



Training Module No 5

Theory

1. 17-point check
2. Age and condition
3. Taking temperature and weighing your goat
4. Dosing and injecting






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Visual Examination

A Visual examination of the goat can recognize problem areas in the goat's health.

17-point check

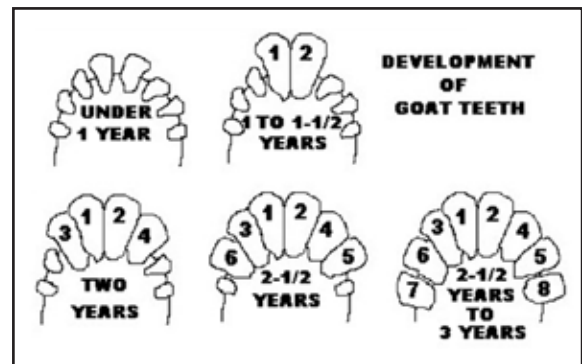
What to inspect		Look at	Looking for what	Section in goat book
 Head	1	Eyes	Discharge / anaemia	Contagious ophthalmia, Anaemia
	2	Nose	Discharge/snot/ moistness	Pneumonia, Nasal Bot, 5 Point Check
	3	Horns	Ticks at base of horns	External parasites
	4	Chin	Bottle jaw	5 Point Check
	5	Teeth	Age	Checking age of goat
	6	Ears	Ticks	External Parasites
 Body	7	Body, back and sides	Lumps, abscesses, and abnormalities	Abscesses
	8	Look in the hair	Ticks, fleas, mange	External parasites
	9	Feel the rump	Condition of goat	Condition scoring
	10	Take weight	Weight for dosage or treatment	Weighing your goat
 Rear	11	Look under the tail	Diarrhoea and ticks	5-point check, external parasites and eating disorders
	12	Feel udders	Lumps and heat	Mastitis
	13	Feel testicles	Lumps, heat and equal size	Castration
	14	Take temperature	See if it has infection	Taking temperature
 Feet	15	Check gait for limping	Sore joint or leg	Hoof problems
	16	Open toes	Look for ticks, abscesses or infections	Hoof problems
	17	Look at hooves	Overgrown nails	Hoof problems

Age and condition

Checking age of goat

The age of goats can be determined by looking at the goat's teeth:

- The first permanent incisors come through at about **15 months** – thus at this age the goat will show **2 teeth**
- The next two incisors come through at **21-24 months of age** – thus the goat will have **4 teeth**
- The next two incisors come through at about **30 months of age** – thus the goat will have **6 teeth**
- The last two teeth come through at about **36 months of age** – thus the goat will have **8 teeth (it is said to be full-mouthed at this stage).**



A young goat has 'baby teeth' before the permanent incisors emerge (left) while an adult goat shows permanent incisors (right)

Using the teeth to determine the age of the goat

Condition scoring

Farmers should be concerned with the body condition of their breeding animals. The term body condition refers to the body fat content of an animal. Ewes should not be allowed to become too thin or too fat. Failure in reproduction, low twinning rates and low weaning rates will result if ewes are too thin. Overly fat ewes can suffer pregnancy toxemia, but fat ewes are rarely a problem.

This is a standard way of assessing the condition of individual goats on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is very thin and 5 is obese. It is a way of telling whether your goats are getting too little feed or too much. You assess three different things:

- Backbone
- Rib cage
- Loin eye area (either side of the backbone above the tail).



