**INDIVIDUAL SHEEP MONITORING RECORD**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **AEC Approval Number:** | | **Project Title:** |
| **Chief Investigator (CI):** | | **Contact Details:** |
| **Investigator responsible for animal care:** | | **Contact Details:** |
| **Animal ID:** | **Study Number:** | **Pen Allocation:** |
| **Arrival Date:** | | |
| **Post Mortem Date:** | | |

* Each animal is observed for various parameters at each time point (every second day, daily or more frequently as appropriate)
* This monitoring protocol is only for ewes and castrated rams (wethers)
* Sheep need to be in small groups of sheep (not alone) where appropriate
* Normal signs are recorded as a score of “0”
* Abnormalities are recorded as a score of “1 - 3”. NB:Scores are not cumulative
* Comments concerning abnormalities are recorded in the comments section of the table

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OBSERVATION**  **(Score 0-3 OR as requested)**  **Refer to scoring sheet for further details** | | | | | | | |
| **DATE** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Food Intake** -  Is the sheep eating? Y/N Make a note of amount of feed (3L or 2 scoops/morning and evening). Estimate % of food consumed since last feed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Water Consumption** –  Is the sheep drinking? Y/N Make a note of the water (3L or bucket (either 10L of 20L) and estimate % of water drunk since bucket topped up/refreshed. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Faeces / Urine |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Behaviour/ Movement |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eyes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nasal |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Condition of udder (ewes only) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| COMMENTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MEDICATIONS / VETERINARY INTERVENTIONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Recorded by:  Time: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**OBSERVATIONS SEVERITY SCORE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCORE** | **0** | **1** | **2** | **3** |
| **Food Intake**  **(if normal behaviour not observed: % of chaff / hay consumed to be assessed prior to any new feed).**  **Normal feed consists of 2 large scoops of lucerne chaff twice/day with or without hay (lucerne/grass)** | normal | decreased intake over 24 hours | decreased intake over 48 hours. Eats when fed an alternative feed.  Injection of Vitamin B to stimulate appetite. | no interest in food whatsoever (over last 48 hours) even after Vitamin B injection. |
| **Water Consumption (if normal behaviour not observed: % of water in bucket consumed prior to any additional top up)** | normal | decreased intake over 24 hours | decreased intake over 48 hours. | no interest in drinking whatsoever |
| **Faeces / Urine** | normal (faeces and urine present) | scouring present. Change in urine production (+/- volume / colour / odour) | heavy scouring with soiled perineum OR abnormally dry +/- mucus | no faeces for 48 hrs OR frank blood in faeces |
| **Behaviour / Movement** | normal (interested in surroundings) | mainly recumbent, rises when approached | lethargic, will reluctantly rise when approached, ears drooped, not chewing cud.  Reluctantly moves when pen is being hosed out | Very lethargic (ears stay drooped, head down), not chewing cud, grinding teeth. Will not move when pen is being hosed out. |
| **Eyes** | normal | slight discharge OR ocular membranes pink | freely weeping discharge OR inflamed pink membranes OR opaque eyes | no response to treatment after 48 hours. Eye and surrounds visibly damaged and causing pain |
| **Nasal** | normal | slight discharge | freely weeping discharge OR mucus around nose affecting breathing | no response to treatment after 48 hours. Frank blood in nasal discharge |
| **Condition of udder (ewes only)** | normal | teats/udder looks slightly abnormal on visual inspection (colour/shape) | hot, discoloured teats that feel slightly firm | hot, discoloured teats that are hard to touch. Abnormal discharge |
| **Wound Healing** | normal | Slight discharge, hot to touch.  Area of site is swollen and inflamed | Freely oozing site. | total wound breakdown |
| **Neurological deficits** | normal | Nervousness; poor interaction with flock | Circling behaviour; erratic movement | face paralysis; teeth grinding; lip licking; spastic convulsions |
| **Generic lameness** | normal | Mildly lame: Back is slightly arched when standing and/or walking. The sheep walks with short strides in one or more legs | Moderately lame: The back is arched, lame sheep can still bear some weight on affected foot. | Severely lame: The back is arched; sheep refuses to bear weight on affected foot and remains recumbent |

# SPECIAL HUSBANDRY REQUIREMENTS

Start monitoring more frequently if the sheep scores 1 in any of the above parameters and commence intervention if necessary.

