

Jack & Anita Mauldin's Boer Goats

Home of Xtender & Painted Warrior Genetics

Diseases - Symptoms and Possible Treatments

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This is a summary of goat diseases & conditions with symptoms and possible treatments for meat goats. You should consult your vet or goat medical books for more details and appropriate treatments.

A custom search just for Jack & Anita Mauldin's web site.

User Recipes for Medications

| Disease / Condition | Symptom | Treatment |
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| Abortions | | See details |
| Acidosis – occurs after accidentally taking in large quantities of concentrate foodstuffs | Depressed, hangs its head, drunken behavior, muscle twitching, bloat tends to occur, swelling on left flank, may grind teeth | Stop access to food. Drench goat with something alkaline such as bicarbonate of soda. 2-3 ounces will help neutralize acid. Walking goat has some value. Contact veterinary as needed. |
| Anemic - | | |
| Blackleg (Clostridial Myositis) - caused by the soil-borne bacterium, <i>Clostridium chauvei</i> . The disease develops rapidly in affected animals and often deaths occur before the owner | Often no symptoms are observed; At other times, high fever, lack of appetite, depression, lameness, | May respond to immediate treatment with penicillin or other antibiotics in large doses. In swelled head, need to have vet aid in draining of affected area. |

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| <p>has noticed any sickness in the herd.</p> | <p>swelled head, and swellings that appear in the muscles on various parts of the body. Sometimes the leg muscles are involved, or the muscles in the region of the back, hip, flank, chest or shoulder. In the latter stage of the disease, these swellings spread and become quite mushy, producing a characteristic crackling sound when pressed with the hand.</p> | |
| <p>Bloat – gorging on anything unsuitable such as wet grass pastures or after raiding food bin</p> | <p>Tightly inflated flanks, misery, collapse</p> | <p>Drench with Mineral oil (6-8 fl oz) for an adult, (2+ fl oz) for kids. Walk goat about, massage flanks.</p> <p>"Giving mineral oil is very effective in getting a goat that has over eaten grain to speed that grain on it's way. Vegetable oil will add to the digestive load, and can cause more harm than good. Mineral oil is not digestible, and I have used it with no problems at all. Feed that is overeaten ferments, causes gas, and acidosis to occur, which can lead to death. The object is to speed it out of there without adding to the digestive load." by Coni Ross</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Suggestion from visitor to web site.</p> <p>Mix some baking soda in with the goat's feed they really enjoy it and it takes away bloat.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Second Suggestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 15cc Pepto-Bismol ● 5cc Penicillin orally ● 5cc SQ Penicillin ● 5-7cc CD antitoxin SQ <p>Then give another shot of CD ANTITOXIN and Pepto later that day as well to make sure all is okay...12-24 hours later</p> |

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| | | make sure you give the goat a probiotic to put the live bacteria back into the rumen...You will need to repopulate the gut once you clean it out |
| Bottle Jaw - Caused by animal being infected with blood-sucking worms. Fluids are leaking from blood vessels and flow to the lower parts of the body. As the animal grazes during the day, the fluids build up in the head. Over night the fluids may partially drain away from the head. | Lower face and jaw will dramatically swell especially during the evening. Gums may not have the normal color because of being anemic. | Your worming medicine may not be effective or you may not have wormed recently. The animal needs to be wormed with a strong medication every 11 days for three times. It may also be anemic and need iron and vitamins given. Their system will have difficulty fighting off problems so you should use an antibiotic for several days to help. |
| Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) – Virus. Infectious to others. | Knees becomes enlarges, lameness, weight wasting, hard udder. Pneumonia, chronic cough. | Isolate and remove animal from herd. |
| Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) – Infectious. Bacteria enters animal through break in skin or mucous membranes and localizes in lymph node | Abscesses of the lymph glands. NOT ALL abscesses are CL. Your vet can test the animals to see if the abscess is CL or not. | Isolate and remove animal from herd. Many breeders will get rid of animals with CL. Some breeders treat and manage animals with CL. Abscesses can be lanced, remove discharge, and treated with iodine for several times. Wear rubber gloves and destroy all discharge. Spread through the eruption of abscess and discharge being exposed to other animals. Vaccine available at PHL Associates, Inc. |
| Coccidiosis – coccidia parasites. A disease of young or stressed animals. | Off food, diarrhea, blood in diarrhea, rapid weight loss, dehydration, may show straining in attempts to pass feces, dehydration and fever | You can treat easily with Biosol. Depending on weight. Give 2-5cc to kids, and 7-10 cc to adults orally once a day for 5-7 days. Another treatment is with Corid liquid. We mix half Corid and half water and drench with 1cc per 4 lbs for 5 days. Do not mix more than you will use in 3 days. |
| Colic – affect young kids when dietary changes are made. Mixing milk replacer at wrong concentration. | Kid is restless, cries out and tends to stand either with its back arched or with its hind feet places well back.. | Mild cases the pain quickly passes and returns to normal within hours. If not, ½ pint of vegetable oil for adults and less for kids followed by 1 glass of spirits in 2 glasses of water, repeated hourly until pain stops. |

