

SHEEP AND GOAT HEALTH

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PHYSIOLOGIC PARAMETERS OF SHEEP AND GOATS

PARAMETER	SHEEP	GOAT
Rectal temperature	102 degrees F	102-104 degrees F
Ruminations	2/minute	1-2/minute
Pulse	70-80 beats/minute	70-90 beats/minute
Respiration	12-20 breaths/minute	15-30 breaths/minute
Puberty	5-12 months	4-12 months
Estrus	36 hours	12-24 hours
Estrous cycle	16-17 days	18-23 days
Gestation	147 days	150 days

OBSERVATION

SIGNS OF A SICK ANIMAL

- Develop a preventative health program
- Will not eat as quickly
- May not clean up feed
- Check manure – diarrhea – changed feed too quickly, consumed too much high energy feed, may have internal parasites

OBSERVATION

SIGNS OF A SICK ANIMAL

- Head hanging down
- Dull appearing eyes
- Walk abnormally
- Treat sick animals immediately

ILLEGAL DRUGS

- State and federal laws and regulations concerning the use of drugs for livestock are established to protect human and animal health
- Instructions and restrictions on product labels must be strictly followed

ILLEGAL DRUGS (cont)

- Labels state:

Species or class of livestock for which drug is to be used

Recommended route of administration

Approved dosage rate

Specific conditions to be treated

Withdrawal times

ILLEGAL DRUGS

(cont)

- The use of a drug in a manner other than stated on its label is regulated by the FDA and may be done only under the control of a licensed veterinarian
- Most Texas livestock shows have strict policies against the illegal use of drugs and will disqualify animals if such drugs have been used

LAMB DISEASES

ENTEROTOXEMIA

- Enterotoxemia (overeating disease) – main cause of death in club lambs
- Symptoms seldom exhibited
- Caused by clostridial organism that is normally present in intestines of most sheep
- Abrupt change in feeding schedule or consume large amounts of grain
- Causes organism to release toxin that causes death in a few hours
- Vaccinate, booster 2 to 3 weeks later

LAMB DISEASES

TETANUS

- No satisfactory treatment, lambs seldom recover
- Common with use of elastrator bands to dock tails
- There are combination vaccines for tetanus and enterotoxemia

LAMB DISEASES

INTERNAL PARASITES

- Drench new lambs immediately
- Second drenching should follow about 3 weeks later

LAMB DISEASES

SOREMOUTH

- Contagious disease that causes scabs on lips and around mouth
- Causes by a virus that can affect humans
- Iodine rubbed on lesions after scabs are removed will help dry up area and reduce infection.
- There is a live-virus vaccine that will help prevent soremouth

LAMB DISEASES

POLYARTHRITIS – STIFF LAMB DISEASE

- Affects 3 week to 5 month old lambs
- Inactive, reluctant to rise or move, lose weight or gain weight slowly
- Move with stiff gait but seem to warm out of it after a few minutes
- Treatment – tetracycline antibiotics

LAMB DISEASES

COCCIDIOSIS

- Causes weight loss
- Bloody diarrhea, dehydration, weight loss, and weakness
- Separate and give individual treatment as prescribed by veterinarian
- Most show goat rations are medicated with a coccidiostat

LAMB DISEASES

URINARY CALCULI

- Metabolic disease of male goats characterized by formation of stones in urinary tract
- Cannot pee, restless, kick at belly, stretch, and attempt to urinate
- Cause – rations with high phosphorus levels and an imbalance of calcium and phosphorus
- Provide 2:1 calcium:phosphorus ratio in ration and add 10-15 lb ammonium chloride per ton of feed
- Provide plenty of clean, fresh drinking water

LAMB DISEASES

RECTAL PROLAPSE

- Inherited
- Associated with concentrate feeding, short docking of tail, or excessive coughing induced by dusty conditions
- Treat by veterinarian

LAMB DISEASES

RINGWORM

- Contagious
- Transmitted from lamb to lamb, from lamb to human, or from infected equipment to lamb
- Use good prevention program
- The following products have been used
 - Fulvicin powder – bolus or top dress feed
 - Novasan – 3 oz/gallon water sprayed on lambs, equipment and premises
 - Bleach – 10% solution sprayed on lambs, equipment, and premises

