

Goatveto Spring Newsletter

Goat Veterinary Consultancies - goatveto

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What's a LPA audit

Australia has the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) system and every property that sells goats via saleyards or to abattoirs must be in LPA. Other countries have similar systems or some companies like McDonalds, have a Quality Assurance schemes that work the same way.

In Australia there are 3500 audits done each year. These audits are either random or targeted (properties known to have had problems in the past especially regarding errors in the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) or filling out their National Vendor Declarations (NVD) or other problems). Any property with a PIC or Property Identification Code can be chosen for a random audit and every farm, property or backyard that has even one goat, must have a PIC.

These audits can be done either remotely or face to face with a property visit

by the AUSMEAT auditor. There are 800 remote audits done each year and you upload reports, maps and photos etc into the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) website. LPA audits don't cost you anything as the fees charged for having PICs or buying NVD books, pay the auditors.

If you refuse to have an audit you get suspended from being able to use NVDs and the LPA system so won't be able to sell via saleyards or abattoirs. So don't refuse. Most of the time the worse that can happen is that you get a Corrective Action Report and you get time to correct the errors the auditors find.

What most goat owners find difficulties with are prescriptions for veterinary medicines used on their goats as they are not registered for goats or drenches used at higher than label dose rates. LPA requires you to keep records of all treatments done on your goats and they sell booklets to do so or you can download a

template from www.integritysystems.com.au or more specifically <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/record-keeping/#recording-templates>. This is good practice anyway and vets often want to know exactly what your goats have been given in the past.

Biosecurity Plan

One of the things that LPA auditors will ask for is a Biosecurity Plan. Also is a government requirement in my state – Queensland.

Every goat owner anywhere in the world needs to have one of these and the link above has a template. Writing this will force you to think about what steps you need to take to protect your goats from introduced diseases, lice or drench resistant worms or your farm from new weeds. Some very serious disease like Johne's disease and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) have asymptomatic carriers that can introduce these diseases even though they

look healthy. Ideally only buy goats from herds accredited and in the Market Assurance Program for these disease Animal Health Australia maintains a searchable database. At the very least if buying dairy or miniature breed goats see the lab reports of past years' whole herd negative tests. Don't just take their words for it that they are free. Even if the owner is honest they may have had a flood and manure from a dairy cow herd upstream may have contaminated their farm with Johne's disease. Johne's disease can be taken years for clinical signs to show up.

The Biosecurity plan should also cover quarantine of new goats. Most will keep new purchased goats in a secure area for 3 weeks during which time the goats will be drenched (if not done on the sellers farm just before transport) and checked for lice by doing 20 hair partings or using a dog flea comb. Their feet should be trimmed and you should look for any signs of foot rot or other problems. A worm egg count should be done 14 days after the drench was given to

ensure there are no worm eggs. Any worm eggs found will be from drench resistant worms (assuming you gave the drench correctly and none was spat out). This is why I recommend that Bioworma should be fed while in quarantine. Drench resistant worms are another reason that the quarantine area should not allow any goat faecal pellets to run downhill onto your other goats pastures and ideally you should wear separate boots when feeding the quarantined goats or at the very least, feed the quarantined goats last.



Do you use Bluesky, X, Threads or Tumbler?

See all my tweets at [www.x.com/goatvet](https://twitter.com/goatvet)

My favourite tweet was "The herd-level prevalence of caprine arthritis-encephalitis in Lithuania = 50% with the link to the scientific article" You can follow me on Bluesky, Tumblr or Threads – search for goatveto. I am goatvet on X.

DrenchChecks

Do you know if your drench is working properly? Do a DrenchCheck i.e. worm egg counts before and exactly 14 days after drenching and ideally larval cultures for both as well. At 14 days any worm eggs must be from worms that survived the drench. Barber's pole worms (*Haemonchus contortus*) have the shortest life cycle of any worm parasite but this takes 17 days before the worm larvae eaten at day 1 are mature enough to lay eggs. You don't do the worm egg counts earlier than 10-14 days as sometimes the drench makes the worms sick so they don't lay any eggs but they aren't actually killed. Read about DrenchChecks here - <https://wormboss.com.au/tests-tools/checking-for-drench-resistance-with-a-drenchcheck/>. Always do a DrenchCheck when you reach almost the bottom of the drench container before you buy any more. There is no point in buying the same drench if it no longer works.