



Training Module No 10

Theory

1. Eating Disorders –
Scours, Bloat, Pulpy kidney, Blue tongue, Plastic,
Poisonous plants
2. Abortion



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Eating disorders

Scours/diarrhoea

Description	Prevention	Treatment
<p>Diarrhoea can be the symptom of a disease.</p> <p>There are many different causes of scours and each one can cause a different kind of runny stomach. They can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Smooth, yellow diarrhoea ● Smooth, white diarrhoea ● Whitish diarrhoea with lumps of thin skin in it ● Red or brown diarrhoea, which may mean blood in it ● Scours can be caused by a change in food source or diet ● Eating poisonous plants. 	<p>Regular treatment for worms will prevent scours caused by worms.</p> <p>Where scours are caused by nutritional changes, feeding some sort of nutritional supplement in winter will help with prevention.</p>	<p>A good general treatment is a mix of one spoon salt, 8 spoons sugar in one litre of clean, warm water. For young animals that have not been weaned, feed this mixture twice a day.</p> <p>Only when there is blood in the diarrhoea should you inject with a sulphamide-based injectable.</p>

Bloat

Description	Prevention	Treatment
<p>The animal's stomach swells</p> <p>It becomes uncomfortable and may lie down and cannot breathe and will die.</p>  	<p>Do not allow hungry animals to graze green lucerne and clover or other plants that cause them to bloat. They must be introduced VERY slowly to green lucerne and given large quantities of hay before grazing lucerne for a short while. Maize may also cause bloat.</p> <p>Make sure there is no wire or plastic lying around where animals graze.</p>	<p>Make the goat drink cooking oil (50 ml) or bloat guard. Do not let it lie down. If it is down, get it back on its feet and make it walk around until it has burped.</p> <p>In very bad cases stab the bulging area with sharp-pointed knife to let air escape. Treat the wound with antibiotic spray.</p>

Pulpy kidney (Enterotoxaemia)

Description	Prevention	Treatment
<p>The live animal: This disease is caused by bacteria that often exist within the sheep's intestine but only cause disease symptoms under certain circumstances such as a change of grazing, exhaustion, sudden dietary changes and dosing with dewormers.</p> <p>The bacteria in the intestine produce a toxin (poison) which results in death.</p> <p>Symptoms vary – sometimes the goats are found dead, at other times, they either (1) appear exhausted, show paralysis and a loss of consciousness and may have laboured breathing, salivation and diarrhoea or (2) have nervous symptoms with convulsions, accompanied by salivation, grinding of teeth and muscle twitches until death.</p> <p>The dead animal: The carcass decomposes quickly and there are haemorrhages on the heart and blood under the skin in the neck region. The lungs may contain excessive amounts of blood and the heart sac may contain fluid. The kidneys may appear enlarged, dark red or pale brown and decomposed. They may contain large amounts of blood.</p>	<p>Although this disease occurs more often in sheep, it is prevented by using Multivax P Plus vaccine, which is recommended in this book.</p> <p>Alternatively vaccinate lambs with enterotoxaemia Vaccine (including a booster injection) and then repeat vaccination annually.</p> <p>Give 1 ml per animal as a subcutaneous injection.</p> <p>Note: It is advised that animals first be vaccinated against pulpy kidney before deworming.</p>	<p>Treatment is not possible – rather prevent it through vaccination.</p>



Kidney from an infected goat

Bluetongue

Description	Prevention	Treatment
 <p>This disease is of little importance to goat farmers as goats are generally more resistant to bluetongue than sheep</p> <p>Difficult, rapid breathing as a result of pneumonia, resulting in a general bluish colour of the mucous membranes of the eye and the mouth and eventually of the tongue</p> <p>Sore joints, especially the feet and back. This gets so bad that the animal will sometimes walk on its knees and tends to lie down a lot. Animal stops eating and the stomach stops moving. Animal becomes sensitive to sun and the ears become warm and pink.</p>	<p>It is not prevented by using the Multivax P vaccine. Bluetongue vaccine is available, but need only be used if farmers experience a problem with the disease.</p> <p>Since the disease is transmitted by midges, move sheep and goats to higher areas where there are fewer insects.</p>	<p>Treat the pneumonia with antibiotics – a long-acting Terramycin every 3 days until recovery.</p> <p>Dosage – Adult goats 5ml every 3 days injected into the muscle.</p>

