

Ovine hereditary chondrodysplasia (Spider Lamb Syndrome)



What is Spider Lamb Syndrome?

- Inherited disorder associated with severe skeletal deformities
- Affected animals may exhibit abnormal spines and long, splayed, “spider-like” legs.
- Spider lambs often have trouble nursing and do not survive beyond 6 months of age.
- A causative mutation has been identified and a genetic test is available so breeders can avoid producing affected lambs.

What you can do to keep your lambs healthy:

- Spider Lamb Syndrome is caused by an identified mutation in the FGFR3 gene.
- Breeders can prevent Spider Lamb Syndrome in their sheep by performing DNA testing for this mutation on breeding stock and avoiding matings between two carriers.
- Hair samples can be submitted to the UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory for testing.

Signs

Abortion or stillborn
Skeletal deformities – long limbs, twisted spines, long necks, splayed legs, flattened ribs, Roman nose, deviated nasal septum, shortened jaw

Transmission

Autosomal
recessive
inheritance

Treatment

None

**If your sheep need medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*