

Valais Blacknose Australia Ltd



SPITTI



Valais Blacknose Sheep

On rare occasions, purebred Valais Blacknose Sheep (i.e. from purebred parentage on the dam and sire lines) may produce progeny that are significantly over-marked, even to the degree of reverse patterning. These offspring are referred to as 'Spitti'.

The term spitti is used in many counties around the world with the following generally accepted principles:

- Some spittis have predominantly black wool instead of white, while others may have a splotching pattern.
- Sheep with common mismarks, e.g. extra black leg spots or a single colour spot, are not considered to be spitti.
- Spitti colouring is a genetic trait however the gene/s have not been identified as yet.
- Spitti rams should be castrated and are not eligible for registration for breeding purposes.
- Spitti ewes are eligible for breeding and registration.
- In some regions around the world, Spitti sheep are considered to be good luck.

Offspring born from the breed up program are not purebred and therefore cannot be classified as Spittis. VBA would encourage terminology such as 'mismarked' or 'patterned'.