Deaths due to eating plastic

Description	Prevention
	<p>Goats sometimes eat plastic packets that they find lying around. Sometimes it is because they are craving salt and find it in the packets, sometimes it is just because they are hungry. The plastic is not able to pass through the goat's rumen and in the end the rumen fills up with plastic which limits the amount of food the goat can eat. In the end, it normally leads to the death of the goat.</p>

Poisonous plants

Description	Prevention	Treatment
<p>Animals will usually try to avoid eating poisonous plants, and will usually only be forced to eat them under certain circumstances. This happens when, for example, the veld is overgrazed, due to drought or overstocking of animals, and when the animals are hungry due to inadequate nutrition. It can also happen when the veld has been burnt, or when animals are introduced into new areas, where they are unfamiliar with which plants are poisonous in that area.</p> <p>Overgrazing of veld, by overstocking, may cause the invasion and dominance of certain toxic plants such as Deadly nightshade (<i>Solanum</i> sp). Some exotic plants that are planted as garden shrubs are poisonous, for example Lantana, seen in the picture at left. Lantana makes animals sensitive to the sun if they eat it (called photosensitivity). Certain plants become poisonous only under certain circumstances. For example prussic acid poisoning happens when certain young, growing plants become dry and wilted. An example of a fodder plant that produces prussic acid when young green foliage wilts is forage sorghum.</p>    	<p>It is important to familiarise yourself with the poisonous plants which occur in your area, so as to try to prevent animals eating them. Prevention is better than cure, as there are very few cases where treatment is effective, and treatment is often very expensive. The following steps should be taken as far as possible, to try to minimise plant poisonings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent overgrazing • Prevent overstocking • Monitor animals in planted pastures during danger periods (eg. hot dry periods where young plants can wilt and become poisonous) • Ensure animals are provided with adequate nutrition so that they do not go hungry, by providing supplementary feeding during times when the veld does not provide enough food • Take special precautions especially at the end of winter, when animals are most hungry and there is the least amount of food available, and the time when many poisonous plants come out • Monitor new animals that are introduced into the area and are unfamiliar with the poisonous plants of that area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dose the animal with activated charcoal, at 2 grams/kg body weight, mixed with water, preferably by stomach tube, or using a 1 or 2 litre plastic Coke bottle. Make sure the charcoal does not go down the wind-pipe as this will cause a dosing pneumonia which is often fatal. • Inject the animal with multi-B vitamin, to support the liver. • Place the animal in a quiet shaded area, and provide plenty of water and feed, and give it time to rest and recover. • If the animal is poisoned with a plant causing photosensitivity, ensure it is in a cool, shaded area, and given plenty of water and soft, green feed. • Keep the animal very quiet and rested (do not chase the animals or stress them out), as exertion can cause death.

Abortion

Symptoms	Prevention	Treatment
<div data-bbox="427 1393 880 1991" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="427 1099 880 1393" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Abortion is the loss of a foetus at some stage in the pregnancy. Abortion can be due to a range of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diseases that specifically cause abortion – such as enzootic abortion, brucellosis (<i>Brucella melitensis</i>) • Any disease that causes a high fever (e.g. heartwater) • Poor nutrition, especially during late stages of gestation • Mineral deficiencies • Stress • Certain poisonous plants. 	<p>The best prevention is to keep mothers unstressed. Don't transport them unnecessarily. Make sure the mother has adequate nutrition.</p> <p>Dispose of aborted foetuses and placentas in such a way that they do not contaminate the environment and result in other goats also becoming sick (burn them or bury them – at least knee-deep).</p> <p>Some diseases can be vaccinated against (e.g. enzootic abortion), but it is important to find out whether this is the cause of the abortion. Blood can be drawn from goats or samples from aborted foetuses can be analysed to identify the organism responsible.</p> <p>The first step is to keep records of how many goats are aborting (as a percentage of the herd) and when they are aborting in order to try and identify the real cause of the problem (whether food or disease).</p>	<p>Generally no treatment required unless there are complications.</p> <div data-bbox="518 324 686 510" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>NOTE: This disease also affects people, although they do not always cause abortions in people. Use gloves when you handle aborted foetuses and placentas to avoid contact and contamination with the disease-causing organisms. For example, infection with <i>Brucella melitensis</i> causes abortion, reduced milk yield and testicular infection in goats, and Malta fever in humans. Infection has been found in goats in Northern KwaZulu-Natal. Ask your local Animal Health Technician to bleed your goats to make sure your goats do not have this serious condition. If any do, contact your local state vet and make sure that you cull these animals immediately!</p>