

WHITE MUSCLE DISEASE IN GOATS AND SHEEP

by

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Abstract

Mountain goats (Oreamnos americanus), from which blood samples were being taken in an effort to determine serum sodium values, were trapped during the summers of 1965, 1966, 1967. During the first two summers three animals died, two adult females and a kid, following symptoms approximating those of white muscle disease, as described by Muth (1963). This led to further studies on three animals in the summer of 1967, to ascertain whether or not white muscle disease was present. S-GOT values were determined and a histological evaluation was made of the muscle tissue.

Even where presumed white muscle disease was occurring in mountain goats, mountain sheep (Ovis canadensis) inhabiting the same general region were not affected. Evidence was accumulated explaining some factors influencing the susceptibility of mountain sheep and goats to white muscle disease.