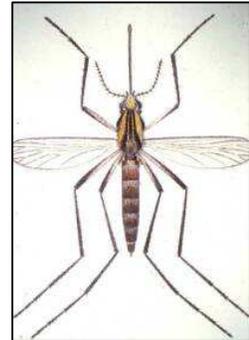


Rift Valley Fever



Rift Valley Fever is an infectious disease of sheep, goats and cattle. Dogs and cats can also contract the disease when eating meat from infected animals.

The disease is caused by a virus which is transmitted by mosquitoes. Outbreaks usually occur from spring to late summer.



It is very important to know that humans can also contract the disease when handling sick animals or infected meat/blood. Infection may be inapparent or influenza-like symptoms may develop. Complications include blindness and even death due to liver damage.

The disease originated in the Rift Valley of Eastern Africa and was encountered in South Africa for the first time during the fifty's. Twenty thousand people got infected and about 100,000 sheep and cattle died. During the next major epidemic of 1974-1975 even more people and animals were affected.

Symptoms of the disease

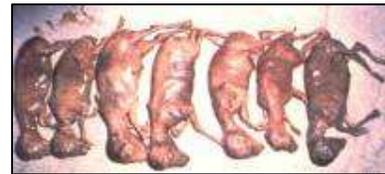
Up to 95 % of pregnant animals may **abort**.

Animal deaths are common. Up to 95 % of young lambs and calves may die. Older animals are more resistant with mortality up to 25 %.

Younger animals die quickly without any clinical signs. Older animals stop eating, become listless and weak. They may develop nasal bleeding and bloody diarrhoea while the eyes and mucous membranes develop a yellow discolouration.



Goats are more resistant with less severe symptoms. In cattle the infection is usually inapparent but some may develop symptoms.



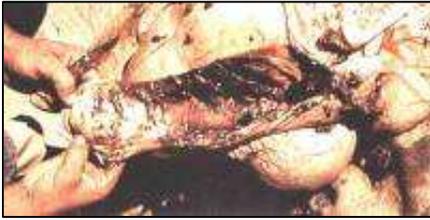
Post mortem findings



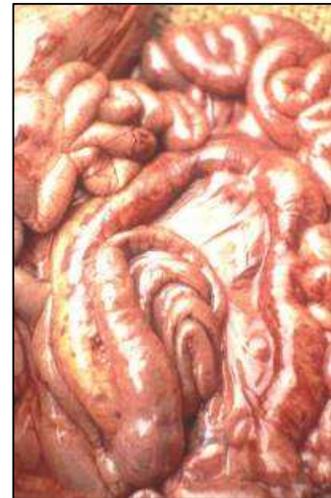
⇐ The most common post-mortem finding is the occurrence of **haemorrhages** in various organs in the body.

This is especially prominent in the heart, lungs, liver and gall bladder. ⇒





⇐ **Free blood** may occur in the chest cavity.



The walls ↑ of the large stomach, milk stomach ↑ as well as those of the intestines ↑ frequently shows typical **striated haemorrhages**.



⇐ **Liver damage** also occurs. The liver appears swollen with a yellow to orange colour.

Pin-point, grey-white spots of dead liver cells can be seen throughout the liver.

⇒



Any person who came in contact with such a carcass should immediately wash him/herself properly in order to prevent infection.

Prevention

Preventative vaccination is the only reliable method of control.

In sheep and goats a live attenuated vaccine can be used which will give life-long immunity. It is important to note that this vaccine may not be used in pregnant animals as the pregnant ewe will abort and may even die. The unborn lamb will develop developmental defects resulting in death. Only the inactivated vaccine may be used in pregnant ewes. This vaccine protects the animals only for about a year.

In cattle both vaccines can be used but the same principles apply. It is recommended that all non-pregnant animals are vaccinated once-off with the live attenuated vaccine and the pregnant animals with the inactivated vaccine. Thereafter only the offspring and the non-pregnant animals not previously vaccinated with the live vaccine are vaccinated.