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| Copper Deficiency & Toxicity | | |
| CYSTIC OVARIES: | Continues to come into heat every 4-5 days. She will fail to come into a true, standing heat, and she will act 'bucky' | treat cystic ovaries quite successfully with an injection of HCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin, an Rx) to correct the hormonal imbalance. That is followed about 9-10 days later by an injection of Lutalyse |
| Diarrhea (see article) | | |
| Enterotoxaemia –(overeaters disease) Clostridium perfringens type D bacteria produce the poisons responsible, when conditions in the digestive tract deprive them of oxygen. | Sudden loss of appetite. Depression and a drunken appearance. As it progresses the animal becomes unable to stand and lies on side making paddling movements. High temperature. Very watery diarrhea | The prognosis for recovery is guarded in caprine enterotoxemia, even with treatment. Fluid therapy providing mixed electrolyte solution with bicarbonate are indicate in acute cases to counter shock, dehydration an acidosis. Commercially available type C and D antitoxins should be administered. Antibiotic therapy may be helpful in reducing bacterial proliferation. Oral sulfas have been used successfully (see personal recommendation for treatment) |
| Floppy Kid Syndrome -Some people believe it is caused by too much rich milk and others believe that it is associated with e-coli. | Newborn kids seem to do well for a few days after birth then start to show depression and weakness of limbs that progress to flaccid paralysis. Drunken appearance. No signs of diarrhea or elevated temperature. Possible distension of the abdomen. | Remove kid from source of Milk immediately for 24 to 36 hours. Dissolve a teaspoon of sodium bicarbonate in a glass of water. With a syringe administer between 20 and 50 cc of the solution orally. Do it slowly so the kid has time to swallow. Repeat the treatment at 1, 3, 6, 12 hours from initial treatment. Feed electrolytes as alternative until returned to milk. Also administer a wide spectrum antibiotic to prevent secondary bacterial infections. ANOTHER POSSIBLE SOLUTION Treatment is one-half tsp baking soda, mixed with electrolytes and one-half teaspoon Pepto-Bismol. Repeat in 6-12 hours. Not required to pull from mother's milk from this solution's perspective Third Solution - If the kid can still walk but is wobbly then give 2cc long-acting penicillin orally and 500MG thiamin. The Thiamin is mixed with the penicillin, and is imperative to recovery This should work in 6 hours. If the kid is comatose, give 5CC %50 dextrose orally and keep warm. Give the pen and thiamin for 3 days once a day. |
| Foot & Mouth Disease - viral | Blisters or vesicles form in any of the | Must be controlled from occurring. Animals exposed to the disease are destroyed. |

