



Booklet on how to recognise lameness

Need/issue: Lameness (ewe & replacement)

Aim: To provide solutions for different causes of lameness in small ruminants (Diagnosing and treating different causes of lameness).

How to implement:

Regular foot inspection



Expected benefits:

- The correct diagnosis and treatment of lameness will improve welfare & productivity.
- Other potential benefits include reducing the amount of antibiotics used.

Grazing efficiency is improved as animals that start being lame are being identified earlier. The water quality may be improved, as less footbath product is potentially released. There is less need for product disposal. This may improve biodiversity. It also has a beneficial effect on the animal productivity and welfare, by targeting animals early. It reduces physical labour.

Description:

The Quality Meat Scotland booklet is in a handy format and can be kept near your handling facilities. It gives:

- General tips on foot care
- Identifying a normal, healthy foot.
- Guide on how to correctly diagnose and treat various causes of lameness.
- In most cases, routine trimming of all feet is unnecessary and can actually do more harm than good.
- Best practice guides for foot bathing and trimming.



Prerequisites and/or limits:

- Farmers should be aware of the impact environmental conditions can have on the level of incidence. (e.g. housing conditions – clean, dry bedding) Good, hygienic conditions reduce the opportunity for causative bacteria to spread.
- Farmers should be aware of the appropriate antibiotics to use, and how to administer them effectively.
- Good handling facilities.

Topic:

- Health
- Nutrition
- Management

Level of solution:

- Knowledge
- Practical

Country: UK

Dairy and meat sheep

Category of Animal: All

Source of information:

Quality Meat Scotland (QMS).

[diagnosis_treatment_of_lameness_guide.pdf](https://www.qmscotland.co.uk/diagnosis_treatment_of_lameness_guide.pdf) (qmscotland.co.uk)

