

LISTERIOSIS

Listeriosis, also known as circling disease, is a bacterial infection caused by *Listeria monocytogenes*. It primarily affects the central nervous system. It can also cause abortion. While not contagious, listeria is widely distributed in the environment. The disease is most commonly associated with the feeding of moldy or spoiled silage (or other feed) but can also be transmitted via vegetation and soil. Listeriosis is zoonotic.



Symptoms

- Circling
- Head-pressing
- Head tilt
- Facial paralysis
- Depression
- Loss of appetite
- Drooling
- Recumbency
- Abortion

Differential diagnosis

- Polio
- Pregnancy toxemia
- Brain abscess
- Middle ear infection
- Meningeal worm
- Rabies
- Scrapie

Treatment (Vx)

- Early and aggressive antibiotic treatment with penicillin or oxytetracycline
- Supportive care
- Recovery is rare, but possible

Prevention

- Ensuring silage is made and stored correctly
- Not feeding spoiled or moldy feed
- Removing uneaten silage
- Good hygiene

