

Goat Diseases and Cures

Coccidiosis: To put it simply this is an overabundance of worms in the goats system. Once they get it you will find it very hard to get them over it. The symptoms of these are diarrhea (sometimes bloody or sticky), dehydration and death. This occurs in kids most of the time. Especially in bottle fed kids. Sometimes a kid can die before any signs are shown. This disease can be spread by birds so if you have chickens, turkeys, pigeons, etc. you should use extra caution. It is also spread through contaminated feed and water. We use goat pellets with **decoquinat** mixed in the bag from the feed mill. If we think one of the goats has coccidiosis we will separate it from the herd and start treating it with **Albon or Sulmat, Goat Drench and Probios**. You will know if your goat is sick just by its actions. If you spend time with the herd you will know when something is just not normal. So prevention is the key here. **Keep those feeding pans clean, water clean and stay on a regular worming program.**

Listeriosis: This disease is poorly understood by not only goat owners, but vets as well. The symptoms include fever, confusion, circling, and facial paralysis on one side with drooping of the one ear, eyelid and lip. They will remind you of someone that has had a stroke. This disease is very acute in goats, and will usually result in death within 24 hours. What I have found out about this disease is that a goat can be carrier of this for many years with no symptoms and then all at once something will occur, such as pregnancy that will bring on the symptoms. **The best thing to do is get the goat completely away from the herd and call the vet.** They can try to give the goat fluids, but in most cases the goat will not make it. The main thing is to get it out of its pain as quickly as possible. If you put it in a stall you need to completely clean the stall out and **put down lime on the flooring** before you put in new shavings. This is not a good disease to have in the herd.

Ketosis: This can occur during the last 2-6 weeks of pregnancy or after the doe has lost a kid for some reason. The goat will stay away from the herd, lie down frequently, stop eating, stand with head down or leaned against something. She will actually appear to be very sad and unwilling to live. Ketosis is like a blood sugar problem in humans. You can prevent it, or at least cut down on the chances, **by cutting back on the grain** you are feeding during the last 8 weeks of pregnancy. They can still have **all the hay they want** but most of the nutrients from the grain are going to the baby and not the doe. Thus she is starving for those needed nutrients. If you have a goat that shows symptoms of Ketosis there are several things to do. You can give them **Goat drench, Vit. B injection, Probios paste, 20-60 cc of propylene glycol**. If you don't have anything else you can give them a mixture of **Molasses and Karo Syrup every 2 hrs. Mix 2 part syrup 1 part molasses**. This will help until you can get the other things you need.

Urinary Calculi: This occurs mostly in bucks or wethers. It is similar to a gallstone or kidney stone in humans. This comes from calcium build up in the urethra which stops

the goat from being able to urinate. This urine will back up and damage the kidneys and ultimately kill the goat. The best solution to prevent this from happening is to **keep loose minerals available at all times** for the goats. The mineral will need to have **ammonium chloride included in the mixture**. We have only found that at the Southern States Stores. You can buy a bag of ammonium chloride at the online stores but it is very expensive. It will not hurt the does to eat this as well.

White Muscle Disease or Selenium-vitamin E deficiency: This can occur in a new born kid anytime from birth to several weeks of age. The kid will not be able to stand or if it does get up it will just keep falling down. This is caused by living in an area that is **deficient in selenium** in the soil. It won't happen to every kid that is born but it can happen. If you find that you are having a problem with this you need to take preventive action. You can **inject the momma doe with Selenium and vitamin E once month before kidding** and/or **injecting the kid at birth and possibly again at 3 to 4 week old**. You can also give the **liquid vit. E by mouth but be very careful. You should not give more than about 1/4cc every other day.**