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| disease of cloven-hoofed animals. | following places: lips, tongue, teats, or the coronary band of the hoof. Tend to become lame and possibly salivate excessively. | |
| Foot Rot – Fusiformis nodosus infection enters the hoof and causes inflammation of the sensitive laminae. | Lameness, mild to severe. There is a foul smell associated with it. Animals are reluctant to walk. | Hoof paring in order to remove the underrun hoof. Apply antiseptic agents in order to remove any infection. |
| Gastro-intestinal roundworms – infest stomach and intestines sucking blood or reducing the absorption of digested food materials from the gut | Diarrhea and weight loss, anaemia | Drench with dewormer medicine such as <i>Ivomec</i> , <i>Cydectin</i> . <i>Make sure the worms are not resistant to your wormer.</i> |
| Goat Polio - see Polioencephalomalacia | | |
| Indigestion - - failure of normal rumenal movement. Associated with high intake of concentrate foodstuffs. | Off of food, slightly dull | Generally recovers within two days. Sodium bicarbonate given by mouth may be of some use if there is a tendency to acid conditions in the rumen. Offer animal a quart of salt water with 25 g of sodium bicarbonate dissolved in it. |
| Johne's Disease – chronic incurable infection of the intestines by Mycobacterium johnei bacterium. Causes a thickening of the intestine | Loss of condition, occasional scouring, becoming more frequent with bubbles of gas in the droppings. Weakness. Thirst may increase. | None. Slaughter animal as soon as possible to prevent spread to other animals. |
| Ketosis – Lactating doe is unable to obtain large amounts of energy feed and Ketones accumulate in the blood | Goes off food. Milk yield falls. Sweet smell in the goat's breath | A glucose or treacle drench may be given. Corticosteroid drug and oral propylene glycol. |

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| <p>Lice – parasite</p> | <p>Intense irritation, rubbing, bald patches and itching, usually during the winter months</p> | <p>Louse powder will normally control the problem. Insecticides for spray or dip repeated.</p> |
| <p>Laminitis - inflammation of the skin layers around the hoof. Often caused by consumption of a highly concentrated or lush forage diet. It may also be associated with sicknesses such as pneumonia, mastitis, and metritis.</p> | <p>Lameness and warm feet. Moves with a stiff gait, prefers to lay down or stay on knees. May also show signs of bloat, diarrhea and toxemia</p> | <p>Place on a reduced protein/energy diet such as hay with a very reduced or not concentrate ration and soft bed for lying down. Pain relief with a Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug such as Phenylbutazone is essential. Chronic cases need careful foot trimming to relieve pain by reducing pressure on the sensitive areas.</p> |
| <p>Listeriosis - caused by the bacteria <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>, found in soil, water, plant litter, silage and goat's digestive tract. Brought on by feeding silage, sudden changes in kind of feed, parasitism, dramatic weather changes and advanced stages of pregnancy.</p> | <p>Depression, decreased appetite, fever, leaning or stumbling or moving in one direction only, head pulled to flank with rigid neck, facial paralysis on one side, slack jaw, and drooling, abortions.</p> | <p>Administration of Procaine penicillin every six hours for three to five days, then daily for an additional seven days.</p> |
| <p>Lungworms – worms inhabit the air passages and cause inflammation (parasite pneumonia)</p> | <p>Chronic cough</p> | <p>Drench with dewormer such as <i>Ivomec</i></p> |
| <p>Mange, Chorioptic – <i>Chorioptes caprae</i> infest the skin of the lower leg</p> | <p>Itchiness may be noticed and there may be small crusty scabs.</p> | |
| <p>Mange, Demodectic – <i>Demodex caprae</i> invade the hair follicles and sebaceous glands of the skin</p> | <p>Small lumps are noticed in the skin. They may be like a cyst or bag of fluid.</p> | <p>Response to treatment is generally poor. Discuss with your veterinary.</p> |

