



ANIMAL CLINIC, LLC
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SMALL RUMINANTS (SHEEP AND GOATS)

Vaccinations

Clostridium perfringens type C and D and Clostridium tetanus
STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!

Adults – spring and fall (one of these in the last month of pregnancy)

Lambs and kids – Start at 1 to 2 months of age and booster vaccination in 3 weeks , then every spring and fall

- Vaccinate all new additions and quarantine from flock for 2 weeks

Other vaccinations – if needed

▪ **consult with a veterinarian before adding these to your program**

1. Chlamydia (enzootic abortion)
2. Caseous Lymphadenitis – vaccinate young, irritating vaccine (lumps resulting at vaccination site), older or infected animals may have an anaphylactic reaction – Caution when using!
3. Contagious Ecthyma (Orf, Soremouth) – **LIVE VIRUS VACCINE!** Use only if disease is on the premises!

Parasite Control

(DEWORMING)

- Pre-lambing / kidding (Jan. – April) Ivermectin and Fenbendazole
- Post – lambing / kidding (March – May) Ivermectin and Albendazole
- Midsummer (July – August) Ivermectin and Fenbendazole
- Fall (Oct. – Nov.) Ivermectin
 - » Deworm lambs/kids every 1 to 2 months, starting at 8 weeks of age until fall
 - » Deworm all new additions and hold them off pasture 10 days to avoid egg shedding

Dewormers and Botacides

1. Ivermectin – worms and external parasites (nasal bots, lice, keds, etc.) (300micrograms/kg - usually 1ml / 75lbs)
2. Fenbendazole (Safeguard®,Panacur®) - worms, no bots (10 – 20 mgs/kg – 2 to 4 times the label cattle dose)
3. Albendazole (Valbazen®) – worms, no bots (10 – 15 mgs/kg – sheep brand available, see label) Do not use during breeding season or while pregnant!
4. Others: Dormectin (Dectomax®) and Moxidectin (Cydectin®) – if fecal samples show resistance to above drugs

→Give all above dewormers orally

- ▶ Fecal egg counts are recommended to evaluate your deworming program, &/or possible resistance to deworming drugs. Pre-deworming and 14 days post deworming samples are recommended.

Lice

Lice can be biting or sucking and are visible with the naked eye. Infestation can cause anemia, unthriftiness, and even death in young animals. Use a topical delousing product such as a pour on or dust recommended by your veterinarian. First usage should be followed up in 2 weeks to end the life cycle.

Reasons to call the ANIMAL CLINIC, LLC

Emergencies:

- Birthing problems (Dystocia)
- Down animal (unable to stand)
- Bloat (very distended abdomen)
- Lacerations (severe bleeding or blood loss)
- Non-weight bearing on a leg (broken?)
- Prolapses (uterus or vagina or rectum-pushed out)
- Neurologic signs (off balance, circling, falling, etc.)

Other Concerns:

- »Not eating
- »Fever (> 104 °F)
- »Respiratory problems / pneumonia
- »Eye problems (tearing, squinting, etc.)
- »Skin problems (hair loss, rash, lumps, etc.)
- »Diarrhea (coccidiosis, acidosis, etc.)
- »Lameness (limping)

Nutrition

► Nutrition will vary with use and production. (Wool, mohair, meat, milk, etc.) Consult a nutritionist or the Animal Clinic for specific nutritional needs.

BASIC RECCOMENDATIONS

- Copper Warning! Sheep and goat minerals and supplements are recommended. Cattle and other formulations can have **toxic** amounts of copper!
- Be careful not to overfeed. – “Killing with kindness”- Adjust feed amount with weight gain or loss
- High quality grass hay is preferred (or average quality alfalfa)
- Be careful with grain – Make sure it is coarse, with few or no fines (problems seen: bloat, acidosis, laminitis, enterotoxemia, etc.) Pelleted feed recommended.
- Fresh, clean water offered free choice (2 to 3 gallons per head per day- double this amount if lactating)
- Trace salt/mineral block available – sheep or goat label
- Adult males and wethers kept as pets: No grain or alfalfa - grass hay only after 6 months of age due to bladder and urethral stones. Free choice salt block. (In addition, add one level teaspoon of table salt to a handful of oats for a 50 pound animal during fall and winter months)
- Late gestation ewes and does: shear wool and increase energy in the feed in order to decrease chances of “Pregnancy Toxemia”. Before lambing/kidding, slowly increase grain to 1/2 pound per head per day divided into 2 feedings.
- Newborn lambs and kids:
 - Within the first 2 hours after birth, feed 6 to 8 ounces of colostrum, (mother’s first milk – full of antibodies for protection against disease).
 - If there are triplets or more, monitor body condition closely, and separate 1 or 2 and feed by bottle if needed.
 - Wean no sooner than 4 weeks of age
 - If feeding milk replacer – feed 20% of bodyweight divided into 4 to 6 feedings (after 3 weeks of age, you can feed them every 12 hours) A 25% to 30% fat milk replacer with 20% protein is suggested.

REPRODUCTION

- Estrous cycle: 21 days – goats, and 17 days – sheep
- 147 day gestation period
- Fall breeders -short day (goats can be bred year around)
- Parturition (lambing / kidding)
 - » Cervical plug is lost before stage 1 (as early as one week before)
 - » Close to birthing: udder fills, vulva enlarges, small amounts of clear mucous discharge
 - » **Stage 1** - May leave flock, uncomfortable, up & down, frequent urination (2 to 12 hours)
 - » **Stage 2** – Active pushing, fetus is delivered (1 to 2 hours) Ewe / doe may rest 30 minutes between deliveries. If the ewe / doe is straining for more than 1 hour, call the ANIMAL CLINIC or check presentation and aid.
 - » **Stage 3** – Placenta is normally expelled (1 to 6 hours). Placenta is considered to be retained if it is not expelled within 12 to 18 hours. Call the ANIMAL CLINIC, if placenta is retained or if there is a foul odor.

OTHER MANAGEMENT

1. A shelter and 25 square feet per animal are recommended (something to climb on for goats – hill, bales, etc.)
 2. Hoof care – Hooves should be trimmed to normal shape by an experienced person or farrier every 2-4 months, or as needed.
 3. Dehorning – Dehorning/debudding should be done between 2 and 3 weeks of age.
 4. Castration – Surgical or band castration should be done between 1 and 3 weeks of age. Clostridium tetanus should be administered 2 weeks before banding and boosted on the day of banding.
- To aid in keeping disease from entering the flock:
- All new additions should be quarantined for 2 weeks for possible infectious disease. (orf, pneumonia, footrot, etc.)
 - Vaccinate and deworm all new additions on arrival.
 - Testing all new arrivals for “Caseous Lymphadenitis” and “Caprine Arthritis-Encephalitis” is recommended for animals coming into a closed breeding herd.

SHEEP & GOATS

HEART RATE
70 – 90 BPM

RESPIRATORY RATE
15 – 30 BPM

TEMPERATURE
102 – 104 °F

BPM = beats or breaths per minute