



Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis (IKC)



What is IKC?

Inflammation of the cornea and conjunctiva of the eye.

Where is IKC found?

This is a condition that can be found in ruminants around the globe. In Wyoming we typically see IKC in moose and deer but has also been observed in pronghorn, elk and bighorn sheep.

How is it spread?

Trauma caused by UV light exposure, abrasions from air particles and foliage can cause initial trauma to the eye allowing bacteria to infiltrate and colonize. Underlying viral infections and nutritional deficiencies have also been identified as contributing factors.

What are some clinical signs of disease?

One or both eyes can be affected, opaque or cloudy appearance of the eye, ocular discharge, crusty buildup around the eye, and ocular ulcerations are common signs of IKC.

How does this affect me?

This condition does not pose human health concerns in most cases. In rare cases, IKC can be caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis* (plague) and should be approached with caution.

Information for outdoor recreationists:

Recreationists that find dead animals presenting with IKC can report findings to their local biologist.

For additional information on infectious keratoconjunctivitis or any other wildlife disease, please contact the WGFD Wildlife Health Laboratory at 307-745-5865.