

# **LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARY SERVICES**

## **GOAT/SHEEP PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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### ***Vaccinations***

- Young Goats/Sheep: Covexin 8 at 4-6 weeks of age (booster 3-4 weeks later)  
Rabies vaccine at 3 months of age
- Adult Goats/Sheep: Covexin 8 once every 6 months  
Rabies vaccine once yearly

### ***Intestinal Parasites/Deworming***

- Fecal intestinal parasite testing at least twice yearly is crucial to formulating an effective deworming schedule for your animals.
- Most deworming regimens consist of either Panacur or Cydectin once monthly, although sometimes other medications may be warranted if Coccidia is a problem among your animals.
- Allow no more than 4-6 goats per acre of grazable pasture. Overcrowding can significantly increase the chance of spreading parasites. This is especially important for groups of young animals.
- Use pasture rotation practices to remove animals from a portion of pasture for at least 3 months to allow existing parasite eggs to be destroyed by heat and light.

### ***Other***

- **Bottle Feeding**: Orphaned kids must receive high quality milk replacers at regular intervals until 12 weeks of age. Using a Pritchard nipple attached to a 12-16oz soda bottle, milk replacer should be offered 4 times daily. Mix milk replacers as specified by label. It is very important that kids and lambs receive their mother's colostrum (mother's first milk) within 6 hours of birth.
- **Creep Feeding**: Allow access to creep feed starting at 1 month of age. This should be offered as a free choice supplement while continuing to bottle feed. Creep feed should be housed in an area only accessible to the kid/lamb and not the doe/ewe. Calf-Manna and alfalfa pellets are examples of acceptable creep feeds.
- Fresh grass should be available at all times for young goats and sheep. Without fresh forage, complications such as bloat, urinary calculi (kidney stones) and clostridial overgrowth may arise.
- If fresh grass is unavailable, hay (fescue, timothy, orchardgrass, coastal bermuda) may be provided in limited amounts. Forages should not include more than 30% legumes (eg. alfalfa). After weaning, no more than 1% of an animal's body weight should be fed in the form of concentrates (cereal grains, pelleted feeds) daily. For example, a 40 lbs goat/sheep should receive no more than 0.4 lbs in concentrate a day.
- **Clostridial Overgrowth**: Avoiding diets high in cereal grains, vaccinating early, and a diligent deworming schedule can help you avoid this common yet deadly disease in young goats. Clostridium is a bacteria that normally inhabits the G.I. Tract of young animals that can cause harm during times of dietary stress. Sudden feed changes, or changes in feeding routine and feeding high concentrate diets (cereal grains, breads, treats) may potentiate overgrowth of the Clostridium bacteria.
- Hoof trims may be required on an as needed basis. The rockier the terrain, the less frequent hoof trims will be required.