

By Laura Sherman for Caprine Outing, 2002.'

How to tell if your goat is sick:

Signs and Symptoms

- Drastic decline in milk production
- Loss of appetite and fluid intake
- Significant weight loss or gain
- Excessive thirst
- Restlessness
- Change in responsiveness or attitude
- Abnormal stance or walk
- Rough, dull coat
- Hair loss

Watch for changes in each goat as well as deviations from the rest of the herd.

- Diarrhea! constipation (esp. in kids)
- Blood in stool or urine
- Vomiting
- Nasal/ocular discharge
- Abnormal breathing
- Abnormal swelling or bleeding especially around the jaw, throat, ears, shoulders, knees, udder, and hooves
- Paralysis
- Shock

If veterinary assistance is necessary, be ready to describe all observable signs.

- Temperature outside of normal range (101.5-104F) (> 106 or <100)
- Heart rate and regularity (unsteady, weak)
- Breathing rate and regularity (labored, rapid, coughing)
- Cud chewing! rumen function (sounds, distension, apparent pain)
- Lymph nodes (swollen)
- Eyes (cloudy, infected)

Basic First Aid Kit:

Thermometer, scissors, scalpel blades, 7% iodine (newborn umbilical cords), tamed iodine (wounds), cotton, gauze pads, vet wrap, udder ointment, plastic syringes, needles, wormers, stomach tube, topical antibiotic, alcohol, Pepto-Bismol, molasses

Reference literature:

Raising Healthy Goats Under Primitive Conditions. By R.A. Vanderhoof. Christain Veterinary Mission. Box 33000 Seattle, Washington 98133 (costs around \$10).

...The Merck Veterinary Manual. Merck and Co., Inc. Rahway, NJ.

Goat Medicine. By MC Smith and DM Sherman. 1994. Lea and Febiger. Philadelphia.