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Behaviour and physiology of sheep exposed to ammonia at a similar concentration to those experienced by sheep during export by sea

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Highlights

- We confirm reduced feed intake in sheep in ammonia typical of live export
- Chewing rates during eating and rumination declined and respiratory rate increased
- Regurgitation during rumination was retarded and yawning decreased
- Concentration of faecal corticosterone metabolites was increased after 5 days
- Results suggest ammonia caused stress and irritation of the buccal cavity

Abstract

Ammonia accumulates in livestock accommodation, which inflames mucosal tissue to cause coughing, sneezing and lacrimation and adversely affects feed intake. We aimed to find out why feed intake is reduced for sheep in ammonia conditions typical of live export by measuring nutritional behaviour and stress levels. Twelve sheep were randomly allocated to Ammonia or Control treatments

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