

Overview

Flystrike is a serious disease that affects approximately 2 million sheep and 250,000 lambs in NZ on an annual basis.

Flystrike is particularly common in the warm and wet months between December and April.

Sheep that have long unshorn fleece, especially prior to summer, are most at risk. Blowflies are attracted to the foul odour that is emitted from urine stained and daggy areas of the fleece, laying eggs directly on the wool.

Once the eggs hatch, the maggots burrow deep into the flesh to feed on the tissue. Once flystrike has occurred, further flies are attracted to the damaged area, and the sheep can die in as quickly as 2-6 days.

Casues & Symptoms

Early signs of flystrike can be very difficult to observe. Sheep may appear restless, nibble at areas of the body, seek shade or stamp their feet. You may see flies hanging around your sheep. Sometimes affected sheep will not show any signs until a significant amount of maggots are present. Only at this stage will the wool fall out, the fleece become blackened and sores become obvious.

Management/ Prevention/ Treatment

Shearing - should be done twice a year, in November, before the weather gets wet and warm, and again in June. However, one type of blowfly (Australian green blowfly) can strike even clean, well-shorn sheep, therefore we recommend checking skin along the back regularly during summer.






A GUIDE TO Flystrike

Preventive spraying - For optimal flystrike prevention, the products in the table below are best applied in anticipation of a fly season. Apply to dry wool. If it is raining, then the application should be delayed.

Preventing Scours - Flies will be attracted to any smelly moist areas; therefore any cuts or injuries should be monitored closely, and your sheep should be on a drenching program specific for its age group. Always remember to check product withholding periods, before selling animals for consumption or wool.

When to call us

For any sheep with active flystrike, the vet should be called immediately to provide treatment. The extensive tissue damage leads to substantial pain, distress and infection. The vet is required to treat and dress the wound, provide pain relief, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics. If the wounds are extensive and deep, your vet may recommend euthanasia as the only humane option.

Product	Product Usage	Protection period	Product Dose/Application
Cyrex Minimum quantity dispensed 50mls. 	For the prevention and treatment of flystrike in sheep for up to 12 weeks For optimal flystrike prevention, Cyrex is best applied in anticipation of a fly season.	For the prevention and treatment of flystrike in sheep for up to 12 weeks.	Mix 4 mL of Cyrex with 2L water. Apply half the solution to the back and half the solution to the front. If using for flystrike treatment purposes, Cyrex can be applied when wool is wet.
CLiK Extra Can only be purchased in 5L bottles. 	For the prevention against flystrike caused by all the commonly found strike fly species, including the Australian blowfly (<i>Lucilia cuprina</i>).	For 14 to 26 weeks.	Both products are ready to use sprays. Apply bands to the sheep's crutch and over the back (as per instructions on bottle)
CLiKZiN Can only be purchased in 5L bottles. 		For 6 to 9 weeks.	

*Updated Jan 26