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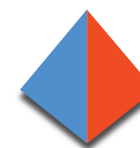
1st GF-TADs Regional Conference in the European region

Directorate of Veterinary Policies

**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development**

Republic of Albania

22-25/September/2025, Belgrade, Serbia



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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Republic of Albania

Republic of Albania is a small Southeastern European country located in the Western Balkans, with a diverse landscape ranging from coastal zones along the Adriatic and Ionian seas to mountainous inland regions. It has a surface area of **28,748 km²**.

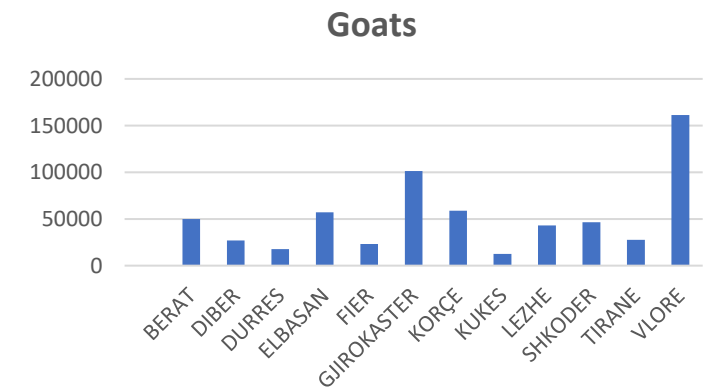
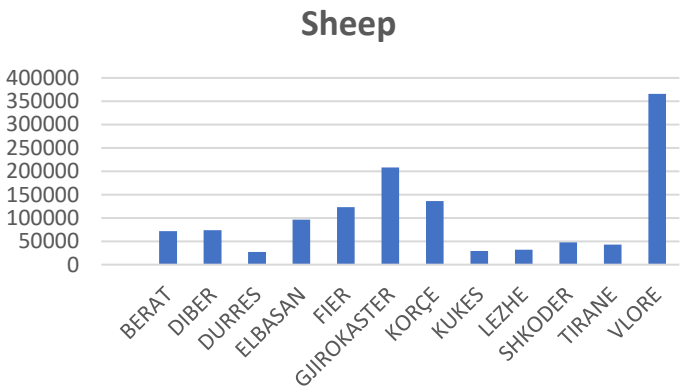


It shares land borders with **Montenegro to the northwest, Kosovo to the northeast, North Macedonia to the east, and Greece to the south and southeast**. It also has a long western coastline along the **Adriatic Sea**, and a southwestern coastline along the **Ionian Sea**.

Data for small ruminants

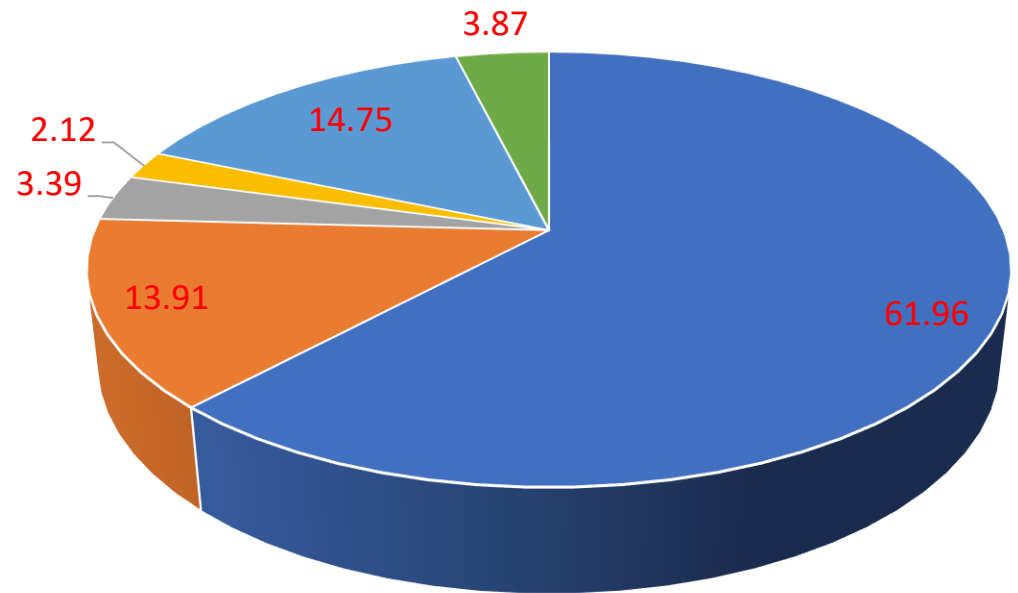
The total population of small ruminants in Albania is **1,879,959**. Population of goats is **625,965** and the population of sheep is **1,253,994**.

