

Basic Goat Care per Goat Knoll

You will want to check with your veterinarian for advice for your area

Once a year

CD&T vaccination – for vaccination against enterotoxemia and tetanus - injection - 2 cc per goat – can be under skin or muscle. Spring is a good time to give it. If doe is pregnant doe, give it to her about 6 weeks before kidding so immunity will pass temporarily to her kids. Can get CD&T at most feedstores, Vets or mail order. Needs to be refrigerated.

3 – 4 times per year

Trim hooves. You might want to do it more often at first until you are comfortable with it. They are easier to trim if less overgrown.

As needed

Worming--We use Panacur drench in the spring and Eprinex/Ivermectin pour on in the fall. We used to use just Eprinex/Ivermectin, but we were seeing parasite resistance the wormer. We now switch the wormer products per our veterinarians advice. You can also use most other sheep/horse products – pour on, boluses, paste, drench. Dose is by approx weight of goat. Wormers available at feedstores, vet or by mail order. Different wormers good for different parasites-labels will specify. Eprinex works for most internal and external. We generally worm 2 times per year. Be careful of products when worming a pregnant doe. Good to worm a doe right after she has kidded.

Minerals

Should have free choice minerals available at all times – for selenium and other minerals. We used Shamrock sheep minerals for years with good success, but recently have switched to something specifically designed for goats which contains more copper. Other people use blocks or other loose mineral products.

Vitamins, vaccination for other diseases

Some goat producers give periodic vitamin and/or selenium shots and vaccinate for other diseases (we don't). You might want to check with your vet for recommendations.

Kids

At birth we iodine a kids navel asap and give it a 1 cc shot (under skin) of Bo-Se (it's a vitamin E/selenium supplement) within 12 hours of birth – prevents white muscle disease.

Kids get vaccinated with CD&T twice the first year – 2 cc each time – 1st one at two months or so and 2nd one 4 – 6 weeks after the first. If the kid's mother was not vaccinated in late pregnancy, the kid's first vaccination will need to be given during its first week.

Poisonous plants

Regardless of goats'reputation of being able to eat anything, there are common plants that are poisonous to them including rhododendron and azalea. It is generally not a good idea to give your goats ornamental plant trimmings unless you have checked that they are not poisonous.

Wethers

Wethers can be prone to urinary calculi (kidney stones). This is caused primarily by diet and is often fatal. Generally, if you are feeding hay (especially a rich hay) to your wethers, grain supplement should be avoided. There is extensive information about this in books, the internet and from your local vet.