

Baby Goat Care Sheet

Vaccines

4 weeks old 1st CD&T Vaccine

8 weeks old 2nd CD&T Vaccine

12 weeks old 3rd CD&T Vaccine

Continue with CD&T Vaccine every 1 year for life of goat. Although there is some debate that 6 months is better. Ask your vet to see what they recommend.

Feeding

Our feeding schedule is based on weight. We bottle feed until 12 weeks for does and a minimum of 8 weeks for boys. Milk should be heated on the stove in a water bath. Put milk into a glass jar or measuring cup and place inside a saucepan filled with water and heat until it reaches a temperature of 104 degrees. Our schedule is below. Nigerian Dwarf goats should never have more than 20% of their body weight in oz, to a max of 32 oz in one day. Baby goats will always act like they are starving, don't overfeed! We use the Pritchard nipples that can be placed on either reusable kid bottles or most plastic soda/water bottles. *Don't use store bought goat milk as CAE testing is not performed on this milk.

Divide the oz in chart below into each bottle (e.g. 24 oz day / 3 bottles would be 8 oz per feeding).

Week 1-2 Feed 4-6 bottles per day

Week 3-4 Feed 4 bottles per day

Week 5-6 Feed 3 bottles per day

Week 7-11 Feed 2 bottles per day

Week 12 Take away one bottle (do not up in oz)

Week 13 baby should be weaned, although you can continue to give one bottle for up to 16 weeks if you choose too.

Weight in Lbs	Milk in OZ (per day)
3-4	9-12
5-6	16-19
7-8	22-25
9-10	28-32
10+	32 oz

Goats should always have fresh hay, loose minerals and water available to them from day one. We feed Orchard grass hay. Does can have alfalfa, there is controversy over whether or not bucks and wethers should have alfalfa. In general if the goats have a rounded diet of forage and grass hay, alfalfa should not be needed.

Worming

Always do a fecal test prior to worming. Collect sample and drop off at vet. Plan to do this every 4-6 months,

Coccidia prevention and treatment – Baby goats are prone to Coccidia and this should be monitored. If baby develops diarrhea immediately get a fecal to vet. Babies can develop diarrhea for a number of reasons such as too much milk, a change in milk or feed, worms and coccidia. For prevention you can use a medicated feed but you need to be sure that they are getting enough pellets to actually prevent. We do not use medicated feed but use Albon at 3 weeks, 6 weeks and 12 weeks. You can obtain this from your vet. However, because you don't have as many goats as we do, Albon treatment as a prevention may not be needed.

Hoof Care

Trim hooves every 6-8 weeks. Start at 1 month of age. We use the hoof trimmer with the orange handles that you can purchase on Amazon.

Other Information

Goat normal temperature is 101.3-103.5 If your goat is acting differently than usual, get a temperature on the goat as the vet will ask for this. You can use a normal oral thermometer inserted into rectum using lubrication.

Supplements

We do a copper bolus supplement every 6 months. You can purchase these online and we break apart and give to goats inside a banana (cut banana into 1/4ths leaving peel on, scoop out some banana with a spoon and empty capsule into banana, then replace scooped out banana), you can also try fig newtons.

Goat Treats

Goats love animal crackers and most veggies and fruits.

Wethers

Wethers are neutered male goats. There are three ways to wether your goat: burdizzo, banding and surgical castration. Surgical castration is the best option but is only performed by a vet. We do not practice the burdizzo method but instead utilize banding if surgical castration is not an option. To band a goat we use a castration bander and a band that fits the tool, the band is stretched over and around the testicles and in about 4-6 weeks they should fall off. Wethers make incredible pets and none of the mess of an intact buck. Wethers are often equated to that of a family dog. The main problem with wethers is that if they are wethered too young, they are at a higher risk of obstruction due to urinary calculi. Ensuring that your wether is getting a 2 to 1 calcium to phosphorous ratio (up to a 4:1 ratio) in his diet goes a long way to prevent these buildups. Unfortunately, once a wether has gotten urinary calculi once, it is likely to happen again so addressing the management and dietary needs of your wether from the beginning is best. You can take preventative measures such as giving your wether ammonium chloride once a month for five days. Ammonium chloride can be given in a drench (preferably mixed with juice) or used as a top dress on feed. The pulse dose method has proven more efficient than daily feeding as when fed beyond seven days, there proved to be a drop in the pH balance of the urine (signaling reduced effectiveness). Does and intact bucks can ALSO get urinary calculi. Does have shorter urethras and can pass them much more easy, but bucks have the same problem as wethers. It is best not to band or surgically castrate a wether prior to 12 weeks of age, and 16 weeks is better.

We hope you love our baby goats as much as we do and we are always here to help if you have any questions!

Thank you!

Twist Of Fate Ranch
Jennifer McGrath, 707-396-7066