

Overview

Foot bathing can be an excellent tool to improve hoof quality and manage infections within a flock or herd but done incorrectly you could be spreading further infection or posing risk to your animals. Make sure you understand how to bathe the feet of your animals effectively and safely.

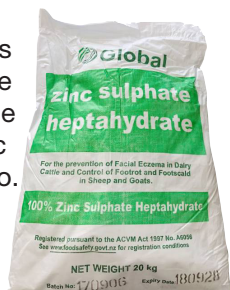
How long do I stand them?

- Walk animals through a clean water foot bath first to remove any mud, as mud will inactivate the foot bath.
- If feet are currently infected, stand animals in the solution for 20-30 minutes daily for 3 days, then run through weekly. For routine management, stand for 15 minutes, just 5x a year.

What solution do I use?

Use Zinc Sulphate 10% for sheep and goats. i.e. add 100g of Zinc Sulphate powder per 900ml of water. This can be purchased over the counter from a Franklin Vets clinic.

DO NOT USE COPPER SULFATE in sheep, goat and alpaca as these species are high risk of copper toxicity, and a sneaky slurp could topple them over. Formalin, while effective, stings horribly on raw tissue and contaminates the environment, so Zinc is the safer way to go.



SHEEP / GOATS / ALPACA: A GUIDE TO Foot Bathing

How do I make the bath?

- You can purchase a wide, shallow dish that fits the measurements of your race (that way you can leave them while you have a cup of coffee), or purchase a foam mat that you can saturate in the solution. Either way, it should be deep enough to cover the entirety of the hoof, generally about 4-6cm deep.
- If you manage to find one with a corrugated base that's perfect! It spreads the toes to allow deeper contact.
- Watch goats closely, as they can be particularly sneaky and may climb the race to avoid standing in the bath.

What about after?

- Once out of the bath, stand on a dry surface (e.g. concrete) until the feet are dry.
- Avoid putting them directly in to wet, muddy conditions where the solution will wear off.
- If feet are currently infected, you

can spray with a Foot Rot spray at this time, then stand to dry, before turning out on to dry pasture. Only unaffected animals will in time create a more resilient group.

Don't forget there are many other tools in the toolbox for combating foot scald and rot.

Check out our **Practical Approach to Foot Scald and Rot** info sheet for further ideas, or get one of our vets out today to assist.

*Updated Dec 25