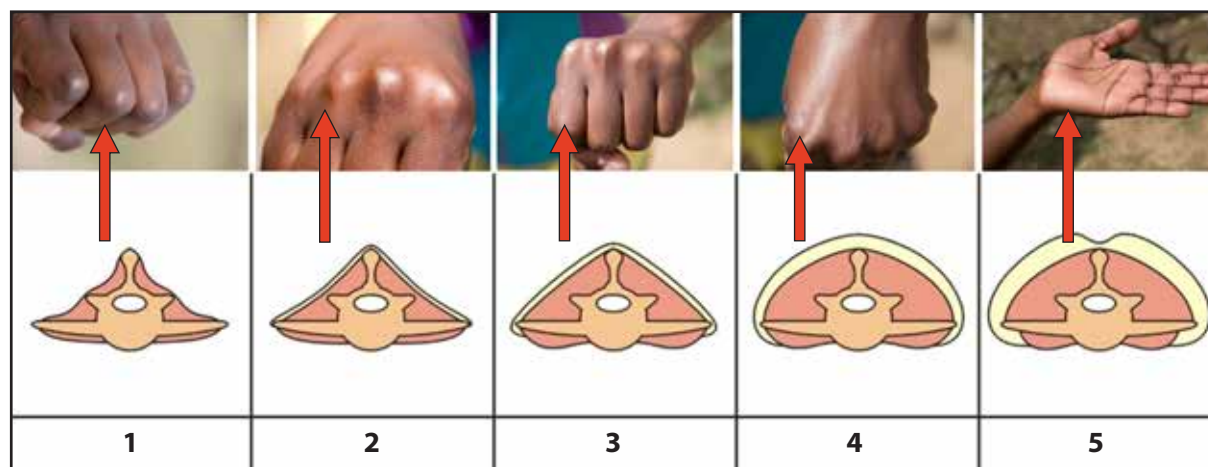
Condition scoring a goat

Condition scoring criteria. A condition score of 3 for the doe is ideal at weaning, breeding and kidding.

Score	Condition	Backbone	Rib cage	Loin eye area
1	Very thin	Stick out sharply (can even see), can feel individual vertebrae	Can feel each rib sharply	No fat covering
2	Thin	Can feel vertebrae but smooth	Smooth, need slight pressure to feel ribs	Smooth even fat cover
3	Good condition	Smooth and rounded	Smooth and well covered	Smooth even fat cover
4	Fat	Can feel with firm pressure	Cannot feel individual ribs, but can feel indent between ribs	Thick fat cover
5	Obese	Cannot feel individual vertebrae	Cannot feel individual ribs or indent between them	Fat accumulated around the tail area

Body Condition Scores – Sheep/Goats

To condition score a goat hold it firmly and feel the sections mentioned above compare what you feel to the diagram each condition should feel comparative to that part of your hand.



Treatment

Once an animal is sick, treating the disease quickly is important. Giving the right dose and the correct type of medicine or antibiotic is important.

Taking temperature

A thermometer is used to take an animal's temperature to see whether it is sick.

- If you are using a mercury thermometer, shake the thermometer back down to normal before starting
- Insert the thermometer into the goat's rectum and wait for 2 minutes
- Normal temperature for a goat is 38.8-40.2°C
- If the goat has a temperature below or above this range it could be sick. (Note: Don't give antibiotics if temperature is normal)
- Wipe the thermometer with antiseptic before storing it again.



A digital thermometer⁴ (left) and Taking a goat's temperature (right)

Weighing your goat

The weight of a goat can either be accurately determined using a scale, or it can be estimated using a weight belt. The weight belt is placed around the girth of the goat and the weight is then read off the belt. This is possible because there is a known relationship between the weight of the goat and the circumference of its girth. The belt will only be accurate for the type of goat for which it has been developed. For further information, see 16.7 in the Resources section.



You can use a weight belt for weighing your goat

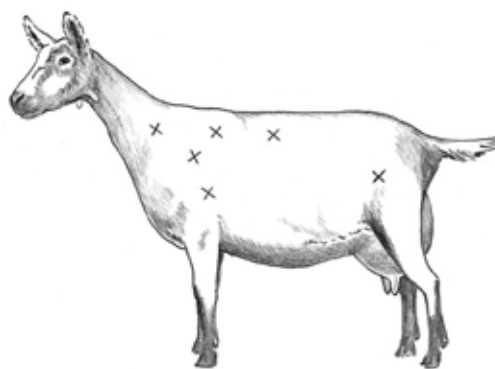
Correct dosage-to-weight

With most medication, whether it is given orally or injected, it needs to be given at the correct dosage rate, which is normally according to the weight of the animal. The heavier the animal, the greater dose it requires. It is important not to under-dose because firstly it will not work and secondly when you try to use it again, even at the correct dose, it will not work because the organisms that you want to kill will have become resistant to it.

