

### *Chlamydia abortus* infection in sheep

*Chlamydophila abortus* is an obligate, intracellular gram-negative bacterium and is one of the most economically important pathogens of small ruminants causing abortion in sheep (ovine enzootic abortion [OEA]) and goats. *C. abortus* can also cause abortion in cattle and pigs and represents a significant zoonotic risk to pregnant women.

The simplest methods for detecting infected animals look for the presence of chlamydial antibodies in serum, however, this is complicated by the presence of cross-reactive antibodies due to inapparent intestinal infections with the *Chlamydophila pecorum* and other gram-negative bacteria.

The MVD-Enfer *Chlamydia abortus* ELISA was developed by scientists at the Moredun Research Institute (Longbottom *et al*, 2002, J. Clin. Microbiol. 40: 4235-4243) and is an indirect ELISA kit for the detection of anti-POMP90 (POMP) antibodies in ovine serum. POMP is a major outer membrane protein of *Chlamydia abortus* that is not present in *Chlamydia pecorum*, thus the specificity of the test is not compromised by cross-reactions due to infection with *C. pecorum* unlike the complement fixation test and other Chlamydia ELISAs.

For more information on Chlamydia abortus go to the [Moredun Research Institute](#) website