



Licking Valley Veterinary
Services
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Goat Recommendations

Following are recommendations for basic goat care. This primarily serves for people with small goat herds or individual goats, but can be applied for larger herds as well. *(Areas in parenthesis are marked for herd application).*

YEARLY VACCINATIONS RECOMMENDED

- 1.) CD/T
- 2.) Rabies (for pet goats)

PARASITE MANAGEMENT

Goats are naturally browsers, or simply put, they eat at eye level. Parasites can only physically crawl to the top of a blade of grass so naturally goats are not exposed to many parasites. Keeping goats in areas where they can eat at ground level only will increase their risk of having a heavier burden of parasites. Elevate feeders, and keep goats in pasture that is more than just grass to help reduce the parasite load. *(Pasture rotation with larger herds is also effective at keeping parasites low).*

FAMACHA deworming, or deworming based off comparing membrane color to a chart is recommended yearly, or whenever a goat is observed. Pooled (or a mixed sample from the entire group) Fecal Egg Counts are recommended every year or when animals are sick. There are multiple types of parasites which each require specific dewormers, and there is heavy resistance to drugs that are commonly used such as the white dewormers so individual deworming protocols are determined based off of Fecal Egg Count results and FAACHA scoring. To start, it is recommended not to use any of the white dewormers such as fenbendazole/panacur as they have little effect on goat parasites. Typically, LVVS recommends starting with an Ivermectin injection given orally at 1 cc per 20 pounds of goat weight. Ivermectin injection is typically used in cattle and can be picked up at a local feed store or purchased thru LVVS.

FEEDING

A clean source of water, always accessible, is always recommended. Most goats do well on forages and hays. Some may need supplementation of concentrates depending on their use and activity level. 7% crude protein and at least 50% Total Digestible Nutrients are needed. High amounts of Corn are not recommended.

VITAMINS & MINERALS

For newborn kids, an injection of Vitamin E/Selenium & Vitamin B is recommended within the first 2 weeks of life. Sick animals benefit from vitamin supplementation as well. One month before kidding, it is recommended to supplement the pregnant female as well. Trace minerals are recommended to be out year round. Bloodwork can be run on individual goats to see what minerals are lacking and need to be supplemented.

REPRODUCTION

For males needing castrated we recommend castrating at 5 months of age. For pregnancy checks of females we ultrasound at roughly 60 days of gestation.

OTHER

LVVS offers a variety of other services which can help you with your other goat needs. Please call or email for specific questions.