

## Guidelines for Goat Owners That Share Drenches & Vaccines

Dr Sandra Baxendell, PSM, BVSc (Hons), PhD, MACVS, GCertAppSC(RurExt), GCertPSectMgt, PGDAppSc, MRurSysMan - Veterinarian, Goat Veterinary Consultancies- goatvetoz

Some goat clubs provide a service for members by buying either drench or vaccines to share with members or some close by goat owners may share buying a container of drench. This is a useful as goat owners with only a couple of goats will need to dispose of most of the drenches or vaccine when they reach their use-by dates or post-opening dates. Some veterinarians will provide clients with small amounts of vaccines or drenches but some goats are kept in locations without a veterinarian who treats livestock. Only vets are allowed to distribute small amounts in a new labelled container with a prescription. Different states have different laws about veterinary medicines so this needs to be checked by the goat club committee. In Queensland it is not illegal to share drenches or vaccines as long as the original container is shared. This then has biosecurity risks. The following guidelines are written to minimize these risks.

Clubs will need to look at their insurance needs and seek legal or departmental advice if unsure of laws re veterinary medicines in their state or territory. Clubs might also like to ensure all members know that they can access labels via the PubCRIS database on [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au) so members can keep a copy of the label for filling out Goat Health Declarations with the correct with-holding periods.

### Necessary Equipment for Vaccines

- A good refrigerator with either a thermometer or a datalogger. Ideally with an alarm.
- Supply of sterile needles & syringes
- Methylated spirits and cotton-wool balls
- The pack and insert must be available for goat club members to read

### Rules for Vaccines

- Top of the vaccine bottle must be wiped with metho and allowed to dry for several seconds
- Only a sterile needle is to be inserted and the required doses with-drawn with a new needle added to each syringe of vaccine drawn up. An automatic vaccination gun should not be used.
- The vaccine pack must be replaced in the refrigerator ASAP
- Members of the club must bring an esky or cooler with a cold freezer brick to transport the vaccines home.
- Vaccines must be given the same day. Check that the goat owner knows how to give the vaccine. Refer to the pack insert or to this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYUqqRSGpug>



Correctly labelled and alarmed fridge

## Necessary Equipment for Drenches

- A medicine glass
- Large syringes or drench guns
- Storage area that stays below the required temperature (often 30 degrees C) and this should have a datalogger or ideally an alarm. Some drenches say not to refrigerate e.g. Q-Drench
- The label on the drench container must be available for goat club members to read.

## Rules for Drenches

- Drench containers should be thoroughly mixed before getting out a dose.
- No drench gun should be inserted into the drench container unless thoroughly washed out beforehand. Ideally use the medicine glass or a sterile syringe.
- Drench guns should be checked that they deliver an accurate dose by squirting a dose into a syringe barrel with the hole covered by a finger.
- Goat owners should have a vet's prescription as goats need higher than label dose rates and are needed if the drench is only registered for sheep or cattle. This can be filed at home and does not need to be shown when getting a dose of drench. Note Australian PIC numbers are chosen at random to be audited each year by Livestock Production Assurance.
- If goat owners are inexperienced with drenching they should be reminded to keep the goat's head horizontal as shown in this video - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MILdpP\\_I2U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MILdpP_I2U)



QDrench showing separation of components



Datalogger on fridge