheep and 936 goats studied, 12% and 8% were morbid, respectively, exhibiting one or a combination of the clinical signs. Significant relationship ($P < 0.05$) was observed between the age of goats and level of morbidity in Odeda LGA, with young goats (< 48 weeks of age) being more morbid than adults. Male keepers had lower morbidity ($P < 0.05$) in their herd in Abeokuta South LGA. The results of this study revealed the incidence of various endemic diseases in the study area, and the susceptibility of young goats to infection. The clinical signs observed could be related to the incidence of Pestis des petit ruminant (PPR), Enterotoxaemia, Sheep pox, Coccidiosis, Mange, Gastrointestinal, or External parasites. Male keepers may be more efficient in the health management of their stock resulting in lower morbidity in their herd.

Keywords: morbidity, clinical signs, sheep, goat, Nigeria
