

Goatvetoz Autumn Newsletter

Goat Veterinary Consultancies - goatvetoz

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What to do after buying a new goat

Hopefully you bought the new goat with your head, not your heart and after a lot of research. Not like I did in 1973. This goat later developed Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis or CAE (but this was before we had a blood test available in Australia). Ideally you should have purchased a goat from a property that was accredited for CAE and Johne's disease and received a signed National Goat Health Declaration (see <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/>) which is a legal document in Australia and lists the risks for CAE, Johne's disease and gives details of any treatments given.

Now you have brought the new goat home what do you need to do?

You must quarantine it for at least 30 days. Make sure the new goat can see other goats but do not allow any nose to nose contact. Also make sure all manure is within the quarantine area and cannot wash down onto pastures used by your own goats. The new goat's droppings can spread Johne's disease and drench resistant worm eggs. Ideally have separate boots for the quarantine pen.

So what should you do in these 30 days? You need to:

- give a worm drench or two from 2 different active families or a combination drench (unless a milking goat used to produce milk for human consumption). Use the higher dose rates needed for goats as per your vet's prescription. Ideally this should be done on the previous owner's property just before picking up the goat. You then need to check that this drench actually worked by doing a worm egg count on a faecal sample taken 14 days after drenching. You want to see zero eggs. If any eggs are found they are being laid from drench resistant worms. This is why I recommend feeding BioWorma during quarantine to kill the larvae that hatch from these resistant worm eggs, even if it's too expensive to feed to your other goats.

If you introduce drench resistant worms this means that you must then use one of the newer drenches released in the last few years in Australia and they are expensive i.e. Zolvix Plus (monepantel with abamectin) which you can get in 1L size packs costs around \$315 or Startect (derquantel plus abamectin) which comes on only 5L

Bedding

What bedding is best for goats? Straw, recycled paper, wood shavings, sawdust, sand or sugar cane mulch?

Ideally bedding must be absorptive, non-allergenic and dust free.

Straw is the most common bedding. Some goats will eat the straw but this is not a problem if fresh straw recently applied and not contaminated by feet or manure. Straw works well on earth floors as the urine can easily flow through. Straw can easily be moved however allowing access to concrete floors if pushed aside. It is best for kidding pens as kids can snuggle down in it and will not stick to naval cords or membranes.

Wood shavings or sawdust must come from non-treated timber. Commercial wood or recycled paper pellets made for horse bedding are available and these are dust free but expensive.

Kneel test, laydown and do the smell test – there should be no ammonium smell detected & your clothes dry.

and larger packs and the 5L costs around \$660. Also as there are no new worm drenches in the pipeline your options for the future will be very limited. There are goat herds that have resistant worms that only respond to Startect. Neither Zolvix Plus nor Startect can be used on milking goats as there is a DO NOT USE statement on the label that even a vet's prescription can over-rule.

- do 20 hair partings or comb the goat with a dog flea comb and look for lice. Do this a couple of times during quarantine. Treat the goat twice 10-14 days apart if lice are found.

- trim and check the goat's feet for foot rot

- examine the goat for any scars especially under the ears and in the throat as these could be from cheesy gland (CLA or caseous lymphadenitis). Unless you are certain the goat has

already been done, vaccinate the goat at the beginning and the end of quarantine period with Glanvac3 (which covers tetanus, enterotoxaemia and cheesy gland).

- blood tests for CAE and do either a blood or faecal test for Johne's disease. Be guided by your vet about the best option. Remember these are diseases with long incubation periods so a single test on 1 goat is not protection that you won't introduce these diseases. There is no test that picks up the early stage of Johne's disease which is why accreditation schemes or whole herd blood tests are much safer.

- if the new goat develops any clinical signs get the goat checked by a vet. There are other diseases that can be introduced via new goats e.g. mycoplasmosis or yersiniosis.

How often should you vaccinate and what with?

In Australia & New Zealand we have a great vaccine against cheesy gland (also called CL or CLA or caseous lymphadenitis). I recommend using Glanvac 3 and a minimum of every 6 months and more often if feeding a lot of grain e.g. to dairy goats. The insert in the vaccine pack clearly says goats every 6 months although for sheep it is every 12 months. Unfortunately it only comes in large pack sizes. In the USA, they use CD&T which has no CL protection.

Why not use 5 in 1 as it comes in smaller pack size ? The answer is because it gives no protection against cheesy gland as it is mainly sold for cattle owners.

Cheesy gland can be carried in dust so can be impossible to keep out of your herd if have sheep or goats nearby.

Why not the Glanvac 6 ? I only recommend this if your goats have liver fluke and hence could get black disease in their livers or you have diagnosed cases of the other diseases in goats on your farm. Why ? Because research has shown that goats react poorly to multiple vaccines, unlike sheep. So you will get bigger local

reactions at the vaccination site and more importantly very poor protection against enterotoxaemia (pulpy kidney) Read the reference - Green et al 1984 "Injection site reactions and antibody responses in sheep and goats after the use of multivalent clostridial vaccines " So if using Glanvac 6 then need to vaccinate much more often than twice a year.

What about Glanvac with added selenium and Vitamin B12?

The Vit B12 is not an issue as any excess just goes out in the urine. Selenium is more toxic. This is what the Zoetis website says "For use in Selenium deficient areas only. Seek veterinary advice when Selenium is being supplemented by other means." There is rough map of Australia with selenium deficient areas marked. Ask your local veterinarian if you are in a selenium or cobalt deficient areas. Cobalt is needed to make Vit B12 in the rumen.

Do you use X, Threads or Tumbler?

See all my tweets at

www.x.com/goatvet

My favourite tweet was "There are cases of barber's pole worm cases on the eastern coast of Australia due to ongoing wet weather. Do the 5 Point Check which includes FAMACHA© scores weekly." If you have decided to leave Twitter/X you can follow me on Tumblr or Threads.