

## Goat Veterinary Consultancies –goatvetoZ - Your Investment, My Fees

These are current as at January 2020 but can change at short notice, so please download the current fees from [www.goatvetoZ.com.au](http://www.goatvetoZ.com.au) rather than rely on an old printed version of this document. Also lab fees can change at any time but quotes can be given that include both veterinary and laboratory fees. I donate my time to talk about CAE eradication but the organising group must arrange for my transport or cover my costs to get me to the venue. I provide lots of free information on my website and via social media to promote healthy goats. However to continue my work I must cover my overheads and insurance. Payment is accepted in cash, by cheque, direct deposit or by PayPal.

### Backyard Goats (fewer than 5 goats)

- Where no Property Plan is needed, a consultation fee of \$88 per visit (includes GST), and travel as described below. Any treatments would be an extra charge e.g. vaccinations, worming (cost depends on anthelmintic used), antibiotics etc, to cover costs of these consumables.

### Short visit & consultations

- Where only a short consultation (10 mins) is needed e.g. to give 1 injection to 1 or 2 goats, then only \$55 is charged.

### Herd Health Property Visits and Assessments

- First hour or part thereof on the property \$154
- Subsequent hour/s or part thereof \$110 (not including accepted hospitality)  
**Travel expenses** – \$0.68 per km round trip and \$0.70 for travel time after the first ½ hr travelling time round trip (30 minutes -no charge). Also, any tolls paid for the trip.  
Travel accommodation, should overnight stay be needed for Workplace Health & Safety reasons i.e. maximum work and travel hours exceed 8 hours, accommodation & allowances will be charged at the ATO rates for that location.
- Your goat management and Biosecurity plan will be emailed to you and your local vet if email addresses are given. These can also be mailed if wished. This will be provided within 2 weeks of the visit or date of last email with any information that was to be confirmed by the client.

### Interstate or within Qld (if > 500 km from Brisbane) Travel

- The same fees apply as above except domestic economy air ticket for the vet to travel at reasonable hours (i.e. 7am -7pm) instead of mileage. Hire car charges will be billed to the client unless vet is met at the airport by the client. Cost of the return Brisbane airport train journey will be charged at cost – currently \$46 return (see [http://www.airtrain.com.au/fare\\_process.php](http://www.airtrain.com.au/fare_process.php))

NOTE - Clients are encouraged to work together as travel costs will be divided amongst those at the same location and seen on the same day/s. Also, providing property maps and goat management information by email beforehand will reduce the time taken for the property visit.

These fees are based on those used by AQIS for private vet inspections which will be used as a benchmark – see [the current AQIS Live Animal Exports fee structure](#) which came into effect on 1 July 2015 and is as follows: i.e. \$116.90 per ¼ hour for both admin and inspection.

## Worm Control Plans

- Worm control plans can be provided for the same cost as biosecurity plans and will include prescriptions for sheep worm drenches, if needed. These prescriptions need to be kept in case of LPA (meat goats) or SFQ (milk) audits. Advice will include pasture management and nutrition as preventative measures. Ongoing support, including interpreting worm egg count results of faecal samples, will be provided for the 12 months of the plan.
- Worm egg counts will be done on faecal samples from clients only and only by arrangement. Cost is \$22 for the first goat then \$11 per goat with a maximum of 5 samples at any one time.

## Training Courses

- Venue, catering and provision of any equipment and /or goats to be organised and paid for by one key contact for all clients. Goatvetoz will charge for time only @ \$700 per half day or part there-of or \$1400 per full day. If shared with another presenter taking equal burden of time, a full day will cost \$ 750. Travel and accommodation costs are as above. I support goat clubs and will provide a lower price on request.
- I speak to any groups about CAE for free- the organisers just have to pick me up and return me home or pay my travel costs to get me there. This and my management of the Let's Eradicate CAE Facebook page is my contribution to eradicating this terrible goat disease.
- FAMACHA half day courses will be offered at a special rate as recognition of the developing anthelmintic resistance levels in goat parasites through-out Australia. This will be \$500 per half day course, but participants will be expected to purchase their own FAMACHA cards at cost. (\$30 with cheques made out to the Small Ruminant Chapter of the ANZCVS). A lecture venue with PowerPoint facilities, morning tea, plus goats and/ or sheep in yards with good natural light will be needed.

NOTE – Goat clubs are encouraged to work together to arrange courses for members but to provide one key contact, who will be the go-between with goatvetoz and organisers for all members. Goat clubs should also request sponsorship to reduce costs for their members (suggestions can be provided). Note, each organizer will be given checklists and advice for each course to make the job easier. All arrangements must be confirmed by email to [goatvetoz@gmail.com](mailto:goatvetoz@gmail.com). An alternate wet weather venue will be needed, unless another arrangement is made at the time of booking, otherwise a cancellation fee will be charged of \$200 for lost work and opportunity. There is no maximum number for lectures but there is a maximum of 20 for hands-on workshops. For smaller clubs in rural areas a quotes can be given if they think they won't get enough numbers to make a profit.

