ORF - CONTAGIOUS ECTHYMA
[Contagious pustular dermatitis, Contagious Pustular Stomatitis, Ecthyma Contagiosum]

SPECIES: Sheep, goats, & wild ungulates

AGENT: Genus Parapoxvirus of Family Poxviridae.

RESERVOIR AND INCIDENCE: Sheep and goats worldwide.

TRANSMISSION: crusted areas on muzzle, eyelids, oral cavity, feet, or external genitalia are laden with virus. Transmitted easily from animals to man by contact. The virus is highly resistant to adverse environments and persists for many years.

DISEASE IN ANIMALS: necrosis in the skin and mucous membranes of the gastrointestinal and urogenital tracts. Intense pain can interfere with eating.

DISEASE IN MAN: Large painful nodules usually distributed on the hands. Weeping red surfaces. These resolve with minimum scarring 1-2 months later.

DIAGNOSIS: Diagnosis is made by a history of contact with sheep, goats, or wild ungulates; by EM demonstration of the poxvirus in the lesion; cell culture; or serologically.

PREVENTION/CONTROL: Wear rubber gloves when handling infected sheep and when working in an environment near infected sheep.

BIOSAFETY LEVEL: BL-2

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