



Title	Tracing for footrot	Version	1
		Replaces	Nil
Policy no.	O-002	Effective date	25/10/2005
Authorised by	Executive Director, Biosecurity, Compliance & Mine Safety	Authorisation date	25/10/2005

1. OVERVIEW

This policy document which provides guidance for tracing to and from footrot infected flocks, replaces Section 4.17 of the NSW Footrot Eradication Manual.

2. BACKGROUND

The NSW Footrot Strategic Plan was launched in 1988 with the objective of improving the productivity and welfare of sheep and goats by the progressive eradication of virulent footrot. Since that time there has been significant progress with footrot eradication throughout the state such that over 85% of NSW is now gazetted as a Protected Area for footrot.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all Senior Regional Animal Health Managers, District Veterinarians and Inspectors.

4. POLICY

This policy document provides guidance for tracing to and from footrot infected flocks.

Continued progress with the Footrot Strategic Plan throughout New South Wales has seen the prevalence of footrot infected flocks decrease significantly. The whole of the State is now gazetted as either Control or Protected Area status and the number of flocks in quarantine for footrot is now below 200. As the prevalence continues to decrease tracing will become increasingly important as the tool which identifies footrot infected flocks. Improved tracing will assist in determining the source of footrot infection and provide information to consider in future policy direction.

Investigation of traced movements should be undertaken with a priority according to the risk that a sheep or goat movement presents. This priority should be applied consistently in all districts.

Quarantine is not an automatic consequence of a trace to a property. In the case of traces classified as high risk, quarantine should be imposed if the inspector has a reasonable and justifiable suspicion of footrot in the flock and there is an unreasonable delay in the follow up investigation to allay suspicion.

Neighbours of quarantined flocks are to be advised when quarantine is imposed and when it is released.

Unless other investigations indicate that a medium risk flock is the likely source, a medium risk flock having medium or low risk traces will not be routinely quarantined prior to inspection. However, the obligation of these owners to notify footrot must be emphasised and they should be encouraged to inspect their sheep's feet. If footrot is subsequently detected at an inspection initiated by an Inspector (see Notification policy), appropriate regulatory action is to be taken.

There is a need to ensure that footrot tracing activities are undertaken properly and completed in a timely manner. The Senior Regional Animal Health Manager will oversee and facilitate aspects of the tracing process. Tracing activities should also be listed in the Annual Footrot Return.

Details of the process for tracing to and from footrot infected flocks are outlined in the Tracing for Footrot Procedure Document.

5. PROCEDURES

This policy document should be read in conjunction with the Tracing for Footrot Procedure Document (BC&MS PROCEDURE 05/014). Inspectors should also refer to the Stock Disease Act Detention and Quarantine Procedures Circular (AI 2002/58) and the Footrot Eradication Procedures (AI Circular 2003/22-23).

6. DEFINITIONS

Note: under this policy footrot refers to virulent footrot as per the *Stock Diseases Act 1923*.

7. RELATED LEGISLATION

Stock Diseases Act 1923

Stock Diseases Regulation 2004

8. RELATED POLICIES

- AI 2003/25 FOOTROT NOTIFICATION POLICY
- AI 2003/22 FOOTROT ERADICATION POLICY

9. RELATED DELEGATIONS

See procedures.

10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

None.

11. REVISION HISTORY

None.

12. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

By 1 June 2008 or earlier if required.

13. CONTACT OFFICER

Issues Leader, Flock Health. Telephone: 6391 3248