

RIFT VALLEY FEVER

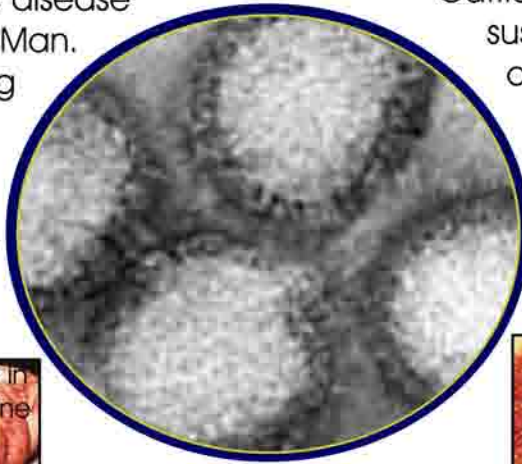
Rift Valley Fever is a viral disease affecting primarily Cattle, Sheep and Goats.

The Virus is transmitted by a mosquito.

These mosquitos breed heavily during the spring season in times of high rainfall.

Rift Valley Fever is a Zoonotic disease causing flu like symptoms in Man. More severe cases displaying hemorrhagic fever and encephalitis, result in death. In 1978, an outbreak in Egypt estimates the number of human cases to be at 200 000.

Cattle, Sheep and goats are susceptible, with high mortalities among new born animals and high abortion rates amongst pregnant animals.



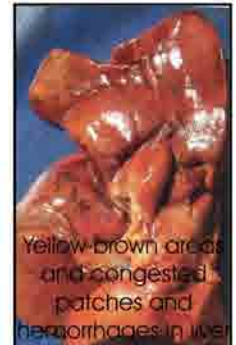
Presence of partially digested blood in the abomasum.



Hemorrhages in serosa of intestine



Mottled appearance of liver



Yellow-brown areas and congested patches and hemorrhages in liver

Clinical signs

The simultaneous occurrence of abortions in a flock/herd.

In Cattle, characteristic signs include blood stained diarrhoea and stiffness in the legs.

High temperatures, loss of appetite and weakness.

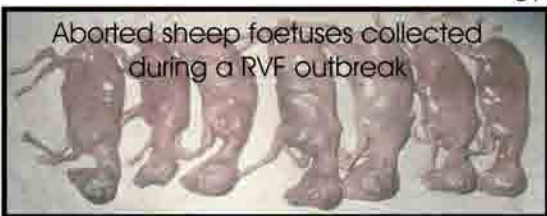
Mortality rate being higher in calves than adult cattle.

In Sheep, high temperatures, regurgitation, mucous nasal discharges, leg weakness and sometimes blood stained diarrhoea.

In Lambs and kids, the incubation period can be from 12 hours to 36 hours. Affected lambs are listless, non feeders and show evidence of abdominal pain.



Hemorrhages in the gall bladder wall.



Aborted sheep foetuses collected during a RVF outbreak

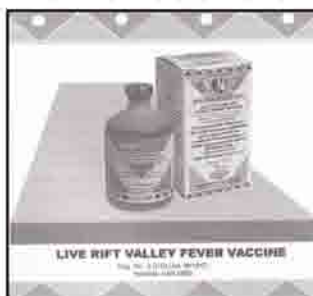
Control

Immunization remains the only effective way to protect livestock from RVF.

There is no treatment.

Annual vaccinations with the live vaccine is recommended as this gives the best immunity.

Vaccination during early pregnancy should be avoided.



LIVE RIFT VALLEY FEVER VACCINE

Diagnosis

Rift Valley fever should be suspected when heavy rains are followed by the occurrence of abortions in sheep, cattle and goats as well as flu-like symptoms in farm workers.

Blood, tissue samples (liver, spleen, kidney, lymph nodes) and aborted foetuses should be submitted, on ice, for laboratory testing as soon as possible.

On Post Mortem, a characteristic sign is the presence of numerous white pinhead spots on the liver. Other signs include haemorrhages in the liver, intestines and gall bladder. In young animals, copious amounts of chocolate-brown, undigested blood can be seen in the abomasum.

