

TREATING MODERATE TO SEVERE HEAT STRESS IN SMALL RUMINANTS



RECOGNIZING IT

- Increased breathing rate (> 70–80 breaths/minute)
- Panting
Closed → Open Mouth
- Drooling
- Elevated heart rate
- Rapid chest movements
- Staggering
- Incoordination
- Inability to stand
- Collapse
- Death

**Rectal temperature
above 105°F (40.5°C)**

**Cell degeneration
occurs at 107°F (41.7°C)**

ALLEVIATING IT

Goal is to lower body temperature

- Move animal to a cool, shaded, well-ventilated area.
- Provide immediate access to cool, fresh water (can mix in electrolytes); drench if animal is too weak or refuses to drink (small amounts at a time).
- Apply cool water (or rubbing alcohol) to woolless parts of the body, e.g., inner thigh/flank region.
- Never drench or completely soak a wooly sheep with water to cool them down; the fleece will trap the moisture and prevent air circulation
- Avoid ice baths: never submerge the whole animal in ice water or wrap them in wet towels, as this can cause temperature shock to the vascular system.
- Monitor body temperature; stop cooling once animal's temperature drops to ~103 °F. (39.4°C)
- Call your veterinarian for treatment of critical cases (heat stroke). Some may require medical treatment.