

Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis

Caprine arthritis encephalitis or CAE is a multi-system viral disease affecting goats. It typically manifests itself as neurologic disease in kids and arthritis, pneumonia, or mastitis in adult goats. The virus is closely related to the one that causes ovine progressive pneumonia (OPP) in sheep. Cross transmission is possible but not common. CAE occurs throughout the world, with high prevalence in the US, especially dairy goats.

Diagnosis of CAE is based on clinical signs, postmortem lesions, and blood testing. Only a small percentage (~20%) of goats infected with CAE show clinical signs during their lifetime. But they are carriers of the virus (disease).



ERADICATION

CAE eradication requires a multipronged approach that includes preventing transmission, identifying and removing infected animals, and maintaining strict biosecurity protocols.

- Regularly test herd for CAE antibodies. Separate or remove positive animals
- Remove kids from mothers at birth to prevent transmission via colostrum. Heat treat colostrum or feed pasteurized milk or milk replacer to kids.
- Maintain a closed herd or test new additions to prevent reintroduction of the virus.



CAE is transmitted primarily through milk (especially colostrum) from infected does to their offspring. Horizontal transmission between goats is uncommon, unlike OPP.



Sadly, there is no vaccine or cure for CAE. Supportive care is about all you can do.

