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GOAT MEDICATIONS AND FIRST-AID MUST-HAVES

Goats hurt themselves in so many ways. Learning as much as you can about wound treatment and common ailments can save the life of your goat when veterinary help is not immediately available. Keeping a well-stocked goat medicine cabinet can literally be a lifesaver.

EVERYDAY AILMENTS, BUMPS, AND BRUISES

Goats sometimes eat indiscriminately, ending up with a bellyache called bloat. Bloat can be remedied if discovered early. Baking soda offered free-choice allows the goat to self-regulate the pH of the rumen. Keeping vegetable oil on hand for an emergency goat bloating is a good idea. The oil breaks the surface tension of bloat-causing bubbles trapped in the rumen. Keeping simple baking soda or oil on hand saves time and may save the goat's life.

PREVENTATIVE CARE

Parasite control is a routine health practice for your herd. Keeping appropriate dewormers on hand for unforeseen parasite issues is a good practice, as well. If you have an emergency parasite problem, speak with your veterinarian. They often know if certain parasites are causing increased problems in your area.

Hoof care is another routine procedure. Keep a good pair of hoof trimmers and a bottle of thrush treatment. Wet weather can be detrimental to hooved livestock's feet.

A digital rectal thermometer should be in any farm first aid box. The first thing a veterinarian will ask you over the phone is if the goat has a fever. A normal goat temperature reading should be between 102-103 degrees Fahrenheit. Being ready with this information saves time and allows the vet to suggest treatments based on symptoms.

A good pair of scissors and tweezers are also good additions to any medical kit.

IN CASE OF EYE INJURY

Terramycin Ophthalmic ointment can be purchased over the counter from livestock supply stores. This, along with Vetericyn Ophthalmic ointment, should be the first line of defense for an eye infection or injury.

WOUND CARE

Along with the goat's mischievous, energetic spirit comes unwanted cuts, scrapes, and injuries. Vetericyn or Banixx, anti-fungal/anti-bacterial sprays are a good first line of defense when a wound occurs. Saline also works well for flushing out the wound, as well as hydrogen peroxide and betadine solution. A bottle of rubbing alcohol is useful for cleaning up the scissors, tweezers or other non-disposable instruments.

Bandages are essential items along with an antibiotic cream or spray. Stock a good supply of gauze pads (4x4 and 2x2 size). Include a box of human Band-Aids. Vet wrap/cohesive bandage keeps the gauze or cotton bandages in place. This is helpful with goats who try to eat the bandage soon after you apply it. If the weather is wet, a strip of electrical tape resists moisture best. Add it to the final vet wrap layer to hold the bandages in place. Another kitchen product, cornstarch, is good for slowing blood flow. Tea bags soaked in warm water can also stop or slow blood flow.

FOR WHEN THE KIDS ARE ON THE WAY

Lubricant, paper towels and disposable exam gloves should be included in any goat medicine cabinet. There will be times you are glad you have them, particularly during kidding season! You never know when you might have to help your doe deliver the kids. Some items may already be in the everyday goat medicine cabinet such as scissors and syringes. Specifically, for birthing, add a nasal aspirator for cleaning the nostrils and mouth, and clamps or dental floss for tying off the umbilical cord. Most birthing kits include alcohol wipes or betadine for sterilizing any instruments.

Even if you don't keep milking goats, a goat milking stand is a handy item to have when caring for goats. The head restraint helps restrict the goat's movements and the height makes work easier on your back. Often it is helpful to have another person assist, especially if treating a sensitive area or the back legs. Working on the back legs of goats is always a tricky occasion, as they seem to want to kick as soon as you pick up the hoof. Goat stands can be purchased or made from scrap lumber.

If you are a new goat owner, the road ahead will be filled with interesting and heartwarming moments. Having a fully stocked goat medicine cabinet will help ease the stress when the road gets bumpy.

Augusta Co-op Solutions Dukal, Gauze Sponges, 4 X 4

200 squares per pack.

Convenient 4" X 4"

squares of gauze for
the bandaging and
treatment of wounds.



SKU - 980850

PINK EYE IN SHEEP: TREAT OR LET IT RUN ITS COURSE?

Small ruminants easily transmit pink eye from one animal to the next. This highly contagious bacteria is more common in spring and summer but can occur at any time of the year. Outbreaks of pink eye can show up after a new animal has been introduced to the herd. Goats and sheep eating from the trough spread the bacteria through direct contact.