You need to be able to estimate the weight of your animal so that you know how much medication to give. If you are dosing a similar group of animals for worms then you **calculate your dosage based on the heaviest goat in the group**. It might be better to divide your herd into animals of similar size and then calculate the dosage rate for each group separately.

Injecting correctly

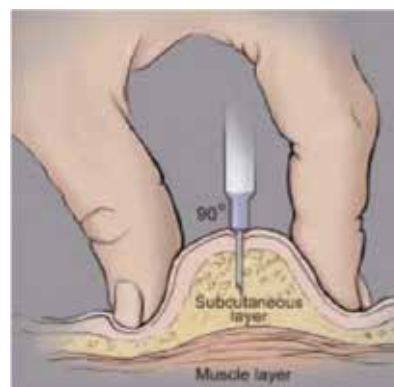
In general, use a fresh needle for each animal and boil syringes for at least 10 minutes before use in order to sterilise them.



Subcutaneous injection

This is an injection that is given under the skin.

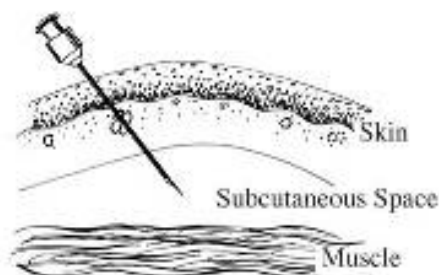
- Use a 20 gauge needle (22 gauge for kids) – 16mm or 1 inch length
- Lift loose skin and insert at an angle between skin and flesh – make sure you do not go right through the skin with the needle
- A subcutaneous injection often leaves a small lump under the skin immediately after injecting.



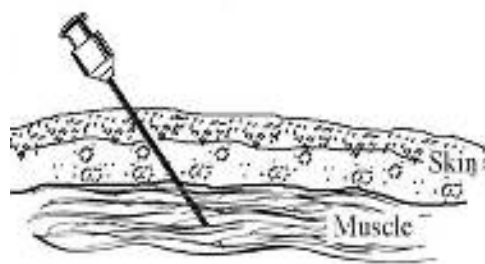
Intramuscular injection

This is an injection that is given into the muscle.

- Use a 20 gauge needle (22 gauge for kids)
- Inject into a heavy part of the neck or thigh
- After inserting the needle, always draw back first and make sure no blood enters the syringe (this will happen if you have hit a vein) – if there is blood, try another site.



Subcutaneous Injection



Intramuscular Injection

Note: The third type of injection is called an intravenous injection and the drug is injected straight into the vein, but this is a difficult injection to give so this should not be tried by people who do not have experience.

Dosing correctly



When dosing be careful not to get dewormer in the lungs as this can kill the animal. Insert the tip of the doser in the corner of the mouth as shown here. Using a metal dosing attachment (pictured below) helps to reach deeper into the mouth to prevent wastage and helps safe dosing.



Vaccination (preventative health care)

Farmers need to be aware of common diseases that affect goats in their area and then follow an appropriate vaccination programme. Vaccination is only possible for certain diseases. With these diseases, you can give the healthy animal an injection that will stop it contracting a particular disease. This is different from treating an animal once it is sick.

One of the key vaccines you can give a goat is **Multivax P**

- This will control pasteurella (lung infections), pulpy kidney, tetanus, black quarter
- Young goats: inject at 4-5 months and repeat at 5-6 months
- Adult goats: **Repeat annually in September (and repeat after 4 weeks).**

Other vaccinations should only be given if a problem is positively identified by a vet or animal health technician, for example: enzootic abortion, *Brucella melitensis* (also commonly called CA). Check the management calendar in Section 11.5 for timing of basic vaccinations.

Good hygiene practices

- Always wash your hands with soap and water before and after treating and handling animals. A hand disinfectant can also be used
- Always use fresh sharp needles where you can
- Needles should be sterilised as often as possible with boiling water for steel needles
- Any animal waste e.g. pus, blood, hair or flesh, should be disposed of by burning, burying or at least be thrown in a pit toilet to prevent the spread of infection.