Data for small ruminants							
No	Regions	Sheep		Goats		Small ruminants	
		Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals	Farms	Animals
1	BERAT	2089	71499	3070	50078	4617	121577
2	DIBER	1717	73755	599	27055	2097	100810
3	DURRES	597	27101	497	17736	976	44837
4	ELBASAN	4471	96710	4808	57079	7975	153789
5	FIER	2311	123025	1358	23043	3161	146068
6	GJIROKASTER	1895	208236	1502	101474	2637	309710
7	KORÇE	1917	136069	1213	58817	2555	194886
8	KUKES	408	29336	158	12521	517	41857
9	LEZHE	1097	32006	1187	42906	2056	74912
10	SHKODER	1535	47855	1803	46341	2903	94196
11	TIRANE	984	42923	1204	27625	1986	70548
12	VLORE	3903	365479	2919	161290	5499	526769
	TOTAL	22924	1253994	20318	625965	36979	1879959



Data for small ruminants

Structure of herds in %



- Heards with 1- 19 heads
- Heards with 20-49 heads
- Heards with 50- 69 heads
- Heards with 70-99 heads
- Heards with 100-299 heads
- Heards with more than 300 heads

Legal framework

- Law No. 10 465, dated on 29.09.2011 “*On Veterinary Service in Republic of Albania*”, as amended;
- Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development No. 802, dated on 9.10.2024 “*On the approval of contingency plan for Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)*”;

PPR Contingency Plan – Overview

- Approximated with **EU Regulation 2020/687**
- Key element for the **prevention and control** of emergency PPR cases

The Plan Defines:

- Procedure in case of suspicion or confirmation of PPR;
- Description of veterinary structures involved in implementing control and eradication measures;
- Competencies, responsibilities, and roles of different actors in the treatment of the disease.

Objectives and Purpose of the Plan:

- Enable efficient and effective implementation of protective and control measures for goat and sheep populations;
- Enable rapid assessment to limit the impact;
- Eliminate the risk of introduction and spread of the virus.

Pasqyra e lëndës

PLANI I KONTIGJENCËS PËR SËMUNDJEN E MURTAJËS SË RUMINATËVE TË VEGJËL.

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Confirmed cases in the Republic of Albania

First confirmed outbreak:

Date: 4 June 2025

Location: Domen Village, Shkodër District

Second confirmed outbreak:

Date: 5 June 2025

Location: Vrenjt Village, Dibër District

Third confirmed outbreak:

Date: 9 June 2025

Location: Val Village, Bulqizë District

Fourth confirmed outbreak:

Date: 11 June 2025

Location: Polen Village, Skrapar District

Fifth confirmed outbreak:

Date: 12 June 2025

Location: Shyec Village, Devoll District

Sixth confirmed outbreak:

Date: 13 June 2025

Location: Zall Bastar, Tirana District



Seventh confirmed outbreak:

Date: 18 June 2025

Location: Trush, Shkodra District

Eighth confirmed outbreak:

Date: 20 June 2025

Location: Sukth Vendas, Kruja District

Ninth confirmed outbreak:

