

Detection of *M. ovipneumoniae* in Pneumonic Mountain Goat Kids

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ABSTRACT Pneumonia epizootics resulting in all-age die-offs followed by sporadic reoccurring summer lamb mortalities due to polymicrobial pneumonia have been well documented in bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). Following a pneumonia epizootic in bighorn sheep and sympatric mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) in Nevada, we documented respiratory disease in kids during late July and early August during aerial surveys in 2011-2016. We noted coughing, head shaking, neck extension, nasal discharge, incoordination, and lethargy among kids we observed. We diagnosed 7 of these mountain goat kids with gross and histologic lesions consistent with *Mycoplasma* sp. infection leading to polymicrobial bronchopneumonia. *M. ovipneumoniae* was detected in the lungs with real-time PCR from all 7 kids. This is the first diagnosis of bronchopneumonia due to *M. ovipneumoniae* in mountain goat kids. Because the overall pattern of disease appears similar to that seen with bighorn sheep, *M. ovipneumoniae* infection may affect kid recruitment in mountain goats.

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KEYWORDS mountain goat, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, Nevada, *Oreamnos americanus*