SOP No: ATT 080

SUBJECT: Paring sheep’s feet

DATE: 18.02.2015

REASON FOR USE: The purpose of this procedure is to return a hoof to normal shape if it has not worn down through walking or if has grown abnormally long or misshapen, or carried out as part of footrot treatment.

POLICY:
- Minimum of one operator required
- Demonstrator: competence in this procedure
- Students: competence in handling sheep (see SOP ATT 081 Yarding, catching and handling sheep), familiarity with sheep anatomy.

PRECAUTIONS:
- Wear sturdy footwear, use sun protection when outside
- Sheep should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure
- Sheep should not be overcrowded in yards
- Specific personal risk issues to be aware of include: using correct positions and handling to avoid back strain, using care to avoid cuts from the shears
- Be aware of the animal’s reaction to the procedure (crush injuries, kicking).
- Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals.
- Maintain strict hygiene procedures to prevent infection from zoonotic diseases.

EQUIPMENT: Yards, catching pen, foot shears, disinfectant.

PROCEDURE:
1. Prepare (sharpen and clean) the foot parers/shears, prepare a disinfectant solution and a foot bath (if required).
2. Pen the required number of sheep by confining a group in the catching pen. Avoid over-crowding.
3. Restrain the animal
4. Hold the foot securely
5. Pare the outer shell of the hoof from the heel to the toe keeping a line with the sole.
6. Carry out this on both claws of all four feet if required.
7. Do not remove healthy hoof tissue.
8. Apply an appropriate hoof treatment (disinfectant) as required to treat footrot.
9. Gently release the sheep into a yard or paddock.
10. On completion of the procedure observe the animal for signs of excessive distress and treat as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE ISSUED:

[Signature]
CHAIR OF AEC

REFERENCES