Date: 24 June 2025

Location: Libonik, Korça District

Tenth confirmed outbreak:

Date: 25 June 2025

Location: Shkrel, Malësi e Madhe District

Eleventh confirmed outbreak:

Date: 30 June 2025

Location: Labinot Mal, Elbasan District

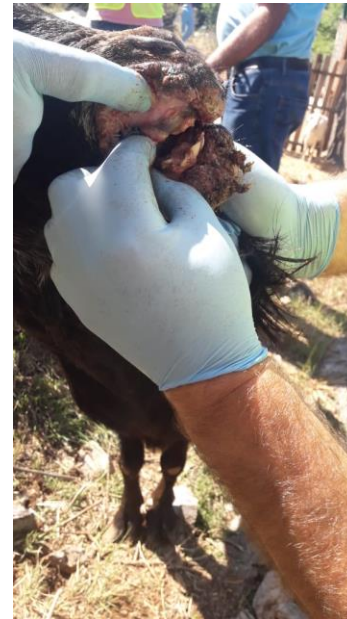
Twelfth confirmed outbreak:

Date: 28 July 2025

Location: Belorta, Korça District

First confirmed case

- First confirmed case: **Domen Village, Shkodër (4.6.2025)**
- No. of affected animals: **18** goats;
- Died animals: **2** goats
- Killed animals: **16** goats
- Clinical signs: Stomatitis, Anorexia



Measures Taken for the First PPR Case:

Disease reported in the ADIS System (Animal Disease Information System) on 5.6.2025

Ministerial Order No. 562, dated 04.06.2025:

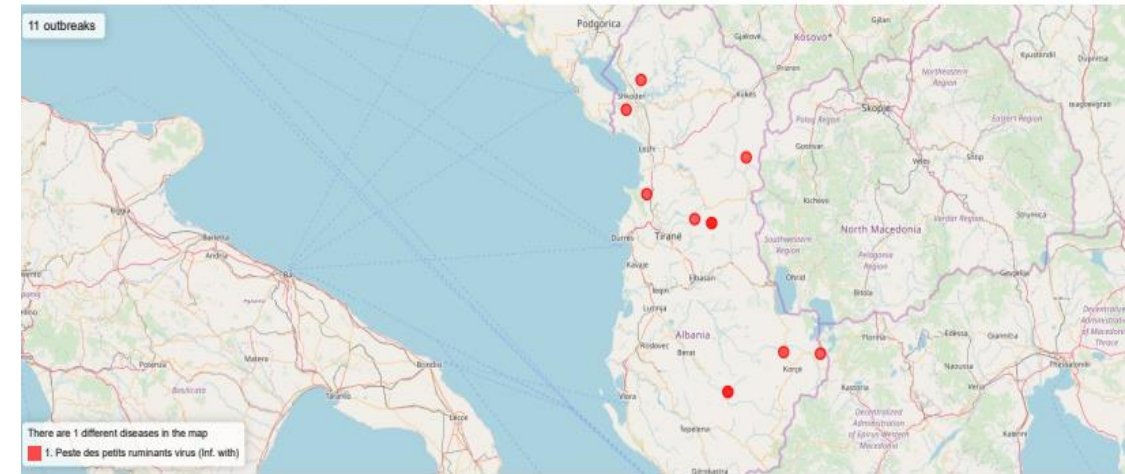
- Establishment of the National Crisis Center for PPR;
- Identification of villages within affected zones;
- Definition of a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infection area;

Ministerial Order No. 561, dated 04.06.2025:

- Introduction of restrictive measures for prevention and control

Operational and Control Actions

- Establishment of 7 working groups to manage the outbreak;
- Actions carried out in accordance with official control protocols;
- Elimination and safe disposal of 16 infected goats at a rendering plant;
- Complete disinfection of the affected farm, in line with biosecurity protocols;
- Institutional announcements issued to inform stakeholders;
- Collection of 13 samples (blood, crusts, organs) for laboratory testing;
- All farmers in the affected zone informed about preventive measures and economic risks of the disease;
- Daily farm monitoring initiated in the protection and surveillance zones.