Inflammation of the cornea and conjunctiva of the eye is the telltale sign of pink eye in sheep. Clinically, pink eye is called infectious keratoconjunctivitis. The bacteria that cause pink eye is one of two bacteria. *Chlamydia psittaci* (ovis) and *Mycoplasma conjunctiva* are the culprits behind most cases of pink eye in sheep. *Chlamydia* is also the cause of spontaneous abortions in small ruminants.

In addition to close contact with affected animals, stress can play a part in sheep contracting the bacteria. Moving animals, new surroundings, and extreme weather changes are some ways your small ruminants can experience stress.



PINK EYE, WOUNDS AND MORE!

Vetericyn products are cost-effective and make caring for your livestock that much easier, and they are safe for all animals at all life stages including newborns. Effectively and safely treat ailments like pink eye, minor wounds and more.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF PINK EYE IN SHEEP?

The animal with pink eye will blink frequently. The eyes are more sensitive to any irritant and can be bothered by bright sunlight. You may see the sheep holding its eyes partially or all the way closed in bright light. Tearing and wet stain below the eye is often noted. The eye membranes are red and inflamed looking. An opaque appearance can take over the eye and temporary or permanent blindness can occur, in severe cases.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PINK EYE

Pink eye is rarely fatal. Loss of condition can occur if the animal's blindness leads to it not finding enough food. Mostly, the infection is annoying to the animal and may lead to some weight loss. The economic impact occurs mainly from the cost of treating a large herd. Some farmers with large herds of sheep will choose to use a one-time injection of Tetracycline or treat the water using LA 200 or Tylen. The use of these drugs in the water is an off-label use of the antibiotic. Consult your veterinarian for advice when caring for a herd suffering with pink eye.

With smaller herds, treating pink eye is more feasible. Isolate any animal showing signs of illness or infection. The most common treatments are Vetericyn Ophthalmic Gel, which should be administered 2-3 times a day to the eyes; it doesn't include antibiotics or steroids; can be used as a preventative; and includes no withdrawal time, or Terramycin ointment, which is administered to the eye each day. Begin by cleaning up the area surrounding the eye. Often the wool or fur beneath the eye will be wet or sticky from the irritation. This can attract flies. Keep the area clean by gently bathing the area with a good antiseptic spray. Vetericyn Pink Eye spray can be used for this. Your sheep are not going to appreciate being spritzed in the eye. Grab a gauze pad or clean rag and spray the liquid onto the rag. Then, clean the sheep or goat's face. Vetericyn Pink Eye spray is safe for food-producing animals or animals for human consumption. It doesn't include antibiotics and animals shouldn't experience ocular irritation or a withdrawal period.

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Augusta Co-op Solutions Vetericyn, Pink Eye Spray, 1 Pint

Apply to irritated eyes of farm animals to provide relief from burning, stinging, itching, pollutants and other foreign materials. Also use to clean and sooth eyes from the effects of pinkeye. Steroid-free, antibiotic-free, no-rinse solution is non-toxic and speeds healing. Kills antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria as well as fungi, viruses and spores. Removes air pollutants such as pollen and smog. As safe as saline and no rinsing necessary. For superficial use with intact cornea.

SKU - 16382



CAN THE ANIMALS RECOVER WITHOUT TREATMENT?

Since the disease is considered self-limiting, many animals can recover without treatment. Some short-term resistance has been observed in animals that recover with no treatment. The immunity is not long-lasting in sheep and goats. In any case, proper care is essential to the good health of your herd. Cleaning the eye area when it is wet or sticky, can prevent flystrike and other eye issues.

PREVENTION OF PINK EYE

Cleanliness is an important factor in battling pink eye. Wear gloves when examining animals. This will lessen the spread of disease. Keep the barn clean and keep dust under control. Fly control is also important in the fight against pink eye.

A closed herd is less likely to have an outbreak of pink eye. Isolate any new animals for at least thirty days. If you show your animals at fairs and competitions, isolate the animals when you return. Animals can be carriers and show no symptoms of pink eye.

Following good health and herd management practices will lessen the chance of an outbreak in your herd.

Janet Garman

Augusta Co-op Solutions Starbar, FlyRelief Disposable Trap

An insecticide-free disposable fly trap with a built-in attractant. Recommended for perimeter use to trap thousands of flies around walls, fences and corrals. Easy and convenient to use - just trap and toss. Excellent for use around pets, in the yard, kennel and garbage containers.