INACTIVATED RIFT VALLEY FEVER VACCINE

Reg. No. G 1349 [Act 36/1947]
Namibia: NSR 0966

Formalinised Rift Valley fever virus with aluminium hydroxide gel as adjuvant for the prophylactic immunisation of cattle, sheep and goats against Rift Valley fever.

**Store the vaccine at a temperature of 4 °C to 8 °C, in a refrigerator.
Do not use the vaccine after the expiry date printed on the bottle.**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE

Susceptible animals can be immunised at any age irrespective of the stage of pregnancy and lactation. Calves and lambs from immune animals can only be effectively immunised after the age of six months. Annual vaccination is recommended and it is advisable to immunise in the late winter or early spring.

WARNINGS

Do not slaughter animals for human consumption within 7 days of vaccination.

Vaccinate healthy animals only.

Keep out of reach of children, uninformed persons and animals.

Although this product has been extensively tested under a large variety of conditions, failure thereof may ensue as a result of a wide range of reasons. If this is suspected, seek veterinary advice and notify the registration holder.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Use only as directed.

Sterilise syringes and needles by boiling in water for at least 15 minutes.

Do not use disinfectants or methylated spirits for sterilising either syringes or needles.

Use a separate sterile needle for each animal.

Shake the bottle well each time before use.

Avoid exposure to high temperatures and direct sunlight.

DOSAGE:	Cattle	2 ml subcutaneously
	Sheep and goats	1 ml subcutaneously

EFFECTS OF THE VACCINE

Optimal protection is conferred when a booster is given 3 - 4 weeks after initial vaccination. Thereafter vaccinate annually.

PACKING

Available in bottles of 100 ml.



LIVE RIFT VALLEY FEVER VACCINE

Reg. No. G 0119 (Act 36/1947)
Namibia: NSR 0580



Freeze-dried, live attenuated Rift Valley fever virus (Smithburn strain) for the immunisation of cattle, sheep and goats against Rift Valley fever.

**Store the vaccine in a refrigerator at a temperature of 4 °C to 8 °C.
Do not use after the expiry date printed on the bottle.**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE

Animals can be vaccinated at any age except that lambs, calves and kids from immune animals should not be inoculated before they are six months old because maternal antibodies may block the vaccine response. This disease occurs during the late summer and autumn and it is, therefore best to inoculate susceptible animals during spring, three to six weeks before the mating season. Where possible, breeding should also be arranged so that ewes lamb from February to April to ensure that lambs will be adequately protected by maternal antibodies during the time of the year that this disease occurs.

WARNINGS

Do not slaughter animals for human consumption within 7 days of vaccination.

Vaccinate healthy animals only.

Keep out of reach of children, uninformed persons and animals.

Under normal circumstances pregnant animals should not be inoculated with this vaccine as it can cause abortion or foetal malformation in a small percentage of animals, particularly sheep.

Although this product has been extensively tested under a large variety of conditions, failure thereof may ensue as a result of a wide range of seasons. If this is suspected, seek veterinary advice and notify the registration holder.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Use only as directed.

Sterilise syringes and needles by boiling in water for at least 15 minutes. Do not use disinfectants or methylated spirits for sterilising either needles or syringes.

The active ingredient of the vaccine is in the form of a powder or pellet in a small bottle. By means of a sterile syringe, transfer 5 ml diluent to the bottle containing the freeze-dried vaccine. Mix thoroughly until the powder is dissolved. Transfer the suspension back to the remaining diluent and again mix well. The vaccine is now ready for use and must be injected without delay. Avoid exposure to high temperatures and direct sunlight during inoculation. Shake the bottle before filling the syringe. Use a separate needle for each animal, particularly during outbreaks of the disease.

DOSAGE: Cattle, sheep and goats: 1 ml subcutaneously

EFFECTS OF THE VACCINE

A slight febrile reaction may occur on the second to fourth day following inoculation but subsides rapidly. Full immunity is obtained three weeks after inoculation. A single inoculation usually produces a life long immunity but all animals will not necessarily be completely protected.

PACKING

Available in bottles of 100 doses.