Activities in the Protection Zone

- Disposal and burial of diseased animals and carcasses, waste, feed, manure, etc., at the farm level;
- Clinical examination of all small ruminant farms by authorized veterinary experts who keep a record of the inspections performed and the data collected;
- Collection of samples for laboratory testing in accordance with the PPR disease diagnostic manual, to test for potential viral spread in animals from farms located within the protection zone;
- Daily clinical examinations and sample collection from susceptible species on non-affected small ruminant farms;
- Small ruminants must be kept in enclosed buildings that meet their health management requirements, isolated from other animals on the farm, with restricted contact with other animals;
- Immediate burial of animal carcasses;
- Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and equipment;
- Prohibition of the movement of animals and other livestock species within the farm;
- Any increase in morbidity, mortality, or drop in production must be reported to the official veterinarian, who will collect samples for laboratory testing in accordance with the diagnostic manual;
- People may enter or exit the farm only if biosecurity measures are followed;
- Farm owners must keep a record of all entries and exits of persons from the farm, and present this information to the Regional Veterinary Service upon request;
- Animal shows, fairs, markets, or other gatherings are also prohibited;
- Quarantine measures must remain in force for at least 31 days after the removal of small ruminants from the affected farm, following the completion of cleaning, disinfection procedures, and receipt of negative laboratory test results.

Activities in the Surveillance Zone

- Re-inventory of small ruminant farms and weekly clinical examinations on all farms within the surveillance zone;
- Control over the movement of animals;
- Inspection of farm record books;
- Disinfection and rodent control in farms and in habitats of biological carriers;
- Collection of blood samples from susceptible animals for serological testing and submission to the diagnostic laboratory at ISUV (Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary);
- Health monitoring of small ruminants, diagnostic hunting where applicable, and submission of materials for diagnostic examination;
- Prohibition of animal movement out of the zone during the first 15 days from the onset of the disease, except in cases of direct slaughter at an abattoir approved by the Minister, located outside the zone;
- Transit movement of small ruminants by road or rail is allowed only with authorization from the official veterinarian;
- Organization of fairs, markets, exhibitions, and other events involving animals is prohibited within this zone;
- The duration of restrictions in the surveillance zone shall be no less than 30 days from the closure of the outbreak, completion of cleaning and disinfection, and confirmation of negative laboratory test results.

Measures for PPR Prevention and Control in the whole country

- **Prohibition** of trade of small ruminants in live animal markets, fairs, and gatherings;

- **Prohibition** of movement of small ruminants and other farmed species **on affected farms**;

- **Intensified surveillance** of small ruminant populations;

- **Strengthening of biosecurity measures** in small ruminant farms;

- Small ruminants must be:

- **Isolated** from other animals on the farm

- **Contact with other species must be limited**

- For each new outbreak, a Ministerial Order is issued establishing 3 km Protection and 10 km Surveillance Zones around the infection site.

- **Awareness campaigns** intensified for:

- Farmers
- Animal transporters
- Private veterinarians
- State veterinary services

- **Increased veterinary controls** on small ruminant farms and live animal markets **across Albania**

