



# *The Goat Source*

## *Extra Label Drug Use in Goats*

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## *What is "Extra Label" Drug Use?*

Often when your goat is sick, there will be no approved drug for treatment of her condition. In this case your vet is allowed to prescribe a drug for "Extra Label Use". What does this mean?

Extra-label drug use refers to the use of an approved drug in a manner that is not in accordance with the approved label directions (such as using a wormer approved for horses on goats). Regulations define just when and how a vet can do this.

There **MUST** be a veterinarian- client- patient relationship, there is not an appropriate drug for the intended use, and the veterinarian must follow all the rules and regulations regarding prescribing these drugs and keeping the records concerning them

The regulation defines a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship as:

1. A veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the animal and the need for treatment. The client/owner of the animal has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian.
2. There is sufficient knowledge of the animal by the vet to initiate at least a general preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal
3. The practicing veterinarian is readily available for follow-up and has recently seen the animal and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal.

General Conditions for Extra-Label Drug Use include:

1. There is no animal drug approved for the intended use
2. Or, there is an animal drug approved for the intended use, but the approved drug is not in the required dosage form or concentration
3. Or, the approved drug has been found to be clinically ineffective when used as labeled.

Conditions for Extra-Label Drug Use in Food Animals include:

1. Making a careful diagnosis and evaluation of the conditions for which the drug is to be used.
2. Taking care that the identity of the treated animal or animals is maintained.
3. Take measures to assure that withdrawal times for meat and milk are met.

There are more rules and regulations that must be followed, but this is a brief overview of the main points. Extra-Label use in goats is quite common, as they are considered a minor species and most drugs are not approved for use in them. Your vet will know what these rules are and which drugs can be used for goats.