

## The Hair Lung Worm of Sheep (*Protostrongylus rufescens*)

**Description.**—The Hair Lung Worm of Sheep is a brownish-red hair like worm that lives in the smaller air tubes and lung tissue. The males are about three quarters of an inch long and the females from one inch to one and a half inches in length. The egg is of medium size and contains a visible embryo at the time of release from the uterus of the female worm.

**Life History of the Hair Lung Worm.**—The life history of this parasite is believed to be very similar to that of the Thread Lung Worm described in the previous paragraphs.

**Distribution.**—The Hair Lung Worm of sheep is found less frequently than the Thread Lung Worm. However its distribution is wide and both varieties are found frequently in the same sheep. It is known to be very hardy to adverse weather conditions.

**Symptoms.**—The symptoms manifested in cases of Hair Lung Worm infestation are similar to those described for Thread Lung Worm in previous section.

A slightly different picture is revealed by post mortem examination. The Hair Lung Worm, its larva and eggs cause a localized pneumonia condition, distinguished by grayish yellow tumor like areas that vary in size up to three quarters of an inch across, frequently very irregular in outline and but slightly elevated above the surface of the neighbouring tissue. A microscopical examination of these areas will usually reveal the presence of the larvae.

**Treatment and Prevention of Hair Lung Worm.**—All animals known to be infested with Hair Lung Worm should be disposed of by slaughter as soon as possible. Weak or ailing sheep should always be removed from the main flock and given special care if it is decided to keep them for a short time. The use of bronchial antiseptics as advised in the



Figure 14a.

*The dirty hind end usually indicates the presence of intestinal or lung worms. The sheep shown in this photo proved an autopsy to be heavily infested with Lung Worm.*