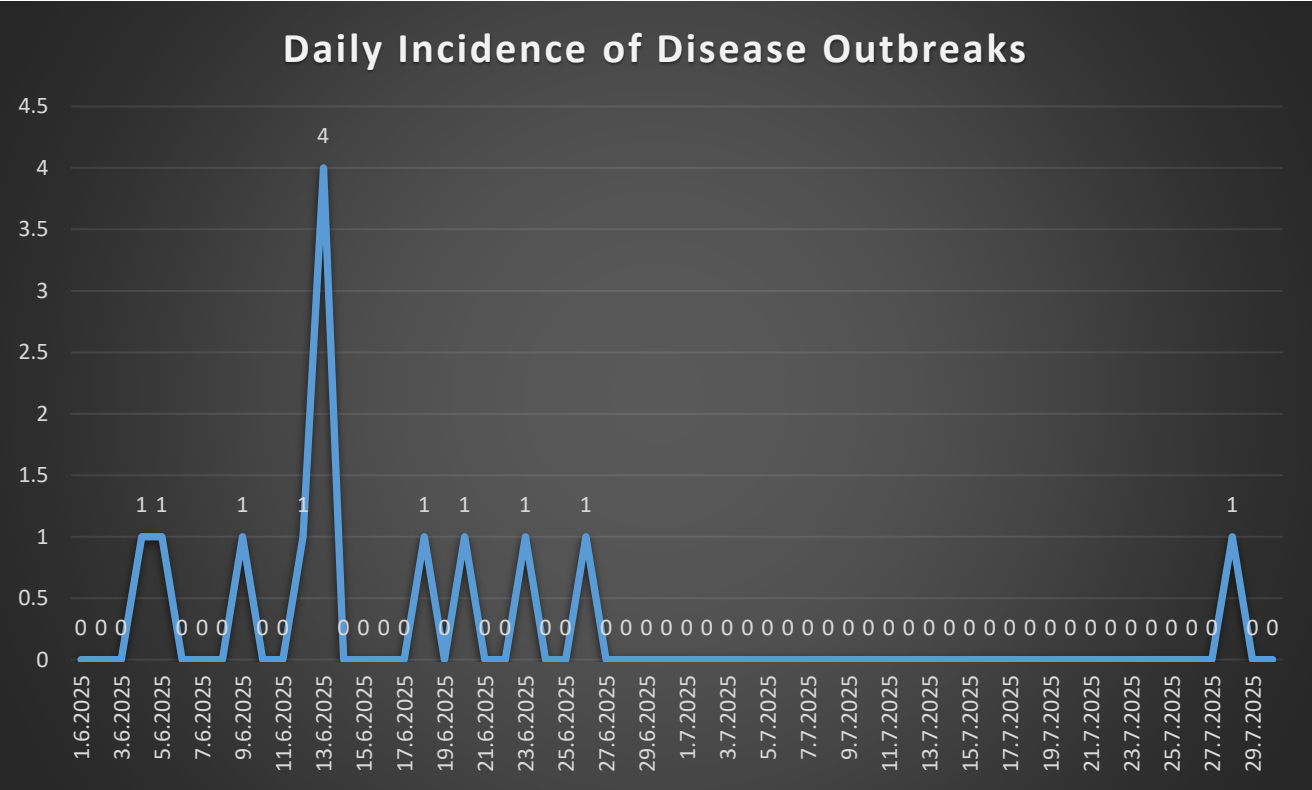
- **Testing with RT-PCR every farm** in the restricted zones 3 km for every outbreak. Testing will be carried out 3 times every 10 days.

Current Situation in Republic of Albania

Epidemiological data:

- Number of total farms monitored: **8,355**;
- Number of heads monitored: **1,039,858**;
- Up to now there are in total **12** primary outbreak and **6** secondary outbreak;
- In these outbreaks the total number of susceptible animals is **2,165**;
- Animals that have died is **121** heads;
- The number of killed animals is **2,044** heads;
- The number of disposed animals is **2,165** heads;
- The mortality within the farms goes from **0** up to **33%**.

