

Epidemiological Investigation of Abortion in Ewes in Algeria

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Abstract : A study was conducted in order to determine the prevalence and risk factors associated with abortion in ewes in the region of M'sila, located in central-eastern Algeria. A questionnaire was carried out to obtain information about the occurrence of abortion, sheep housing conditions, vaccination, feeding and management practices, and whether the farmers kept other livestock. This cross-sectional study was conducted for 36 months (between 2016 and 2019). A total of 71 sheep flocks were visited. Among 8168 ewes, we recorded 734 (8.99%) abortions and 3861 lambings. The risk factor analysis using multivariable logistic regression showed an association between abortion and vaccination against brucellosis (CI 95%= 2,76-1,35; $p < 0,001$). Abortion decreased when dogs are owned (CI 95%= 0,36-0,84; $p = 0.006$), however, abortion increased with the presence of cats in farms (CI 95%= 1,24-2,8; $p = 0.003$). There was a significant association between abortion and keeping goats (CI 95%= 1,18-2,40; $p = 0.004$), bovins (CI 95%= 0,3-0,68; $p < 0,001$) and poultry CI 95%= 0,39-0,77; $p = 0.001$) in farms. Through this study, it is noticed that a strong association between the occurrence of abortion and estrus synchronization, stillbirth occurrence, and feed supplementation ($p < 0.05$). Identification of the causes of abortion is an important task to reduce foetal losses and to improve livestock productivity.

Keywords : abortion, ewes, questionnaire, risk factors

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