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| <p>Mange, Psoroptic – Psoroptes caprae which infests the ears</p> | <p>May cause head-shaking and scratching.</p> | <p>Gamma benzene hexachloride and gammexane can be used</p> |
| <p>Mange, Sarcoptic – Saroptes scabei burrow in the skin and lay their eggs in tunnels</p> | <p>Terrible itching, Skin becomes raised, red and hairless round the eyes, ears and nose.</p> | <p>Infestation can be passed to other goats. Veterinary treatment is required.</p> |
| <p>Mastitis - inflammation of the udder, almost always associated with germs</p> | <p>Misery, udder hot, hard and very tender, appetite lost, pupils of eyes narrowed to slits</p> | <p>Antibiotics, and supportive therapy</p> |
| <p>Mastitis (gangrene) - inflammation of the udder, almost always associated with germs</p> | <p>bruised looking udder. Doe show signs of generalized illness: depression, fever or loss of appetite. Gangrene mastitis should be suspect if the udder is cold, swollen with an excessive accumulation of fluid and the milk is watery or bloody.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD antitoxin -7cc SQ • Poly Serum - 10cc SQ • 10cc Penicillin SQ & 5cc IM, • Banamine - 1cc/100lbs IM • follow with 10cc Penicillin SQ per day for 5 more days. • If you have Nuflor, give her 6cc/100lbs SQ first day, and 3cc/100 for at least 5 days more <p>. I know this seems excessive, but this type of Mastitis is a true emergency.</p> <p>You can spray the udder with Scarlet oil as it sloughs, and it will clean up all by it's self. I have had does loose half of the udder, and never stop eating with this treatment. If you catch it fast enough, you may actually save the udder.</p> |
| <p>Mycotoxin - "Myco means fungus and toxin means poison" - a poisoning of an animal from a fungus growth normally in old hay or feed.</p> | <p>Excessive salivation, depression, anorexia, convulsions, arched back</p> | <p>Varies according to the source of problem. Remove the "bad" feed or hay from the animals immediately. Administration of activated charcoal may inhibit additional uptake of toxin from the gut. Mineral oil may help.</p> |
| <p>Navel Ill – dirty environments infecting the navel cord after</p> | <p>Young kid with swollen, painful navel which may</p> | <p>Antibiotic injections. Area around the navel should be cleaned with antiseptic iodine, crusty scabs removed by soaking and any pockets of pus drained.</p> |

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| birth | look red | |
| Pinkeye – infection of the eye spread by agents such as flies, dust and long grass | A watery eye with excess tears spilling over on to the skin. May be reddening and cornea becomes cloudy. Animal sensitive to the light. | Flush eyes with 1 cc of penicillin or Oxytetracycline for several days. Isolate animal from others to keep it from spreading. |
| Pneumonia – infection of the lung | Refuses food, stands around hanging head down, sounds congested, elevated temperature, and coughs and breathes rapidly or with difficulty. | Antibacterial drugs such as Oxytetracycline. May require veterinary-only drugs if severe. |
| Polioencephalomalacia (Goat Polio) - a Thiamine (Vitamin B 1) deficiency. From improper feeding, particularly feeding too much grain and too little roughage. | Excitability, "stargazing", muscle rigidity, uncoordinated staggering and/or weaving, drunkenness, circling, diarrhea, muscle tremor, head against wall, and apparent blindness. A rapid, involuntary, oscillatory motion of the eyeball. As it progresses, convulsions and high fever may occur, and if untreated, the animal generally dies within 24-72 hours. | Thiamine is the only effective therapy, and treatment can result in improvement in as little as two hours, if the disease is caught early enough. Dosage is related to body weight: Use 500mg/ml Thiamin. Start with a gram (1,000 mg) IM the first dose, then at least 500mg per day for as long as it takes for complete recovery. Give 10cc Penicillin orally, and 10cc SQ at first treatment. Polio can be caused by plant thiaminase, or bacteria that either inhibit production of thiamin in the goat's gut, or consume the thiamin. Since we don't know what the origin is, It is preferred to sterilize the gut, and start over. So, the oral penicillin will kill the bacteria if that is the cause. On the morning of day 2, calf pac the goat, and give 500mg Thiamin orally, and 500mg SQ. Do not repeat any of the penicillin. If the goat will eat, feed her. If she can't eat, tube her or drench her with 100cc of Revive, 100cc of water several times a day until she can eat. |
| Pregnancy Toxemia - a metabolic disease of does in late pregnancy. Most of the nutrition is | Lethargy and losses of appetite over one to two weeks, generally | Give doe propylene glycol twice a day. We give 60cc drench in am and pm. We also create a mixture of sodium bicarbonate with water and give 30cc drench am and pm. Help get the doe up and moving around during the day and offering food. |