LAMB HEALTH TAIL DOCKING

- Many commercial lambs have long tails and need to be re-docked
- Re-dock as early as possible to allow time to heal
- Can be done by yourself or a veterinarian

LAMB HEALTH

HOOF TRIMMING

- Trim hooves every 4-6 weeks
- Always trim hooves 1-2 weeks before a show in case you accidentally cut into the quick and temporarily cripple the lamb

EWE DISEASES

- Enterotoxemia
- Internal parasites
- Soremouth
- Mastitis
- Pregnancy toxemia
- Caseous lymphadenitis
- Copper poisoning

EWE/DOE ABORTION DISEASES

- Bluetongue – anytime
- Border Disease (Harry Shaker) – anytime
- Brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis* or *B. ovis*) – last trimester
- Q-fever (*Coxiella burnetii*) – last few weeks

EWE/DOE ABORTION DISEASES

- Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (*Chlamydia psittaci*) – 4th or 5th month
- Vibriosis (*Campylobacter fetus & jejuni*) – last 6 weeks
- Leptospirosis (*Leptospira interrogans*) – second half
- Listerosis (*Listeria monocytogenes*) – anytime
- Toxoplasmosis (*Toxoplasma gondii*) - anytime

EWE/DOE ABORTION DISEASES

- Send in fetus and/or placenta for histopathology, pathology, or necropsy for potential isolation of organism

RAM/BUCK DISEASES

- Epididymitis

- Breeding Soundness Examination

Examination – mouth, feet and legs, body
condition score, genitalia

Palpation – scrotal size and consistency

Semen exam – motility, morphology

GOAT DISEASES

- Enterotoxemia
- Internal parasites
- Urinary calculi
- Coccidiosis
- Soremouth
- Ringworm
- Tetanus
- Hoof trimming

GOAT DISEASES

CAPRINE ARTHRITIS & ENCEPHALITIS

- Infectious disease found in dairy goats
- Transmission mainly through milk and colostrum of infected mother to nursing kid
- Two forms – arthritis in adult goats and neurological form in 2-6 month old kids (rear leg paralysis)
- No treatment, cull all infected goats

GOAT DISEASES

CASEOUS LYMPHADENITIS

- Contagious disease, formation of abscesses in lymph nodes
- Treat abscesses
- Cull infected goats
- Vaccinate with a commercial vaccine

GOAT DISEASES

ENTROPION

- Inversion of upper, lower, or both eyelids
- Lid may be sutured, stapled, or inverted with a bolus of penicillin
- Very hereditary, do not keep for replacement

GOAT DISEASES

PINKEYE

- Contagious disease – excessive watering of eye and clouding over of pupil
- Very susceptible after transport to new location
- Dry, dusty pens and constant exposure to sunlight are contributing factors
- Most goats recover without any treatment

GOAT DISEASES

POLIOENCEPHALOMALACIA

- Caused by thiamine (Vitamin B1) deficiency
- Thiamine produced by rumen microflora
- Depressed, star gaze, act blind, and progress to convulsions
- Treat with thiamine hydrochloride at a dose of 5 mg/lb of body weight every 6-8 hr until symptoms subside

GOAT DISEASES

PREGNANCY TOXEMIA

- Occurs in overfat, confined goats carrying twins or triplets
- Energy deficient, uses own fat reserves, ketones are produced
- Symptoms – swelling of legs, loss of muscle over loin, loss of appetite
- Separate and feed ad lib a high energy, high protein feed
- If no response treat with liquid energy supplements such as propylene glycol

GOAT DISEASES

FLOPPY KID SYNDROME

- 3-10 day old kids show depression, weakness, and paralysis without signs of diarrhea and have normal rectal temperature
- Kids have metabolic acidosis
- Treatment – $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon baking soda for a 10 pound kid, mix baking soda with water and administer by stomach tube

GOAT DISEASES

EXTERNAL PARASITES (LICE)

- Both biting and sucking
- Many sprays and pour-ons are effective in controlling lice
- Treat twice, 10-14 days apart

GOAT HEALTH

DEHORNING / TIPPING

- Some shows require that goats be dehorned
- Dehorn goats at 14 to 28 days of age
- The larger the goat the more stressful
- Some shows request that the goat horns be tipped
- Tip horns 4-6 weeks prior to show to allow proper healing