SHEEP AND GOAT HEALTH

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# PHYSIOLOGIC PARAMETERS OF SHEEP AND GOATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARAMETER</th>
<th>SHEEP</th>
<th>GOAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rectal temperature</td>
<td>102 degrees F</td>
<td>102-104 degrees F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruminations</td>
<td>2/minute</td>
<td>1-2/minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse</td>
<td>70-80 beats/minute</td>
<td>70-90 beats/minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiration</td>
<td>12-20 breaths/minute</td>
<td>15-30 breaths/minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puberty</td>
<td>5-12 months</td>
<td>4-12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estrus</td>
<td>36 hours</td>
<td>12-24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estrous cycle</td>
<td>16-17 days</td>
<td>18-23 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestation</td>
<td>147 days</td>
<td>150 days</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
OBSERVATION

SIGNS OF A SICK ANIMAL

• Develop a preventative health program

• Will not eat as quickly

• May not clean up feed

• Check manure – diarrhea – changed feed too quickly, consumed too much high energy feed, may have internal parasites
OBSERVATION

SIGNS OF A SICK ANIMAL

• Head hanging down

• Dull appearing eyes

• Walk abnormally

• Treat sick animals immediately
ILLEGAL DRUGS

• State and federal laws and regulations concerning the use of drugs for livestock are established to protect human and animal health

• Instructions and restrictions on product labels must be strictly followed
ILLEGAL DRUGS (cont)

- Labels state:
  
  Species or class of livestock for which drug is to be used

- Recommended route of administration

- Approved dosage rate

- Specific conditions to be treated

- Withdrawal times
ILLEGAL DRUGS (cont)

• The use of a drug in a manner other than stated on its label is regulated by the FDA and may be done only under the control of a licensed veterinarian.

• Most Texas livestock shows have strict policies against the illegal use of drugs and will disqualify animals if such drugs have been used.
LAMB DISEASES
ENTEROTOXEMIA

- Enterotoxemia (overeating disease) – main cause of death in club lambs
- Symptoms seldom exhibited
- Caused by clostridial organism that is normally present in intestines of most sheep
- Abrupt change in feeding schedule or consume large amounts of grain
- Causes organism to release toxin that causes death in a few hours
- Vaccinate, booster 2 to 3 weeks later
LAMB DISEASES
TETANUS

• No satisfactory treatment, lambs seldom recover

• Common with use of elastrator bands to dock tails

• There are combination vaccines for tetanus and enterotoxemia
LAMB DISEASES
INTERNAL PARASITES

• Drench new lambs immediately

• Second drenching should follow about 3 weeks later
LAMB DISEASES
SOREMOUTH

• Contagious disease that causes scabs on lips and around mouth

• Causes by a virus that can affect humans

• Iodine rubbed on lesions after scabs are removed will help dry up area and reduce infection.

• There is a live-virus vaccine that will help prevent soremmouth
LAMB DISEASES

POLYARTHRITIS – STIFF LAMB DISEASE

• Affects 3 week to 5 month old lambs

• Inactive, reluctant to rise or move, lose weight or gain weight slowly

• Move with stiff gait but seem to warm out of it after a few minutes

• Treatment – tetracycline antibiotics
LAMB DISEASES
COCCIDIOSIS

• Causes weight loss

• Bloody diarrhea, dehydration, weight loss, and weakness

• Separate and give individual treatment as prescribed by veterinarian

• Most show goat rations are medicated with a coccidiostat
LAMB DISEASES
URINARY CALCULI

• Metabolic disease of male goats characterized by formation of stones in urinary tract

• Cannot pee, restless, kick at belly, stretch, and attempt to urinate

• Cause – rations with high phosphorus levels and an imbalance of calcium and phosphorus

• Provide 2:1 calcium:phosphorus ratio in ration and add 10-15 lb ammonium chloride per ton of feed

• Provide plenty of clean, fresh drinking water
LAMB DISEASES
RECTAL PROLAPSE

• Inherited

• Associated with concentrate feeding, short docking of tail, or excessive coughing induced by dusty conditions

• Treat by veterinarian
LAMB DISEASES
RINGWORM

• Contagious

• Transmitted from lamb to lamb, from lamb to human, or from infected equipment to lamb

• Use good prevention program

• The following products have been used
  Fulvicin powder – bolus or top dress feed
  Novasan – 3 oz/gallon water sprayed on lambs, equipment and premises
  Bleach – 10% solution sprayed on lambs, equipment, and premises
LAMB HEALTH
TAIL DOCKING

