

Goat Health Management Tips

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Normal: Temperature 101.5 – 103°F
Respiratory rate 10-30 breaths/min (kids- 20-40 breaths/min)

Routine Procedures

Trim feet every 4-6 months; depends on housing & environment.

Castration Beware of tetanus- vaccinate doe & kids described below; count 2 if band

Vaccination Follow manufacturer’s instructions; use 3/4 to 1 inch 18-20 gauge needle
Prefer subcutaneous (SQ) method if label directions permit; tent skin for SQ.
SQ in neck area in meat goats, behind elbow in breeders/show goats
Tetanus toxoid & Clostridium perfringens C&D (overeating disease)

Initial dose >1 month of age

Immunize 3-4 weeks later

Yearly booster To pregnant does 30 days before kidding

Goat vaccines: **Bar Vac CD/T (Boehringer Ingelheim), Vision CD/T (Intervet),**
Essential 3+T (Colorado Serum Co.)

Sheep/cattle vaccine: Covexin 8 (Schering Plough)

Deworming POINTS PERMANENT PASTURES PROMOTE PARASITES- promote browsing
Pasture rotation important- at least 3 times each year; EVERY 3 days best.

Do not graze grass below 4 inches.

Parasite resistance exists to many dewormers, especially Ivomec

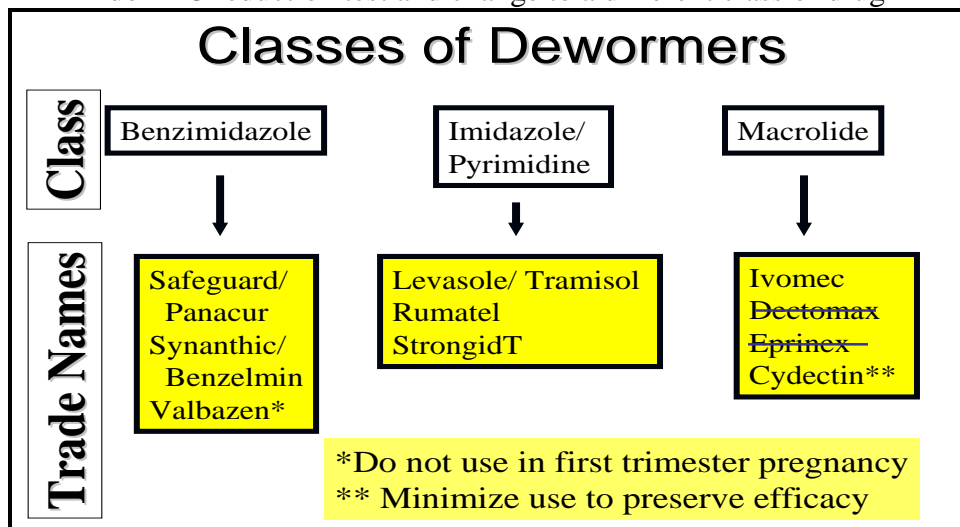
Fecal Egg Counts (FEC) help monitor parasites- FEC at deworming & repeat FEC in 14 days (need controls for FEC reduction test).

Beware of diatomaceous earth- does not effectively deworm

Need 1.5-2 times higher dose than cattle/sheep oral products; do NOT underdose.

Caution with levamisol (1.5x). Only use Cydectin sheep drench formulation in goats.

Choose one product & use for at least one year; if suspect dewormer resistance,
do FEC reduction test and change to a different class of drug



Deworming Tips

Select parasite-resistant goats- with good FAMACHA and low FEC (Fecal Egg Count)

ISOLATE new additions on dry lot for 3 weeks; dry lot & NO access to grass.

Deworm simultaneously on arrival with anthelmintic from each of the 3 classes;

Do Fecal Egg Count (FEC) 14 days later- can enter herd if negative.

FAST- improves efficacy of some oral dewormers. Hold in dry lot or feed only dry hay for
12-24 hours before and 8-12 hours later. (Ad lib water)

Avoid “salvage” deworming- showing signs (bottle jaw)

Strategic Deworming Method- this is not “smart drenching”

Deworm 30 days before kidding

Follow with 2 to 4 more dewormings at 3 week intervals

Treat kids at weaning and utilize “safe” pastures {hay pasture, new pasture, not grazed for 3 months (spring) or 6 months (fall), grazed by cattle/horses }

Summer Tactical Deworming – remove parasites from goats before the worms contaminate pasture

Examples: Treat goats 10-14 days after rain, especially during a drought

High fecal egg counts in spring (500 eggs per gram) or fall (1,000 EPG)

FAMACHA® “Smart drenching”; selective treatment based on pale eye color in the summer. System does not treat all goats; promotes identifying those that are resilient to internal worms.

DISEASES: PLEASE work with your local veterinarian for accurate diagnosis: common listed first
Lice control; cattle pour-on’s (example- Ivomec) as pour-on will get lice but NOT internal worms!

Coccidia- very common; often associated with over-crowding and/or stress; avoid wet areas

Prevention: Rumensin Beware in horses
Bovatec* Beware in horses * **Extralabel in goats**
Deccox

Treatment: Corid (amprolium)* * **Extralabel in goats**
Sulfamethazine, sulfadimethoxine* * **Extralabel in goats**

PNEUMONIA Do NOT use Micotil in goats. ILLEGAL to use Baytril in goats.

Improve ventilation (best to keep on pasture, out of barn)

Isolate new arrivals for 2-4 weeks; do not share waterers with herd

Enterotoxemia/ over-eating disease Prevent with vaccination (CD vaccine)

Foot scald/footrot Avoid purchasing footrot cases- infectious disease; trim hooves and use zinc sulfate foot bath (8 lbs ZnSO4 in 10 gallons water and 1/3 cup laundry detergent)

Late Tem Abortions Toxoplasma*, Chlamydia, Campylobacter, Leptospirosis. Send to lab for dx

White muscle disease = selenium deficiency; use good mineral; may need to use injectable Rx drug

Listeria “Circling disease”; prompt treatment with antibiotics (penicillin or tetracycline are drugs of choice; should include steroids)

Meningeal worm (Parelaphostrongylus tenuis) from white tail deer; goat weak in rear legs.

Polioencephalomalacia Blindness/ seizure; B1 (thiamine) vitamin deficiency

Caseous Lymphadenitis “Contagious abscess”, “cheesy gland”; isolate goat; consider vaccinating with CL Bacterin Vaccine (Texas Vet Lab; labeled for goats)

Johne’s disease Wasting disease, usually no diarrhea; affected usually over 1 year of age

Soremouth “Orf”; wear gloves- contagious to humans

Ringworm Contagious to humans

Pinkeye Caused by Chlamydia, Mycoplasma, or other agents; isolate; systemic and/or topical treatment with oxytetracycline

Q Fever Bacteria *Coxiella burnetti* in placenta/fluids & milk; usually not a clinical problem in goats; mild to serious flu symptoms in humans

Tetanus Prevent with good vaccination protocol

Urolithiasis Urinary calculi- males observed straining. Prevent with access to fresh, clean water and ammonium chloride in feed or mineral (200-300 mg/kg/day.)

Scrapie Rare in goats; decrease contact/ keep separate from sheep, especially during lambing. Clean area well after lambing.