### Suggested half day training courses that goat clubs could consider include:

- a. Worm Egg Counting schools. Participants must bring their own microscope and egg counting chamber (contacts for inexpensive chambers and microscopes provided).
- b. Basic post mortem sample collection for isolated properties (which will require human food quality livers, hearts, brains and kidneys to be purchased from a local butcher's shop, by the organizer). Goatvetoz will provide the required scalpels, sharps container, bottles, test strips and gloves. This hands-on activity will be supplemented with a PowerPoint presentation of diseased goats etc.
- c. Goat AI courses - note prior animal ethics approval may be needed (any charges will be passed on to clients). Also needed for the course will be the number of mature does recommended by the animal ethics committee and goat AI stands.

- d. Kidding workshops - how to assist at a difficult kidding, when to take a doe to your local vet for a caesarean, how to stomach tube a kid, how to give first aid to a “floppy kid”.
- e. Kid mortality workshops - this will require at least 20 securely double bagged and frozen kids or lambs that died at or within a few days of birth. The more frozen kids the better and preferably from different herds or properties. Partly eaten carcasses are still useful and should be frozen.
- f. Basic first aid for goats - including how to take a goat’s temperature, pulse and respiratory rate, how to access rumen movements, immediate first aid before taking to your vet e.g. for bloat, broken leg, pregnancy toxemia, how to stomach tube, how to take faecal samples, how to take sterile milk samples and give intra-mammary treatments. A full day course will be needed if participants wish to try these techniques themselves under supervision as the half day course only provides a demonstration.

## Disbudding

Kids will only be done under an anaesthetic with a cost of \$ 47. Kids will be checked before being injected with a safe, short-acting intravenous anaesthetic. Kids can be fed until 2 hours before disbudding. Meloxicam (a pain killer) will be given orally beforehand for prolonged pain relief for when the anaesthetic wears off. Kids should be done as soon as the horn buds can be felt, which is normally 3 to 5 days for males and 4-7 days for females. Please phone as soon as kids are born to make arrangements. If done on your farm, travel costs will apply.

## Elective Surgery

- Elective surgery is done on farm so travel costs apply as per page 1
- The owner must be able to follow the post-operative care instructions that will be provided. Instructions for care before and after surgery will be emailed as part of the consent form.
- Pain relief is provided as the anaesthetic wears off and the owner will be provided with pain relief treatments to administer to the goat for subsequent days.

## Dehorning

- Goat dehorning or scur removal with a light anaesthesia and local anaesthesia - for goats under 3 months i.e. no open frontal sinus. Client must be able to with-hold feed and water for up to 12 hours respectively beforehand, although for kids, milk can still be given by bottle or from the dam until 4 hours beforehand. Instructions for care before and after surgery will be emailed as part of the consent form. \$ 120.
- Goat dehorning or scur removal with a light anaesthesia and local anaesthesia – for goats over 3 months or with an open frontal sinus that needs bandaging. Client must be able to with-hold feed for 16-18 hours and water for 10-12 hours beforehand and to pen the goat separately afterwards. \$ 165.
- Extra will be charged if the goat/s tetanus vaccinations are not up-to-date and a Tetanus Anti-Toxin (TAT) injection (horse product) is needed or owner can provide this for the vet to administer at the time.
- Adult bucks will not be done during the breeding season as healing could be delayed. Bucks fees are double those for does. The wound healing time in bucks can be months. Large horns will not be done so a photo will be requested beforehand.

## Castration

- We do not use rubber elastrator rings (which castrate by restricting blood supply), although their use at an early age is common in meat & fibre goats. We will however provide “Buccalgescic” gel (meloxicam) as pain relief for clients doing their own kids, along with a written prescription.

- Buck kids that are going to be kept as pet wethers should be castrated later in life, as research has shown that kids kept as entire bucks have wider urinary tracts if left at least 60 days prior to castration. As buck kids are fertile between 3-4 months, the ideal time for castration is therefore 2-3 months. Castration will be done under an anaesthetic and the blood vessel cauterized & tied. The wound will be left open to drain as is the case with horses. Instructions for care before and after surgery will be emailed as part of the consent form.

Cost - \$195 (2-3 months), \$220 (3-6 months), \$250 (6-12 months). If 12 months or older please discuss first as higher risk.

