

Mastitis and teat care

Although this article looks mainly at mastitis and teat care in milk goats, dairy cows also contract mastitis. For that reason, it is important that dairy farmers and their workers are aware of the symptoms of and treatment for mastitis, as well as the best means of prevention.

What is mastitis?

- Mastitis is an inflammation of the udder.
- Does producing a lot of milk are more likely to get the disease.
- Mastitis can be the main cause of loss of milk production.
- Severe mastitis may cause a general poisoning of the animal's system, causing fever, depression and loss of appetite.

What causes mastitis?

- Mastitis is caused by an infection of the udder.
- Mastitis develops in wet and warm conditions.
- The disease can develop when kids introduce the bacteria into the teat canal during suckling.
- Does with kids that have orf sores ('sore mouth') are more likely to develop mastitis.

What are the signs of mastitis?

- Changes in the udder and clots in the milk are most evident.
- Mastitis can cause the udder to become swollen, hot to the touch, red and painful, and then purple in colour.
- There will not be any milk or the milk will be abnormal (thin and watery, thick with clots or containing pus or blood).
- Abscesses may occur in the udder.
- Does may drag the back leg closest to the affected part of the udder and limp when they walk.
- Because of pain, does may not allow kids to suckle.
- Kids could starve and die.

How should mastitis be treated?

- Where possible, the udder should be milked out.
- Do not mix milk from a goat that has mastitis with healthy goat milk. The milk from does with mastitis must be discarded.

- Apply a hot pack (such as a hot-water bottle filled with warm water) to the affected udder for about 5 to 10 minutes.
- Then apply a cold pack (such as ice wrapped in a towel, or a towel soaked in very cold water) for about 5 to 10 minutes.
- Give an antibiotic injection into the muscle.
- Consult a veterinarian on the use of treatment via the teat canal.
- Bottle-feed kids of does suffering from mastitis with milk from does that are not affected, so that the kids do not starve.

How can mastitis be prevented?

- Good hygiene and management are very important.
- Prompt attention to teat injuries is critical.
- Flies can spread infection, so fly control is also important.
- Check the udders before breeding.
- Do not breed does that have hard, lumpy udders or closed teats, because they will not be able to feed and raise their kids.
- Cull animals with serious mastitis.
- If mastitis is a problem on the farm, include a mastitis vaccine in your vaccination programme.

Udder and teat hygiene

A healthy udder is one of the most important parts of the doe's and cow's body. It produces good quality milk for both human consumption and kid/calves.

Certain preventative measures should however be applied to promote good udder health. These measures differ and depend on the specific condition.

Teat lesions can be mild or severe. Immediate attention should be given if any lesion is observed.

Many of these conditions cause milk shortages to the kid or calf, or for household purposes.

When preparing and milking a doe or cow, ensure that the milking routine does not injure the animal or introduce contaminants into the milk. Key best practices include:

- Only milk cows with clean dry teats.
- Wash and clean dirty teats.
- Dry wet teats before milking.
- Ensure that clean, uncontaminated water is available through milking.

Milk goats: mastitis

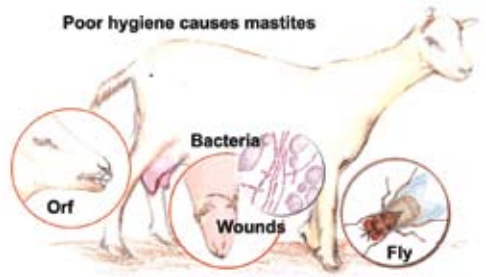
Inflammation of the udder

Causes: bacteria in the teat canal from poor hygiene, infected wounds on teats or suckling kids with orf sores on mouth.

Symptoms: Udder becomes red, swollen and later purple. Clots in the milk, fever, depression, loss of appetite. Damage to part of the udder. Loss of milk production. Suckling kids could starve and die.

Treatment: Antibiotic injection into the muscle. Apply treatment through the teat canal.

Prevention: Milk regularly, good hygiene, fly control, select females with good udders for breeding stock.