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| <p>going to the kids. Similar to Ketosis. Ketosis is after birthing.</p> | <p>in very late pregnancy. Limping or swelling of feet. Laying around not wanting to get up. Sweet-smelling (ketotic) breath. Ketosis strips can be used to identify if the doe is ketotic</p> | <p>Another Solution Give her 3 Tbs Calf Pac mixed with 100cc Revive and 100cc water. Give the doe 200cc of Revive every 2 hours, with Calf Pac in it. Also, once you get the doe awake, always give alfalfa, and corn with the sweet feed. Give her at least 6-8 oz. Magic at night to hold them.</p> |
| <p>Ringworms – Fungal condition</p> | <p>Grey-white crusty appearance on small areas of skin. Skin is usually thickened and the hairs thin or absent. Generally no itching or evidence of irritation. Enlargement of affected areas occurs.</p> | <p>Fungicidal preparations applied as a liquid dressing. Any of the following daily for five days and then weekly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 0.5% Lime sulphur ● 1:10 bleach ● 1:300 Captan ● 1% Betadine |
| <p>(Sore Mouth) –Contagious Pustular Dermatitis (ORF) - Highly infectious viral disease to animals and humans. ORF is the name for this in humans.</p> | <p>Pimples about the nose, mouth, eyes, anus and hoofs. Turning to watery blisters, then to sticky and encrusted scabs. Swelling of mouth and gums. Will run a course of around three weeks. Animals can die if they are unable to eat or nurse because of the sore mouth.</p> | <p>Difficult. Dress with antibiotic spray or ointment. Isolate infected animals. There is a Ovine Ecthyma Vaccine against sore mouth infection to all animals. Vaccine to infected animals may reduce the time to recover. We do not recommend vaccinating. We let the soremouth run its course of 3 weeks and doctor severe cases. We use medication with Cephapirin Benzathine in it. Two brands are Cefa-Dri and Tomorrow. CHX-Guard LA gel antibacterial agent adheres to the gums of infected animals.</p> |
| <p>Tapeworms – inhabit the small intestine</p> | <p>Examination of the goat's droppings. Young goats will pass tapeworm segments in their feces during the</p> | <p>An anthelmintic such as albendazole can be used. Oral niclosamide is highly effective.</p> |

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| | summer months. | |
| Tetanus - Infection of open wounds by the bacterium Clostridium tetani results in tetanus (lockjaw) | A general increase in muscle stiffness is seen, causing an unsteady gait. Eyelid begins to extend over the eye and animal looks "anxious". The symptoms get progressively worse and convulsions may occur. The goat dies because it is unable to breathe. | Goats can be treated with antibiotics such as penicillin and antisera, but response is poor. The site of bacterial proliferation should be searched for and whenever possible, the wound or infection site should be opened to the air, debrided, flushed with hydrogen peroxide and infiltrated with penicillin. The area be infiltrated with tetanus antitoxin before the wound cleaning process is begun to reduce the chance that more pre-existing toxin will be absorbed during tissue manipulations. |
| Urinary Calculi (Urolithiasis)- A hard mass of mineral salts in the urinary tract caused by a dietary mineral imbalance, usually in bucks | Restlessness, straining to urinate, pawing the ground, recurrent looking at its own abdomen, vocal signs of pain | Most treatment must be done by veterinarians. Often requiring the removal of the tip of the penis. Look at the details in the article on Urinary Calculi |
| White Muscle Disease - deficiency of Vitamin E and Selenium | Stiffness, weakness and trembling. Back legs become stiff and unable to use. Can result in death | Administration of selenium, together with vitamin E. Link to a map showing counties Selenium levels http://tin.er.usgs.gov/geochem/doc/averages/se/usa.html |

Email us your comments

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