

Goatvetoz Summer Newsletter

Goat Veterinary Consultancies - goatvetoz

Summer 2020/21

Entropion

Entropion is the turning inwards of an eyelid causing eye irritation, pain, infection and weeping. In severe cases it can damage the cornea within 1-2 days and eventually cause blindness. It can affect either right &/or left eyes, and upper &/or lower eyelids. It is congenital (i.e. present from birth) and may or may not be genetic. Ideally all kids should be checked within the first day or two for signs of entropion.

There are many treatment options for entropion in kids and the choice depends on the severity. If there is already an infection in the eye then ointment must be applied as well as correcting it. These are S4 as contain antibiotics & must be obtained from your local vet.

For mild cases, all that may be needed is for the kid owner to roll out the inwards folded eyelid and hold open for a little while several times a day in the first few days. This is easy to do for bottle reared kid as it can be done while feeding.

For more severe cases, superglue can be used and the method is described in John Matthews' textbook, "Diseases of the Goat". While wearing gloves to protect your fingers and hands, use a tooth pick to apply superglue to the skin below the turned in eyelids. You basically stick 2 levels of skin together so the turned in lids are turned out. You have only a few second to apply and remove the toothpick. The superglue sticks to the skin in preference to the toothpick if done correctly and lasts around 5 days. When it wears off, the lids are permanently in the correct position.

More severe cases need veterinary treatment which might involve Injections horizontally underneath the affected eyelid with something that will cause irritation. An antibiotic, such as oxytetracycline, is often used but you must remember the with-holding period that the vet will give you. The antibiotic also helps with any infection. Some vets use penicillin. Note this method requires an excellent animal handler to

Q Fever

The New Year is a time for everyone to set goals for 2020. Most commonly these are about your health - i.e. to lose weight or get fit. One goal goat breeders should have, is to find out whether you have had Q Fever and if not, to see an experienced doctor and get vaccinated.

The Q in "Q Fever" stands either for Query (as initially the cause was unknown) or Queensland, depending on which history report you read. It is caused by a very tiny intracellular bacteria, *Coxiella burnetii*¹, named after its discoverer, the Australian Nobel Prize winning researcher, Sir Macfarlane Burnet.

All Australian vet students and meat workers must now be vaccinated for Q Fever. Goats are a known risk factor. A survey of ferals found that over 50% had antibodies to Q Fever. Most goats with Q fever have no signs, although it can cause abortions in pregnant goats. The birth fluids of infected goats are contaminated with Q Fever organisms, so if you help at kiddings, you are at high risk. See your doctor & discuss skin tests and vaccination. There are risks as getting vaccinated, if you have already been exposed, causes severe side-effects.

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hold the kid very still. If a very small gauge needle is used, e.g. 24 or 25, then no local anaesthetic is given beforehand.

How much milk do newborn kids need?

It depends on size of kids and if premature or not. Colostrum is essential and must be ingested within the first few hours of birth and before anything else is fed. Colostrum has antibodies from the mother and this is why the doe should be vaccinated 4 weeks before their due dates. Antibodies are very large and can't get across the ruminant placenta. Colostrum also has large amounts of vitamin A, another large molecule. The gut wall of the newborn kid has larger holes in it than normal and this allows these large molecules to get through the gut wall and into the kid's blood stream.

How much colostrum needs to be fed? It depends on the kid's weight. Ideally 10% of their body weight in the first 6 hours then another 10% in the following 12 hours (Harwood and Mueller, 2018). Another text book (Matthews, 2017) recommends 150-200 mls for the first feed then 600mls

over the next 24 hours split over at least 4 feeds for a 3 kg kid. After 24 hours, no antibodies will be absorbed although they will still act locally inside the gut. Don't feed anything except colostrum for the first feed.

Later kids can be fed a quality milk replacer (with milk, not soy, protein) or full cream cow's milk suitable for human consumption. Make sure the milk powder has been stored correctly and not in a hot shed. Aim to feed 10-15% or more (up to 20%) of the kid's body weight as milk split across 4 feeds in first week, then 3 feeds for the first 6 weeks then 2 feeds. Water must be available from week 1 and similarly both hay and grain. Never feed water via a bottle, just make sure kids can reach the water source or have water in a smaller bucket.

Teat Spray or Dip

Teat dips or sprays are essential to be applied every time a goat is milked as it protects the teat sphincter until the keratin plug reforms. These are basically an antiseptic and come in 2 basic types:

1. Iodine based
2. Chlorhexidine based

They must be applied using a teat dip cup (see the following photo) that has a reservoir below or a small narrow container. A spray is often better as there is no contamination but the spray must cover all sides of the teat to ensure good coverage. Whatever method is used needs to ensure the teat dip solution goes at least half way up each teat or higher. There must be a drop of antiseptic at the end of the teat after milking. Also put out hay in high hay racks immediately after milking, so the does stand up for an hour or so after milking.

Unfortunately many teat dip products are only sold in 20L drums. Another alternative is to purchase a human equivalent. There are many products that you can buy in your local chemist shop that can be substituted and which come in smaller sizes e.g. 500ml. Don't choose foams, soaps or chlorhexidine made up with alcohol. Most skin cleaners that are 2% chlorhexidine gluconate are acceptable. Look at the concentration of chlorhexidine and add extra water to make a 0.5% solution.