### **Taking Blood Samples for Goat Disease Surveillance**

- Blood samples will be taken via vacuum tubes with strict hygiene i.e. similar techniques that are used with people. All goats must be permanently identified before-hand or goats will be tattooed at the time samples are taken at the owner's cost. Owner must provide a handler to hold each of the goats. Prices are for a property visit and plan, plus travel for the round trip at \$0.66 per klm and \$0.70 per minute travel time of (with the first 30klms and first 30 minutes at no charge). If samples are dropped off at the laboratory the extra travel is just added to the mileage and time or alternatively the owner can drop off the samples (map provided). This is approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the current AQIS vet charge as my contribution towards the eradication of infectious goat diseases.
- Lab fees will be charged at cost, rounded up to the nearest \$. Currently the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory in Qld charges (2018/19) are approximately \$7.29 per CAE test if for accreditation (\$14.02 if not for accreditation) but there is a one off additional lab handling fee of \$24.50 prior to starting any testing. Johne's disease ELISA tests are \$12.88 each. Also, the time and mileage for delivering samples to the lab will be added, unless the owner will be delivering the samples themselves during the lab's normal business hours (9-5, M-F). Goat owners are encouraged to combine with a neighbouring herd to reduce travel, lab delivery costs. The owner is to provide a suitable "coolite esky" for the samples. A detailed quote can be given if the farm address plus the number and ages of goats are provided.
- If the goat needs to be permanently identified by goatvetoz, then an extra fee of \$5.50 will be charged and a number tattooed in one ear. Only numbers will be brought along, unless a prior arrangement is made to bring letters as well.
- Dr Sandra Baxendell is an accredited veterinarian under the Market Assurance Scheme for Johne's disease and can do the annual plans needed. Only goats over 12 months need to be tested for Johne's disease, compared to 6 months for CAE.

### **Clostridial & CLA vaccination**

- Goatvetoz will have "3 in 1" vaccine available. This must be kept refrigerated and comes in large sizes. All goats should have 2 injections 4-6 weeks apart and then boosters every 6 months (more often if on a high grain diet) to protect from enterotoxaemia, which causes severe blood stained enteritis, convulsions and sudden death. Protection is also against tetanus and cheesy gland (CLA). When booking an appointment, request vaccination if needed. Sterile needles and syringes are used as well as sterile vaccine removal techniques. A "crash kit" with adrenalin will be on hand in case of any anaphylactic shock (very rare). Once the client has been visited and goats examined, and hence a client-vet relationship exists and the client has been shown how to give a subcutaneous injection, then a vaccine dose in a labelled syringe can be provided to the goat owner client. Note it is illegal to supply individual doses to goat owners who are not clients.

- Goat owners can legally purchase “3 in 1” vaccine from Wesfarmers or Elders or similar but it is often not stocked or only stocked in large volumes. This cannot be resold in different containers of smaller amounts. Only vets can do this for their own clients.

## Prescriptions

- Prescriptions for the whole herd for prevention of a disease e.g. of sheep anthelmintics, coccidiosis prevention, prevent an abortion storm etc. can only be provided once a property visit has been completed, in order to demonstrate a true client-veterinarian relationship. Property visits will need to be repeated every 6 months or as recommended by the relevant state veterinary surgeons’ board. Prescriptions will only be provided in writing and will have full details of with-holding periods etc. which must be followed. By law, Goat Veterinary Consultancies- goatvetoz must keep copies for 2 years. Cost per prescription- \$11. The median price for prescriptions given by vets was \$25 (MPV News, Nov 2019).
- Prescriptions for individual sick goats are best done by your local veterinarian who can examine the animals for a proper diagnosis. Goat Veterinary Consultancies- goatvetoz only does planned preventative health work and not emergency veterinary work.

## Euthanasia

- Sometime euthanasia is needed due to untreatable conditions or conditions associated with old age. An intramuscular anaesthetic is given and once the goat is down, an overdose of pentobarbitone intravenous injection is given into the vein until death is confirmed. Costs depend on size of goat (and hence the amount of anaesthetic used) and range from \$33 for newborn kids with congenital defects to \$132 for adult dairy goats plus travel costs as per page 1. Owners are responsible for the disposal of the body (contact your local council who generally provide this service).

## Necropsy/ Post-mortem

- As a public service, Goat Veterinary Consultancies – goatvetoz will post-mortem newborn kids by arrangement via phone at no cost. No samples will be tested or sent to a laboratory unless requested and then there will be costs for these as well as the cost of transport of the samples to the lab (unless the owner delivers them). However a lot of information can be found by a post-mortem by examination with the naked eye. The owner is responsible for disposal of the body (which will be double bagged).
- Post-mortem examinations can be done on recently destroyed or dead goats by prior arrangement. Cost is \$154 if under 6 months, \$220 if >6 months or adult plus travel to property. If samples are taken then the laboratory, transport and test fees will be charged at cost. The owner is responsible for the safe disposal of the carcass in all cases.

## Phone or Email Advice

- Advice of a general nature will be given if time allows by email or phone (note phone calls will not be returned unless the caller is an existing client, so please state your name and address clearly in any message left).
- As a public service, Goat Veterinary Consultancies - goatvetoz will keep a [Facebook page](#) where general health information is given and queries posted will be answered as my time allows. I also donate my time to the Facebook group, [Goat Vet Corner](#).

- Specific advice cannot be given unless a property visit has taken place within the last 6-12 months and a true client-veterinarian relationship exists between the goat owner and the Goat Veterinary Consultancies - goatvetoz.
- Advice on blood tests or post-mortem results will only be discussed with the veterinarian who took the samples, not with the goat owner.

Note the above is a requirement of legislation governing the conduct of veterinary surgeon ([www.vsb.qld.gov.au](http://www.vsb.qld.gov.au)) and the Australian Veterinary Association code of professional conduct see <http://www.ava.com.au/conduct>.

## Consultancy work

- Consultancy work is done for a rate of \$1100 a day or \$220 per hour.

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