

# PLEURISY

## What is the disease?

Pleurisy is inflammation of the pleura, which is the lining of the inside of the chest wall and on the surface of the lungs. It is almost always associated with fluid in the chest cavity and inflammation of the lungs, i.e. pneumonia.

The identification of pleurisy in live animals may be through symptoms including shallow breathing, dullness and inappetence.



*Pleurisy with fibrinous sheets on the reflected ribcage, with large volumes of pleural fluid and fibrinous material in the chest cavity • Source: R Fogarty*

## How common is it on-farm?

The occurrence of pleurisy can vary widely on-farm and is influenced by various management practices, the presence of specific diseases, as well as general hygiene practices and climate control.

## How is it spread?

The presence of other lung diseases such as pneumonia will increase the susceptibility of an animal to pleurisy, as will poor management practices around the stocking density of animals, climate control, nutrition, biosecurity and the mixing of animals.

## Carcass impact

Pleurisy may require removal of part of the pleura in mild cases right through to removal of ribs in severe cases. If there is evidence of acute systemic infection, then the carcass will be condemned.

## Treatment

The cause of the pleurisy needs to be determined by your veterinarian before treatment is implemented. Pleuropneumonia caused by APP or Glasser's disease may be treated individually or as group treatments with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.

## Prevention

Prevention is achieved through maintaining good biosecurity practices, including control of other respiratory diseases that have the potential to develop into pleurisy. Vaccination against respiratory disease, as recommended by a veterinarian, will also be of benefit for infectious causes.