

Goatvetoz Winter Newsletter

Goat Veterinary Consultancies - goatvetoz

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Do you have drench resistant worms?

Every farm is different and has a different population of worms. From recent surveys in sheep properties we know that drench resistance is widespread to white drenches and those the mectin family and now even some to monepantel (Zolvix). It is critical to check that the worm treatment you are using on your goats is working well.

This generally means performing a Drench Resistance Test involving a faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT). This involves choosing 10 or ideally 15 goats for each group and then worming them. One group is left as a control & not drenched unless there are concerns about the animals' health if not drenched. If you have enough goats then you can test different worm drench families. Ideally you would check that your goats have enough eggs per gram before drenching.

If you don't have enough goats you can still do a modified FECRT. You do this by doing individual faecal egg counts (FECs), drench and then redo these FECs in 14 days' time, which is called a DrenchCheck. In this case you don't need a control group as each animal is its own control. Do a DrenchCheck when you first buy a new drench. Repeat

before you get to the bottom of the drench container and before you buy it again.

Why wait 14 days after drenching? Sometimes the worm drenches don't kill the worms, but just stop the worms laying eggs for a short period.

What is the pass rate for a worm drench? A FERT or a DrenchCheck is not like an exam with a 50% pass rate. Ideally there will be a 98-97% reduction in faecal egg counts but over 95% is still considered acceptable. If there is less than 95% then resistance is rapidly developing. Remember, if at a 90% pass rate, one in 10 worms are left and stay in the goat's gut producing eggs that carry the resistant genes to contaminate your pastures.

The worm drench can still produce an effect with a 50% FEC reduction but the worm drench days are numbered as only half the worms are killed and the half that aren't all have the genes to resist anthelmintics. Worms have a very short generation interval so these genes are then rapidly spread.

You should also make sure you never introduce resistance worms when buying in new goats. Keep them in quarantine, drench

them then do a FEC in 14 days. Either feed them BioWorma ® while in quarantine or collect and dispose of all the new goats' faeces as any eggs and larvae in these faeces are from drench resistant worms. Ideally don't let them out until the FEC is zero.

Ideally you should do larval culture before and after as well as worm egg counts because resistance develops in each worm species separately. At least do a larval culture afterwards so you know what species are surviving the drench. If it is *Haemonchus contortus* (barbers pole) worms surviving the drench, then you can consider using Barbervax ® or Copper Oxide Wire Particles with your vet's prescription and advice. If other worm species, then another drench active and BioWorma ® are your only options. There are no new actives in the pipeline.

With-Holding Periods

Sheep worm drenches and other vet medicines have a With-Holding Period or WHP which is the number of

days that must be allowed before sending a sheep to slaughter or its milk used for human consumption. This is needed before the meat, offal or milk drug residue is below the Maximum Residue Levels if tested at random. Unfortunately the few drenches registered for goats have incorrect dose information which means incorrect WHPs and also that their use needs a veterinarians prescription as they are being used "off label".

In the USA, veterinarians can contact a government service, the Farm Animal Residue Database and get a current WHP. Australian vets do not have a similar service so must keep their own records of how they reached the WHP that they must put on their client's prescription.

This means the goat WHP is variable and often a lot longer than that of sheep. The WHPs is increased because:

- Each vet has a different attitude to the risks involved as the vet could be responsible for any residues found at abattoirs by random surveys & hence loose a market for goat meat.

- Due to lack of available research on goat residues, most vets are very conservative.
- As not registered for goats, the level of any drench residue found in goat meat and offal must be below the level of detection, not the Maximum Residue Level used for sheep.
- Goats get a higher dose rate which could affect the WHPs

In the United Kingdom, veterinarians can use either the sheep or the cattle WHP, whichever is the longer. In other countries, some have a default WHP for "off label" use.

In Australia, veterinary prescription by law must include a WHP. Also there is a National Residue Survey funded by levies. The results are published each year here <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/food/nrs/animal-residue-monitoring>.

Do you use X ?

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Vaccines for goats

Some goat owners unfortunately don't vaccinate. Anyone who has had a goat die of enterotoxaemia knows how quickly and painfully they die. Tetanus is a slower but also painful death. CD&T vaccines are widely used in the USA but in Australia we have many options including the Glanvac range which prevents cheesy gland/caseous lymphadenitis. This is now available in Canada as well.

I have an hour long webinar about what vaccines should or could be used in Australia that goat owners can watch for a small fee (\$25). Basically use Glanvac 3 every 6 months in all areas but if you have liver fluke on your farm then you must use Glanvac 6 as liver fluke damage the liver and then goats can get black disease. Unfortunately, Glanvac 6 will mean larger lumps at the site of injection but more importantly, the protection from enterotoxaemia doesn't last as long (Vet Rec. 1987 May 2;120 (18):435-9.) so you must vaccinate more than the recommended twice a year.