

Goat Health Notes

CDT VACCINATION: All goat's dams were given CDT shot 4 weeks before kidding. It is to prevent tetanus and enterotoxemia. This first shot passes on immunity to the kids at birth that lasts 5-6 weeks.

I also gave each kid a CDT shot (2cc SubC) in their left shoulder at about 6 weeks. This may get a bump in the location of the injection. No worries.

Each goat should have a second CDT injection (2cc SubC) at around 9-10 weeks (some give another at 12-13 weeks, I don't). You can get the vaccine and a couple of syringes with needles at Tractor Supply and give it yourself, contact a vet to come give it and meet your goats, or bring them back to us if you live close and we are happy to do it free of charge.



Goat Vac CDT, 10 Dose, 20 mL, Durvet, Vaccine

220031399

★★★★★(3)

\$8.99

DISBUDDING: We had all the goats disbudded by Kelsey Hilton and Meghan Flanagan at Annabessacook Vet. Clinic. For future reference, they do it in the most humane way possible, putting each of the goats under and giving them nerve block. It costs about \$35 a goat. As the site heals, the scab often gets knocked off and can bleed. This is not a cause for worry. If you have blood stop cream or silver coat that can help keep it from bleeding. The hair should grow over and they should not grow horns, although sometimes a spur does grow as they age. Often it just falls off on its own. If a full on horn seems to be growing, you can contact the vets we sued and they will fix them.

STOMACH IN TRANSITION: Our goats seldom have any stool issues, but in the transition to a new home, away from their mom's milk and to eating hay from a new field, kids can experience digestive issues. Most will resolve themselves in a day or two. I always give the goats a bit of

ProBios paste on my finger tip if they are at all off as it can help their rumen keep good bacteria levels up. It is like yogurt for us, so no worries that they will get it too often. It is not a bad idea to give it to them on the roof of their mouth in the first few days as they transition and then to keep it on hand in case they don't seem themselves. Sometimes they can get

coccidia or other parasites that grow out of balance in the transition. You can treat with wormer and ProBios as soon as you see loose stool (We use Ivermectin Horse paste and triple their weight to find the dose, on kids it is hard to figure since it is made for huge horses, but don't worry about giving them a little extra, each click is 50 lbs.) or take a sample to a vet for testing and then treat according to what they find.



If possible keep feeding the kids Blue Seal Medicated Meat & Grow in the transition as it contains Decoquinatate for the prevention of coccidiosis, a common cause of diarrhea in goat kids.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR WETHERS: We banded all boys at 7 weeks. The testicles will get hard and shriveled and eventually fall off. Likely you will not really even notice until they are long gone, but it is not a bad idea to keep an eye on the site to make sure there are no signs of infection. It is also very important not to overfeed or give treats to wethers as they are more likely to develop urinary calcifications which can be deadly. Giving them Medicated Meat & Grow Blue Seal Feed which contains ammonium chloride to aid in the prevention of urinary calculi and limiting grain will help prevent this. You may stop grain all together between 6 months and a year with wethers, unless they need a bit to add on weight in the cold months.

GENERAL HEALTH: Just like with human kids go with your intuition. If you read too much online, you will be convinced your goat is dying everytime it sneezes! We have never had a goat in our herd die! They are very hardy and if you have a good eye, you will catch any potential problems early and be able to fix them with a vet's help. Signs that a goat is sick are: not eating, staring into space, runny stool. As soon as I see any of these I take their temperature. Have a digital thermometer and some lunicant on hand in case you need to check. The first question the vet will ask is what is their temp? 101-104 is usually OK, 102-103 is ideal. If it is too low or too high it is a sign they need treatment. (Perfectly healthy goats sneeze as an alert to other goats that something unusual is near!)

If you feel worried, feel free to call or send me an email or call a vet and ask what they think. Ours are amazing about helping us decide whether a farm call is needed or whether there are things we can try first. A farm call costs \$60. so sometimes it makes sense to bring the goat to the vet or see what happens for a day.



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