EUTHANASIA /HUMANE EXPERIMENTAL ENDPOINT CRITERIA

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CLINICAL SIGN** | **ACTION**  Consult both veterinarian and CI |
| **Sheep**  Loss of muscle tone, mobility or alertness. If the animal is reluctant to stand after 2 hours (veterinary consultation)  Reduced consumption of food (for 48 hours or more even with stimulation of appetite or encouragement)  Extreme erratic behaviour or spastic convulsions  Sustained elevated temperature for longer than 24 hours with antibiotic treatment.  Lateral Recumbency (lying on the side) Sternal Recumbency (lying on the belly) >12h  Acute weight loss (10%) or Chronic weight loss (15%)  Body Condition Score 1 (see below for explanation) | Euthanasia of animal  Euthanasia of animal  Euthanasia of animal  EUTHANASE  EUTHANASE EUTHANASE  EUTHANASE  EUTHANASE |
| **Any severity score of 3** | EUTHANASE |

*Clinical Veterinarians are responsible for determining whether immediate action is required to alleviate any animal suffering or distress.*

**SHEEP CONDITION SCORING**



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCORE 1** | **Backbone**  The bones form a sharp  narrow ridge. Each vertebra can be easily felt as a bone under the skin. The sheep is emaciated and you have a serious animal welfare problem. **EUTHANASE** | **Short Ribs**  The ends of the short ribs are very obvious. It is easy to feel the squarish shape of the ends. Using fingers spread 1 cm apart, it feels like the fingernail under the skin with practically no covering | **Eye Muscle** Thin, the surface ending to feel hollow |
| **SCORE 2** | **Backbone**  The bones form a narrow ridge but the points are rounded with muscle. It is easy to press between each bone. The sheep is not in serious trouble yet, but you do need to improve its condition. | **Short Ribs**  The ends of short ribs are well rounded but it is easy to press between them. Using fingers spread 0.5 cm apart, the ends feel rounded like finger ends. They are covered with flesh but it is easy to press under and between them. | **Eye Muscle** Reasonable depth with the surface tending to feel flat |
| **SCORE 3** | **Backbone**  The vertebrae are only slightly elevated above a full eye muscle. It is possible to feel each rounded bone but not to press between them. This sheep is in good condition. | **Short Ribs**  The ends of the short ribs are well rounded and filled with muscle. Using 4 fingers pressed tightly together, it is possible to feel the rounded ends but not between them. They are well covered and filled in with muscle. | **Eye Muscle**  Full and rounded |
| **SCORE 4** | **Backbone**  It is possible to feel most vertebrae with pressure. The back bone is a smooth slightly raised ridge above full eye muscles and the skin floats over it. This sheep is in good condition, but you are overfeeding it a little. | **Short Ribs**  It is only possible to feel or sense one or two short ribs and only possible to press under them with difficulty. It feels like the side of the palm, where maybe one end can be sensed. | **Eye Muscle** Full with a covering layer of fat |
| **SCORE 5** | **Backbone**  The spine may only be felt (if at all) by pressing down firmly between the fat covered eye muscles. A bustle of fat may appear over the tail. This sheep is seriously overweight and the diet needs to be modified. | **Short Ribs**  It is virtually impossible to feel under the ends as the triangle formed by the long ribs and hip bone is filled with meat and fat. The short rib ends cannot be felt. | **Eye Muscle** Muscle cannot be felt due to a thick layer of fat |