



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 4 Number 9 September 2007*

Here is your Sept. issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Chunky Monkey has had his first few lessons in driving. He really doesn't have a clue what is going on! My neighbor loaned me a horse halter and a lunge line. I put the halter on CM upside down and clip the line to the rings on each side, so I have a set of lines to "drive" him with. He thinks the harness is something to chew on. So do all the other goats in the pen. I don't want to take him out of the pen until he is more familiar with the whole concept. This could be interesting!

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Update on CAE
- This Month's Quiz...
- ADGA Convention coming to Colorado
- Classified Ads
- Answer to the September Quiz
- Helpful Hints

Update On Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) Virus

Caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE) is a lentiviral infection of goats which may lead to chronic disease of the joints and on rare occasions, encephalitis in goat kids less than six months of age. The CAE virus is intimately associated with white blood cells; therefore, any body secretions which contain white blood cells are potential sources of virus to other goats in the herd. Since not all goats that become infected with CAE virus progress

to disease, it is important to test goats routinely for infection by means of a serology test which detects viral antibodies in the serum.

1. What are the major means of spread of the virus?

The CAE virus is primarily transmitted to kids via colostrum in the first few feedings after birth. Blood (e.g., contaminated instruments such as needles, dehorers, etc, and open wounds) is regarded as the second most common way of spread. Contact transmission between adult goats is considered to be rare except during lactation.

2. What does a positive or negative test mean?

A **positive** result means the goat has been infected with the CAE virus and has made antibodies reactive with the CAE antigens. This goat is regarded as potentially contagious for the virus, especially if lactating. The antibody against CAE is not a protective antibody, and although strong antibody reactions may be detected in this test, infectious virus can still be spread in milk and blood of this goat. As many as 90% of positive goats may be free of clinical signs of the disease, and remain so for years or life. A young goat which has received heat-treated colostrum containing CAE antibodies may also test antibody positive for several months because of passive transfer of maternal antibodies. Retesting these kids after six months of age to determine their true status is recommended.

A **negative** result means that this goat is either not infected, or has been recently infected and is producing amounts of antibody too low to be detected. While the latter case does not appear to be common, it is a good reason to retest all negative goats when not in a closed herd. Goats that are negative should be periodically tested (twice a year for the 1st year, and annually thereafter). Predictability (or reliability) of a test result is often used to assess the overall accuracy. For the CAE ELISA, the predictability of positive and negative test results is very high.

3. Can an animal testing positive ever test negative on future tests?

It is unlikely that a CAE virus infected adult goat which has tested positive would ever test negative in the sensitive ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay) test. Occasionally a very young animal, fed heat-treated colostrum containing CAE antibodies may test positive and later negative from the decline of passively acquired antibodies in the colostrum. In some goats, seroconversion may be delayed for months after exposure. These "silently" infected animals test negative for antibody until the viral infection is activated by stress or other factors. It has not been determined whether these goats were infectious to other goats during the time they harbored the virus but remained seronegative.

4. How often should I test my animals?

Twice a year initially followed by annual testing is suggested for herds which are primarily negative, with testing before kidding recommended. Any new animals brought into the herd should be quarantined and tested twice (at least 30 days apart) before introduction with other negative animals. *Culling of positive animals is recommended.*

4. Is raw milk from positive does OK to drink?

There is NO evidence that the CAE virus is transmissible to humans. However, there are other serious human pathogens which have been transmitted through raw milk. *Keep this in mind if you wish to drink raw milk.*

5. How do I heat treat Colostrum?

Colostrum from any doe may be heated to between 133 degrees and 138 degrees F (56 to 59 degrees C) and held at that temperature for one hour to inactivate the virus. An accurate thermometer is important. It is recommended to use a water bath or double boiler to regulate the temperature more closely. A large batch may be heat-treated and frozen in small feeding size portions for later use (about one pint per kid). If heated higher than 140 degrees F, the usefulness of the colostrum will be greatly reduced due to denaturing of proteins, including beneficial antibodies to other infectious microorganisms.

Spring, 2007 excerpts from Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab website. (Italics added)

This Month's Quiz...

What is Urinary Calculi?

ADGA Convention coming to Colorado

The American Dairy Goat Association is having their Annual Convention in Fort Collins, Colorado from Oct. 13, 2007 to the 20th. Many fun and educational programs are planned. I hope to have a booth in the vendor hall – if you come to convention, stop and see me!! More details to come in the Oct. newsletter, but I hope to have some good specials and giveaways!!! For more details on the programs, visit the official ADGA site <http://www.adgaconvention.com/2007%20Home.htm>

Classified Ads...



Are you living on the edge? This is the shirt for you!! Shop

<http://www.cafepress.com/goatsource>

I can customize it with your herd name and logo! Discount for ordering three or more custom items at one time. Other cool items available!! (Let me customize a calendar for you for 2008!)

Check out the classified ads in the Goat Source Forum!

Place your ad FREE! Farm and goat related items only, please!

www.goatsource.com/forum

Make a Photo Book with your favorite goats in it!

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Computerized recordkeeping for your goats –Easy and affordable software for goat keepers! **The Goat Keepers Notebook**

<http://www.goatsoftware.com/affiliates/idevaffiliate.php?id-127>

Give the Gift of Goat! - <http://www.cafepress.com/getyergoat?pid=598960>

Answer to the September Quiz:

Uroliths in cattle, sheep, and goats are common. Although uroliths can be found anywhere within the urinary tract, urethroliths are responsible for most clinical problems. Obstruction induced by urethroliths causes urine retention and leads to bladder distention, abdominal pain, and eventual urethral perforation or bladder rupture, with death from uremia or septicemia. It is an important disease of feeder animals but is also seen in mature breeding animals. Urolithiasis is seen most often during winter in steers and wethers on full feed, or on range during severe weather conditions with limited water intake, especially when the water has a high mineral content. Urolithiasis has no specific geographic distribution, and the different urolith types reflect the mineral distribution of the feed. Uroliths occur in either sex, but obstructive urolithiasis develops primarily in males because of anatomic differences. The Merck Veterinary Manual, Ninth Edition

For an ongoing discussion of urinary calculi, look in to the pack goat forum on Yahoo. Because pack goats wethers are kept longer than most wether goats, this can be of concern to their owners. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/packgoat/>

Helpful hints:

I found a new favorite grain scoop! It's a plastic coffee can with a built in handle, it holds just about 3 #'s of my grain mix. It even has a lid!! It would be great for sending home with a newly sold goat – just put some of her grain in it so the new owner can change her feed gradually. Or use it to take to shows with goat treats or supplements in it.

That's all for this month,...
See you next month!!

Leslie, The Goat Source

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Information in this newsletter is not guaranteed to be accurate. However to the best of my ability, I will try to make all information as complete and correct as possible. It is up to you, the reader, to determine how to best apply the information presented! Use your common sense!! If you notice errors, please bring to my attention! Due to the nature of the Internet, some links may not work, or may have moved. Please let me know about non-working links as soon as possible!

Thanks, Leslie, The Goat Source

P.S. Hope to see you at the ADGA Convention! Even if I don't have a booth there, I will try to attend. I would love to see you there!!

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