• Many commercial lambs have long tails and need to be re-docked

• Re-dock as early as possible to allow time to heal

• Can be done by yourself or a veterinarian
LAMB HEALTH
HOOF TRIMMING

• Trim hooves every 4-6 weeks

• Always trim hooves 1-2 weeks before a show in case you accidently cut into the quick and temporarily cripple the lamb
EWE DISEASES

- Enterotoxemia
- Internal parasites
- Soremouth
- Mastitis
- Pregnancy toxemia
- Caseous lymphadenitis
- Copper poisoning
EWE/DOE ABORTION DISEASES

- Bluetongue – anytime
- Border Disease (Harry Shaker) – anytime
- Brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis* or *B. ovis*) – last trimester
- Q-fever (*Coxiella burnetii*) – last few weeks
EWE/DOE ABORTION DISEASES

• Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (*Chlamydia psittaci*) – 4th or 5th month

• Vibriosis (*Campylobacter fetus & jejuni*) – last 6 weeks

• Leptospirosis (*Leptospira interrogans*) – second half

• Listerosis (*Listeria monocytogenes*) – anytime

• Toxoplasmosis (*Toxoplasma gondii*) - anytime
EWE/DOE ABORTION DISEASES

• Send in fetus and/or placenta for histopathology, pathology, or necropsy for potential isolation of organism
RAM/BUCK DISEASES

• Epididymitis

• Breeding Soundness Examination
  Examination – mouth, feet and legs, body condition score, genitalia
  Palpation – scrotal size and consistency
  Semen exam – motility, morphology
GOAT DISEASES

- Enterotoxemia
- Internal parasites
- Urinary calculi
- Coccidiosis
- Soremouth
- Ringworm
- Tetanus
- Hoof trimming
GOAT DISEASES
CAPRINE ARTHRITIS & ENCEPHALITIS

• Infectious disease found in dairy goats

• Transmission mainly through milk and colostrum of infected mother to nursing kid

• Two forms – arthritis in adult goats and neurological form in 2-6 month old kids (rear leg paralysis)

• No treatment, cull all infected goats
GOAT DISEASES
CASEOUS LYMPHadenitis

- Contagious disease, formation of abscesses in lymph nodes
- Treat abscesses
- Cull infected goats
- Vaccinate with a commercial vaccine
GOAT DISEASES

ENTROPION

- Inversion of upper, lower, or both eyelids

- Lid may be sutured, stapled, or inverted with a bolus of penicillin

- Very hereditary, do not keep for replacement
GOAT DISEASES
PINKEYE

• Contagious disease – excessive watering of eye and clouding over of pupil

• Very susceptible after transport to new location

• Dry, dusty pens and constant exposure to sunlight are contributing factors

• Most goats recover without any treatment
GOAT DISEASES

POLIOENCEPHALOMALACIA

• Caused by thiamine (Vitamin B1) deficiency

• Thiamine produced by rumen microflora

• Depressed, star gaze, act blind, and progress to convulsions

• Treat with thiamine hydrochloride at a dose of 5 mg/lb of body weight every 6-8 hr until symptoms subside
GOAT DISEASES
PREGNANCY TOXEMIA

• Occurs in overfat, confined goats carrying twins or triplets

• Energy deficient, uses own fat reserves, ketones are produced

• Symptoms – swelling of legs, loss of muscle over loin, loss of appetite

• Separate and feed ad lib a high energy, high protein feed

• If no response treat with liquid energy supplements such as propylene glycol
GOAT DISEASES

FLOPPY KID SYNDROME

• 3-10 day old kids show depression, weakness, and paralysis without signs of diarrhea and have normal rectal temperature

• Kids have metabolic acidosis

• Treatment – \( \frac{3}{4} \) teaspoon baking soda for a 10 pound kid, mix baking soda with water and administer by stomach tube
GOAT DISEASES
EXTERNAL PARASITES (LICE)

• Both biting and sucking

• Many sprays and pour-ons are effective in controlling lice

• Treat twice, 10-14 days apart
GOAT HEALTH
DEHORNING / TIPPING

• Some shows require that goats be dehorned

• Dehorn goats at 14 to 28 days of age

• The larger the goat the more stressful

• Some shows request that the goat horns be tipped

• Tip horns 4-6 weeks prior to show to allow proper healing