Daily Incidence of Disease Outbreaks



Surveillance Activities in the Protection Zone

- Monitoring for Clinical Signs in animals three times every 10 days;
- Testing with RT-PCR every farm in the restricted zones, 6 animals per farm in three times;
- Re-inventory of small ruminant farms and system updates;
- in total **1587** samples has been tested in **278** farms,

Surveillance Activities outside the Protected Zone

Active surveillance carried out

- Monitoring for Clinical Signs in animals
- Re-inventory of small ruminant farms and system updates;
- Is planned to be monitored approximately 708 farms, in total 10,213 samples;
- region will be monitored 59 Farms with small ruminants;
- For each region, the sampling size to be collected in the surveillance zones has been calculated individually for each region, assuming an expected prevalence of 5% at the farm level and 10% at the animal level;
- Small ruminants monitored in the whole country is approximate 1,042,610 sheep and goats;

No.	Region s	Farms with 1-19 heads		Farms with 20- 49 heads		Farms with 50 -69 heads		Farms with 70- 99 heads		Farms with 100-299 heads		Farms with more than 300 heads		Total	
		No. Farms	No. Sample	No. Farms	No. Sample	No. Farms	No. Sample	No. Farms	No. Sample	No. Farms	No. Sample	No. Farms	No. Sample	No. Farms	No. Sample
1	BERAT	44	220	7	154	1	24	1	25	5	135	1	29	59	587
2	DIBER	37	296	10	220	2	48	1	25	7	189	2	58	59	836
3	DURRE S	36	216	10	220	2	48	1	25	8	216	2	58	59	783
4	ELBAS AN	47	282	5	110	2	48	1	25	2	54	2	58	59	577
5	FIER	37	259	9	198	2	48	1	25	8	216	2	58	59	804
6	GJIROK ASTER	20	160	7	154	3	72	1	25	21	567	7	203	59	1181
7	KORÇE	26	182	8	176	3	72	2	50	18	486	2	58	59	1024
8	KUKES	21	147	11	242	3	72	2	50	20	540	2	58	59	1109
9	LEZHE	36	252	12	264	3	72	2	50	5	135	1	29	59	802
10	SHKOD ER	39	312	11	242	2	48	1	25	5	135	1	29	59	791
11	TIRANE	43	215	6	132	1	24	1	25	7	189	1	29	59	614
12	VLORE	23	184	10	220	3	72	2	50	15	405	6	174	59	1105
13	TOTALI	409	2725	106	2332	27	648	16	400	121	3267	29	841	708	10213

Current Situation in Republic of Albania

Each primary outbreak is independent and not connected to the others.

All over Albania 59 groups of official veterinarians, inspectors of the National Food Authority and the police are monitoring the movement of small ruminants the livestock markets, slaughterhouses, farms, national roads and the green border.



At the Kapshtica Border Inspection Point (border with Greece), two private vehicles were stopped at night, carrying **unidentified animals in the car trunk**.



These cases have been referred to the Prosecution for further legal action.

Animals were tested for PPR, with all results confirmed negative.

Diagnostic

- Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary – Animal Health Department;
- Molecular Biology Laboratory (Real Time RT-PCR);
- Serology Laboratory (Competitive ELISA) Accredited SOP-s;
- Sequencing of PPRV carried out at EURL CIRAD.
- Results showed that PPRV isolated in Albania belongs to Lineage IV, identical to the sequence obtained for PPR virus at the origin of the emergence in Europe.

Methods and tests

- Real Time RT-PCR
- Conventional PCR
- Competitive ELISA
- Reference methods EURL and WOAHA

Experience with EURL

- PT Participation (EURL-CIRAD) since 2019;
- Laboratory members training from CIRAD;
- Yearly Participation on annual meeting organized by EURL;
- Re-confirmation of first positive samples;
- Sequencing PPRV (Lineage IV, identical to the sequence obtained for PPR virus at the origin of the emergence in Europe).

Hypotheses on PPR Outbreaks from EuVet Missions in Republic of Albania

- Simultaneous outbreaks across regions suggest a possible nationwide introduction of infected animals.
- The initial clinical cases in goats only raise questions about species susceptibility or differing exposure levels between goats and sheep.
- Sheep may have been subclinically infected and contributed to virus transmission without showing signs.
- Recent large-scale imports of ewe lambs could represent a possible route of virus introduction.
- If sheep were not initially involved, the virus may have entered Albania around mid-May, affecting only goats.



