

ANIMAL DISEASE RESEARCH UNIT, ARS, USDA  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Informed Consent Form for Animal Owners

Researcher: Margaret A. Highland, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVP

Owner/Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose of this Form**

We would like to include your sheep/goat in an on-going research study designed to identify the prevalence and distribution of the respiratory pathogen, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, and the causative microbial agents of “pinkeye”, *Mycoplasma conjunctivae* and *Chlamydia* spp. This form is to provide information to help you decide whether you want your sheep/goat(s) to be in the study or not. **Please read this form carefully.**

**You can ask questions** about the purpose of the study, the possible risks and benefits, and anything else about the research or this form that is not clear. When we have answered all your questions, you can decide if you want your sheep/goat(s) to be in the study or not.

**Purpose of this Study**

The purpose of this study is to collect nasal and conjunctival swabs from sheep/goats in Alaska to screen for carriage of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* and agents associated with keratoconjunctivitis (“pinkeye”). Additionally, blood/serum may be used for checking antibody titers to one or more of these potential pathogens.

A proposal to regulate domestic sheep & goats in Alaska, as well as removal from the “clean list” was submitted to the Board of Game, the reason is based on the potential that domestic sheep/goats can carry *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, a primary bacterial agent associated with bighorn and thinhorn sheep pneumonia, and bacterial agents that cause pinkeye (*Mycoplasma conjunctivae* and *Chlamydia* spp) in wild sheep and goats. In order to understand the prevalence and distribution of these potential bacterial pathogens we are requesting samples from sheep/goats in Alaska to use in this study. Identifying reservoir species/hosts and distribution of these bacterial pathogens will help determine the potential risk to wildlife as well as possible costs to the health of the hosts (ie. sheep/goats), as *M. ovipneumoniae* is also a pathogen to domestic goats and sheep, provided the right circumstances (ie. environmental stressors/unidentified host factors) and pinkeye is a recognized disease entity that can affect domestic goats and sheep. To participate, your sheep/goat(s) will have nasal and conjunctival swabs collected and 10 mL of blood drawn from the jugular vein.

You understand this is an ADRU-ARS-USDA research project, therefore costs covered will include supplies, shipping costs, and testing.

You also understand that your sheep/goat(s) can be withdrawn from the study if the investigators

find it necessary. If your pet is withdrawn from the study for any reason, data already collected may continue to be used for research purposes or baseline data for establishing a clinical service. Enrolling your sheep/goat(s) in this study is voluntary and you can withdraw permission and/or your sheep/goat(s) from the study at any time. If your sheep/goat(s) is/are withdrawn from the study for any reason, data already collected may continue to be used for research purposes.

Your name will not be used for any publication/reporting purposes.

Your decision to participate, not participate, or withdraw your sheep/goat(s) from the study will not affect your relationship with the USDA or WSU.

Name of PI: Margaret A. Highland, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVP

Email address of PI: Maggie.Highland@USDA.ARS.GOV

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject's Statement**

This study has been explained to me. I agree that my sheep/goat(s) can take part in this research. I have had a chance to ask general questions about the research, with the researcher listed above.

I certify that I am the legal owner or custodian of the sheep/goat(s) and have the authority to consent medical treatment for this/these sheep/goat(s).

Owner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_