Melkbokke: mastitis

Ontsteking van die uier

Oorsake: bakterieë in die speenkanaal as gevolg van slegte higiëne, besmette wonde op spene of suiplamme met orf sere.

Simptome: die uier word rooi, swel op en word later pers, klonte in die melk, koors, depressie, verlies van eetlus, deel van die uier word beskadig, verlies aan melkproduksie, suiglamme kan verhonger en vrek.

Behandeling: antibiotiese inspuiting in die spier, behandel deur die speenkanaal.

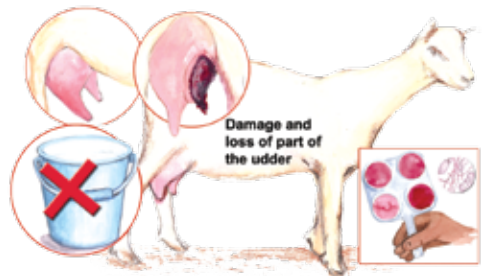
Voorkoming: melk gereeld, handhaaf goeie higiëne, beheer vlieë, kies ooie met goeie uiers om mee te teel.

Izimbuzi zobisi: i-mastitis

Ukuvuvuka kwebele

Izimbangela: Amagciwane asemgudwini wesihloko sebele adalwa ngukungacocwa kahle, izilonda ezinamagciwane ezihlokweni zamabele noma amazinyane ancelayo anezilonda emlonyeni.

Izimpawu: Ibele liba bomvu, livuvukale futhi kamuva libe nombala onsomi (purple). Kuba namahlule obisini, imfiva, ukucindezeleka, ukungathandi ukudla. Ukulimala engxenyeni ethile



yebele. Ukungakwazi ukukhiqiza ubili. Amazinyane ancelayo angabulawa yindlala futhi afe.

Ikhambi: Ukujova nge-antibhayothikhi emsisheeni. Faka umuthi ngomgudu wesihloko sebele.

Ukuyivimbela: Senga njalo, coca kahle, vimbela izimpukane, khetha ezesifazane ezinamabele akahle ukuze uzizalanise.



Ho hama dipodi: lefu la mastitis

Ho ruruha ha matswele

Disosa: dikokwanahloko tselaneng ya hloko ka lebaka bohlweki bo fokolang, maqeba a nang le tshwaetso hlokomng kapa dipotsana tse nyanyang di na le diso ka hanong.

Matshwao a lefu lena: Letswele le ba lefubedu, le a ruruha mme ha morao le ba le mmala o perese. Mahlwele lebeseng, feberu, ho sithabela maikutlo, le ho fellwa ke takatso ya dijo. Ho tswa kotsi karolong e nngwe ya letswele. Tahlehelo ya tlhahiso ya lebeso. Dipotsana tse nyantshwang di ka lapa le ho shwa.

Kalafo: Ho enta ka meriana e nang le di-antibaotiki mosifeng. Kenya kalafo ena tselaneng ya hloko.

Thibelo: Hama ka dinako tsohle, boloka bohlweki, laola dintsintsi, kgetha dipodi tse tshohadi tse nang le matswele a matle bakeng sa ho tswadisa.

libhokhwe zobisi: i-mastitis

Ukukrala kwebele

Oonobangela: intsholongwane kumjelo wombele oko okwenziwa zezococeko ezilambathayo, izilonda ezosulelekileyo kwimibele okanye ukuncancisa amatakane anezilonda ezineezikhoko emlonyeni.

Iimpawu: Ibele liba bomvu, lidumbe lize kamva libe mfusa. Amahlwili elubisini, umkhuhlane, uxinzelelo, ukungacaceli ukutya. Umonakalo kwinxenye yebele. Ilahleko yemveliso yobisi. Amathole ancancayo anokulamba kwaye afe.

Unyango: Inaliti yesibulala-ntsholongwane kwisihlunu. Faka unyango oko ukwenza ngomjelo webele.

Uthintelo: Senga rhoqo, ucoceko olulungileyo, ulawulo lweempukane, khetha iimazi ezinemibele emihle ekufuyeni imfuyo. 