EUVET mission to Albania on Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

(preliminary findings)

(12 - 13 June 2025)

Team: Tsviatko Alexandrov (Bulgaria), Klaus Depner (Germany, Team Leader)

Awareness campaigns

- Posters
- Website
- Social media Information

Links:

- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DoCzUyUJI/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CJWRRLBMD/>




Awareness campaigns

- Posters
- Website
- Social media Information


Links:

- <https://akvmb.gov.al/harta-e-vatrave-aktive-te-murtajes-se-ruminanteve-te-vegjel/>
- <https://akvmb.gov.al/ppr-semundje-ngjitese-ge-shkakton-deme-serioze-ne-te-imta/>

MËNYRAT E TRANSMETIMIT MURTAJA E RUMINANTËVE TË VEGJËL (PPR) :



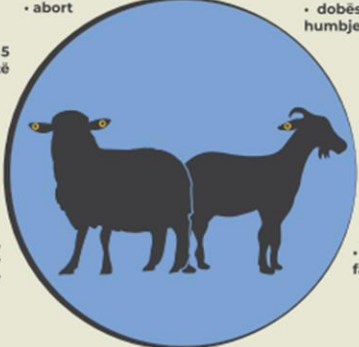
- Kontakti i drejtpërdrejtë dhe i afërt ndërmjet kafshëve të infektuara dhe atyre të ndjeshme;
- Thithja e grimcave të lëshuara në ajër kur kafshët e infektuara kolliten dhe teshtijnë;
- Transmetimi indirekt përmes ujit, ushqimit apo shtrojave të kontaminuara nga lotët, sekrecionet nazale, kollitjet dhe jashtëqitjet e kafshëve të infektuara.



Nëse vini re këto simptoma, ju lutemi telefononi në numrin e gjelbër **08003366** të Autoritetit Kombëtar të Veterinarisë dhe Mbrojtjes së Bimëve.

CILAT JANË SHENJAT KLINIKE TË SËMUNDJES ?

Simptomat klinike mund të variojnë nga të lehta deri në të rënda, në varësi të kafshës, statusit imunitar, moshës dhe racës, si dhe shtamit të virusit. Shenjat klinike të murtajës së ruminantëve të vegjël mund të jenë:



- temperaturë
- abort
- ngordhje brenda 5 deri në 10 ditë
- vështirësi në frymëmarrje (pneumoni)
- diare, dehidratim dhe humbje në peshë
- sekrecione të pastra ose të verdha nga hunda dhe rrjedhje nga sytë
- dobësi dhe humbje oreksi
- plagë dhe ënjtje në gojë
- lëzime në gojë, faqe dhe gjuhë

Është shumë e rëndësishme që menjëherë t'i raportoni veterinerit tuaj çdo ndryshim në gjendjen shëndetësore të deleve ose dhive tuaja. Zbulimi i hershëm do të parandalojë përhapjen e gjerë të sëmundjes, do të shpëtojë shumë ruminantë të vegjël dhe sëmundja mund të kontrollohet në mënyrë më efektive.

Main Challenges

➤ Early detection & reporting

- Difficulty in recognizing the disease early due to similarities with other small ruminant diseases;
- Delays in reporting by farmers due to lack of awareness or fear of movement restrictions.

➤ Epidemiological control

- High mobility of small ruminants (seasonal migration, trade, informal movements);
- Presence of mixed flocks (sheep & goats) which facilitates faster spread.

➤ Farmer awareness & compliance

- Low knowledge among farmers about PPR clinical signs and transmission;
- Reluctance to cooperate due to fear of culling, loss of income, or lack of compensation.

➤ Veterinary service capacity

- Limited resources (personnel, funding, transport).

➤ Regional coordination

- Challenges in harmonizing surveillance with neighboring countries.



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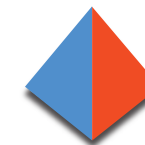


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Special thanks to:

- The Commission for the continuous help and support.
- The EU-Vet team for their valuable technical advice and support.

THANK YOU



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