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Actinomycosis in a West African Dwarf goat in Nigeria.

Journal article: [Nigerian Veterinary Journal](#), 2010, Vol. 31, No. 1, 80-86 ref. 20

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Abstract

Actinomycosis, also called Lumpy jaw is a chronic, progressive, indurated, granulomatous, suppurative abscess that most frequently involves the mandible, the maxillae or other bony tissues in the head. It is a sporadic but common disease in cattle, occasional in pigs and horses and rarely in goats (Radostits *et al.*, 2007). Members of the genus *Actinomyces* are Gram positive, non-acid fast, non-spore forming rods (Songer and Post, 2005) that form a mycelium of branching filaments that fragment into irregular-sized rods (Blood *et al.*, 2007). The species that commonly cause disease in domestic animals include *A. bovis*, *A. hordeovulneris*, *A. hyovaginalis*, *A. israelii*, *A. naeslundii*, *A. suis*, *A. viscosus* and *Arcanobacterium pyogenes* (Songer and Post, 2005). *Actinomyces bovis* is a common inhabitant of the bovine mouth and infection is presumed to occur through wounds to the buccal mucosa caused by sharp pieces of

feed or foreign material. Infection may also occur through dental alveoli, and may account for the more common occurrence of the disease in young cattle when the teeth are erupting (Radostits *et al.*, 2007). *Actinomyces viscosus* causes periodontal disease and subgingival plaques in hamsters fed a high carbohydrate diet, and also abscessation in dogs (Timoney *et al.*, 1988) in which it is an opportunistic infection (Blood *et al.*, 2007). The present report describes a case of actinomycosis due to *A. viscosus* involving a doe in a herd of 42 West African Dwarf (WAD) goats kept intensively at the Teaching and Research Farm, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

ISSN (Print): 0331-3026

CABI Record Number: 20103355730

Publisher: [Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association, National Veterinary Research Institute](#)

Location of publication: Vom

Country of publication: Nigeria

Language of text: English

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Organism Descriptors

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9. goats
10. West African Dwarf (goat breed)

Identifiers

1. bacterium
2. clinical picture
3. subsaharan Africa

Geographical Locations

1. Africa South of Sahara
2. Nigeria

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