Comparison of Ultra Sound and Serology for Determining Pregnancy in California Bighorn Sheep

CRAIG L. FOSTER,[1] Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Box 1214, Lakeview, OR 97630, USA
LEON PIELSTICK, Harney County Veterinary Clinic, 1050 Crane Blvd., Burns, OR 97720, USA
JEANNE ROSS, Companion Pet Clinic, 4580 Commercial St. SE, Salem, OR 97302, USA

Abstract: Between January 2001 and December 2004 we captured 229 adult California bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis californiana*) ewes from seven Oregon herd ranges and two Nevada herd ranges and compared two techniques for determining pregnancy. Blood serum was used to run Pregnancy Specific Protein B (PSPB) analysis. Ultra sound analysis was completed at capture using trans-dermal or rectal transducers. Differences in determining pregnancy between the two techniques occurred in 16% of the samples. In ewes captured more than 45 d after the peak of rut, most differences occurred when ultra sound analysis failed to identify a fetus but PSPB analysis indicated the ewe was pregnant. In ewes captured less than 45 d after the peak of rut, most differences occurred when ultra sound analysis identified a fetus being present but PSPB analysis indicated the ewe was not pregnant.

BIENN. SYMP. NORTH. WILD SHEEP AND GOAT COUNC. 15: 2006

Key words: California bighorn sheep, pregnancy, PSPB analysis, ultrasound.

---

[1] E-mail: Craig.L.Foster@state.or.us