



Signs of Pain in Sheep

Sign	Explanation
Guarding	The animal alters its posture to avoid moving or causing contact to a body part (e.g. not allowing lambs to nurse when mastitis occurs).
Abnormal appearance	Obvious changed posture and a changed profile of the body (e.g. arched back) are all observable signs. Dullness.
Altered behaviour	Behaviour may be depressed; animals may remain immobile, or be reluctant to stand or move even when disturbed. They may also exhibit restlessness (e.g. lying down and getting up, shifting weight, circling, or pacing) or disturbed sleeping patterns. They may grunt, grind their teeth, curl their lips, repeated 'yawning', kneeling, altered gait, stomp, kick at their belly, or reluctance to breed (rams). Exhibit rapid and shallow breathing. Animals in pain may also show altered social interactions with others in their group. (e.g. isolated from flock).
Vocalization	Do not tend to vocalize when in pain.
Mutilation	Animals may bite, shake or rub a painful area, wool chewing, scratching or rubbing.
Inappetence	Animals in pain frequently stop eating and drinking, or markedly reduce their intake, rumination may stop.

* Adapted from Recognition and Alleviation of Pain in Laboratory Animals. National Research Council (US) Committee on Recognition and Alleviation of Pain in Laboratory Animals. 2009. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US) (www.nap.edu/); National Academy of Sciences. Available at: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK32656/