The Goat Circus

**Your Goats Health**

**Things to know:**

A goat’s temp is about 102.3 to 103.2℉. The first sign of sickness is when they isolate themselves and don’t eat. They may also stand with their four legs tightly underneath them and stand in a hunched manner. Taking their temp right away will give you a good idea about what might be wrong with them….

**Feed:** Goats should be offered plenty of fresh water and hay if there isn't a pasture with a lot of forage. Goats can eat most hays. Goats, especially wethers should not be fed straight alfalfa. This can lead to urinary calculi. Feeding a *combination* of Alfalfa and Grass Hay or Forage Hay is a good combination. Too much grain can also cause urinary calculi in wethers. You can add ammonium chloride to wether's grain once a month for five days in a row if you have a urinary calculi concern. Our goats get alfalfa and forage hay. Our goats get grain daily. We do NOT use the textured feeds with molasses and corn, which contain too much sugar and aren’t needed unless goat is heavy in lactation. We feed Farmer’s Meat Goat Complete, a pelleted grain. Please keep in mind that goats should get a goat grain and not a generic livestock grain as goats need more copper than other livestock. We like to add a goat mineral to their grain several times a week. We use Manna Pro Goat Mineral from Tractor Supply. It is recommended that you have the loose mineral from them to browse at as they like. Only put a small amount at a time or they waste it. Also, we always have a mineral block and a salt block out somewhere for them to lick. Some goats love the blocks, and some don’t…

**Never feed goats *moldy* feed or grain**, it can cause goat polio or listeriosis. One of the most common symptoms is sudden blindness.

**Hooves:** Goats should have their hooves done about as often as a horse, every 6-8 weeks or so. It’s much easier to do the hooves yourself when you keep on top of it, rather than when hooves get long and miss-shaped. We use the orange handled hoof trimmers from Jeffers.com.

**Deworming your goats:** We deworm our goats as needed. We also deworm them just before breeding time. Symptoms of needing to deworm are fat bloated bellies, boney topline, rough and/or dull coat, diarrhea….

Please have a list of poisonous plants to goats (included in this section of the website) and have it posted somewhere in your garage on barn…. *It’s a good idea to have on hand*. Giving goats too much of any food and it will make them sick to their stomach. ***Contrary to what people say, goats can’t eat anything.***

**In general:**

Goats hate the rain, and they love to climb. They will climb anything. Goats are very food motivated. This is handy when you want to move them. Some treats our goats like are grain, plain animal crackers (from Costco) carrots and fig newton cookies. They do like apples- but too many will ferment in their belly.

Please keep in mind that goats can die if they get into chicken food or if they get into grain bins and overeat. Make sure ALL Feed is securely stored away from goats. Goats can get bloat, founder and clostridium from overeating chicken food or any kind of grain. All these illnesses are painful and can often be fatal.

**Shelter:** Make sure goats have adequate shade in the summer months. They can get overheated. In the winter and rain, they should have adequate shelter to stay dry and warm. **Plastic doghouses become an oven** in the summer and are not adequate shelter in the hot months.

If you decide to **tie your goats** to an area so they can eat weeds down, make sure they know how to be tie. If you put a goat on a long rope for the first time they can run to the end of the rope and break their neck. Start their lead off short and gradually increase the length over the next few weeks.

**One of the first signs of illness is:** they go off to be by themselves. They usually won’t eat when they don’t feel well. Their tail is also a good health indicator. If their tail is down, they may be feeling poorly. Their posture can be hunched. The first thing to do when a goat isn’t feeling well is to take their temperature. It should be around 102℉. Anything above 103.5- 104℉ I usually treat with antibiotics unless it’s a hot day out. If temp is below 101℉ they are on their way out and could be dying and need to be warmed up.

**Itchy goats**: Goats don’t generally get fleas, but they can get lice. It is different from human lice & is easily treated. We have never gotten lice from goats & they sit on the couch with my husband and me. If they are itchy or you see bugs in their hair- use a pour on treatment like Cylence or Ivermax. We *always* retreat goats for lice 7-9 days after the first treatment. You may need to repeat treatment two more times 7-9 days apart each- for a total of *three* treatments.

**Collars & Hay Nets:** I don’t like to have my goats wear collars unless I am handling them daily. Most of the time my critters don’t wear collars. I have seen too many videos of goats strangling themselves with their collars on. They can get caught on a fence, or each other and easily strangle themselves or break their pasture mate’s leg. Additionally, Hay Nets are a big hazard as goats can get caught and strangle themselves. Look up videos. It is darn horrifying and has cured me from ever using hay nets.

Things you should always have on hand: listed on next page

**Things you should always have on hand:**

(\* Have on hand now)

\****Thermometer – get one, get TWO that works in 8 seconds not 30 seconds. Trust me!***

\*Probios paste for BOVINE for belly ache (***must*** be for ruminates) from feed store

\*Fortified Vitamin B Complex (must have thiamine)

\*Needles (I like20 gage ½ inch) and syringes 3 cc- 12cc (tractor supply)

\*Goat hoof trimmers (Orange handle Saboten Hoof trimmer from Jeffers NOT amazon) 

\*De-wormers: Cydectin Oral Sheep Drench or Valbazen (Safeguard is **NOT** effective)

Banamine for pain (get from vet)

Kaolin Pectin-for diarrhea (like Pepto-Bismol- feed store)

Thiamine (get from vet)

CD&T vaccine (feed store) Give annually every January or February.

Betadine (feed store)

Terramycin eye ointment (get from vet)

CD antitoxin (I swear by this stuff. It is difficult to find, but life saving when they are sick)

Scour guard for diarrhea (directions say it’s for pigs but I use it on goats- get from vet)

Nuflor or LA 200 an antibiotic (get from vet) Nuflor is better. Both of these antibiotics take a 16 gage needle.