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RECOGNIZING AND TREATING ANEMIA IN GOATS

Anemia in goats can become deadly very quickly. There are several possible causes of goat anemia, although the treatment regimen will be mostly the same regardless of the cause. The road to full recovery can take time, but without quick diagnosis and action, that recovery may never happen.

CAUSES OF ANEMIA IN GOATS

Anemia is a shortage of red blood cells that carry oxygen and nutrients to the cells of the body. This can be caused by a nutrient deficiency in which the goat is unable to produce the number of red blood cells that it needs. A deficiency in iron, copper or cobalt can cause anemia.

Goats are so sensitive to blood loss that even the amount of blood that parasites ingest, whether internal or external, can lead to anemia or even death. External parasites include lice, fleas, ticks and biting flies. You can search your animal for these and easily treat them if found. Remember, if one of your goats has an external blood-sucking parasite, it is very likely that more of your animals are also infested.

However, internal parasites are the real killers of goats and other small livestock. They are harder to detect, very prolific, usually take more blood than external parasites and are often resistant to dewormers. While all goats will have some internal parasites, an overgrowth can quickly lead to death.

The most common of the goat worms is the *Haemonchus contortus*, commonly known as the barber's pole worm. This barber's pole worm is so named because the female appears striped as the pink, blood-filled intestines wind around the body, alternating with the white reproductive system. The barber's pole worms attach to the inner lining of the goat's fourth stomach, the abomasum, where they feed on the goat's blood through the stomach wall. If you detect anemia in your goats, first assume that it is due to an overgrowth of these worms. This can be confirmed with a fecal egg count test done by your veterinarian.

Another common problem in goats is coccidiosis. Coccidian is a protozoan that can be found in the intestinal lining of our goats and is most common in kids that are between one and four months old. This is characterized by diarrhea that can become bloody if left untreated. The goats may also lack energy and appetite and weight will drop quickly. There are other various goat diseases that can lead to anemia in goats such as salmonellosis dysentery, liver flukes or even anaplasmosis, a tick-borne disease.

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RECOGNIZING ANEMIA IN GOATS

Like humans, a goat with anemia is going to be lethargic and often have a low appetite. Due to poor circulation, their mucous membranes will appear pale. This is your best indicator of anemia. Gently pull down your goat's lower eyelid to display the pink underside. The color should be bright pink to red. Lighter pink means anemia, and white means severe anemia that needs immediate attention. It is recommended to check your goats' mucous membranes regularly, not only to detect anemia, but also to get to know your goats and their normal coloring. There will be a range of healthy colors, just like with humans. If you want more detail than "light pink and white are bad, bright pink is good" then look into the FAMACHA field test. Another indication of anemia in goats is the presence of bottle jaw. Bottle jaw is swelling under and between the jawbones that is soft to the touch. This is caused by edema, or fluid accumulation.



TREATING ANEMIA IN GOATS

When you detect anemia in your goats, you need to act quickly.

Barber's pole worms will need treatment from a chemical dewormer usually with a follow-up treatment roughly 10 days later (follow veterinarian recommendations).

Coccidiosis has specific treatment medication available through your feed store or vet.

If you cannot identify a parasitic infection or another disease, assume that your goat has a mineral deficiency and supply minerals. As you work to identify and eliminate the cause of your goat's anemia, you must also give your goat extra fighting power to replenish their red blood cells. This comes in the form of iron supplements such as Red Cell. An injection (or several over the course of two weeks) of vitamin B12 will also greatly help your goat. While a healthy goat can produce all the vitamin B12 it needs naturally, your anemic goat could use the supplement. These injections, available through your local vet by prescription, can be given daily. They are injected straight into the muscle, not the vein. If your goat is severely anemic, they may be too lethargic to eat enough feed to recover. If this is so, you may need to mix a solution of electrolytes, protein and kid milk replacer and stomach-tube it in. Begin with eight ounces of kid milk replacer (already mixed with water), add in a half-gallon of ruminant electrolytes and some protein powder. A goat needs about one gallon of fluids per one hundred pounds of body weight each day. Divide this into several feedings and administer it until your goat is strong enough to eat on its own again.

The road to recovery takes weeks and possibly even a few months because red blood cells are produced slowly. If you act quickly, you can usually save your goat. The best treatment is prevention and early detection of anemia by knowing your goats and routinely checking them.

Rebecca Sanderson



A GUIDE TO HOOF TRIMMING

Typical goat hoof trimming should be completed every two to three months and is a critical component of caring for goats. Usually, this is a routine task that involves little more than some quick cuts with the trimming tool to keep the hoof level and the goat walking comfortably. Occasionally though, more complicated hoof conditions will show up requiring more time, care and sometimes treatment.

The most important thing to do when conducting goat hoof trimming is to make sure they are secure and unable to move. Putting the goat on a milk stand or grooming stand is very helpful. If one of those is not an option, a snug collar, a strong lead rope or leash, and a solid structure to tie the animal to will work. Bribery with a favorite food can help keep the goat calm and cooperative. Frequent handling can help, but some goats are naturally less cooperative than others.

GOAT HOOF TRIMMING: STEPS FOR THE OVERGROWN HOOF

This is a simple job. You should start by scraping out the sole area if it is filled with dirt, and then cutting off the excess hoof walls, starting with the outside wall on each toe, and then the inside wall. Occasionally it's more effective to use the trimmers to cut both of the walls at the end of the toe, and then cut the rest of each wall individually. Just don't trim too far down on the toe until you know how deep the sole is.

When the walls are removed, it is easier to see what else needs to be done. I like to have the goat's toes just a little longer than the heels, as it seems to be gentler on the pasterns. So, trim an appropriate amount off the heels, and then trim on the toes until the hoof is level across the sole. Set the foot down to see how it stands every now and then to make sure things look right and to give the goat a break. When a pinkish tone (light colored hooves) or a very translucent look (dark hooves) becomes visible, that means that bleeding will occur if cut deeper.

MORE COMPLICATED HOOVES: HOOF WALL SEPARATION

Sometimes a hoof will have a gaping hole between the hoof wall and the sole. This is a relatively common occurrence you will discover during goat hoof trimming if your goats are kept in wet climates and it shows up during the wet, muddy season.

Trim it as far up the hoof as you can and clean it out. If you have one that is severe and not healing well, use a coconut oil-based comfrey salve in the space, after trimming and cleaning out the dirt.

COMPLICATED HOOVES: FOUNDER/LAMINITIS

When a goat has laminitis, a goat's hoof will be abnormally long, oddly shaped and either extremely soft, easy to cut hoof tissue, or rock hard, depending on the moisture content of the goat lot or pasture.

Overfeeding of grain, or the use of moldy or tainted grain, can cause lameness, especially in the front hooves. Affected goats will walk less and may adopt standing on their knees in an attempt to move around without using the affected feet. Copper deficiency also appears to contribute to the likelihood of the animal developing founder.

The best initial treatment is to identify and remove the cause, followed by frequent hoof trimming sessions. For the first trim, take off as much as possible, and make sure to trim it so that the toe is a bit longer than the heel. This seems to give almost immediate relief. Sometimes the hoof is a much different consistency than a normal foot. If the goat is in a moist environment, the hoof will be an opaque dead-white color even when trimmed far enough down that she bleeds, and it will be extremely soft, unlike the rubbery sole of the healthy goat.

After the first trim, the goat should be trimmed every two weeks until the abnormal growth and swelling subside. Once the acute phase is over, monitor the goat to see how often trimming is needed to keep her healthy and walking.

Another odd characteristic often found with founder is "blood spots". The spots look like a bruise but do not seem to be exceptionally more sensitive than the surrounding hoof. They come in various shapes, sizes and severity, and most can be removed with proper goat hoof trimming.

GOAT HOOF TRIMMING: HOOF ROT

The work of a pair of "anaerobic" bacteria (bacteria that must live in an environment without oxygen), foot rot can be a goatkeeper's nightmare. The bacteria begin eating away the hoof in between the heels, sometimes up into the skin of the pastern. When it is that aggressive it causes extreme pain, causing lameness even more pronounced than founder.

There are many treatments available, including oxytetracycline (LA-200), coppertox, tea tree oil, and others. Try some out and see what works best for the situation. Also make sure to keep the affected goat's hooves well-trimmed in order to allow air into the areas to naturally control the bacteria (remember, they don't like oxygen!).

EVENTS / CALENDAR

ANIMAL HEALTH & FARM SUPPLY FALL BOOKING SALE

September 1-30, 2020

Take advantage of the huge selection and best prices of the season on all of your animal health and farm supply products! Contact your sales representative or visit AugustaCoop.com to shop online or to view a full list of sale items.

SMALL ENGINE SALE

September 17 – 19 | 8 AM – 5 PM

Augusta Co-op Small Engine Shop (1205B Richmond Road, Staunton, VA - across from Sheetz)

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