

Milk fever in milk goats

All milk animals are prone to a number of diseases related to inadequate or incorrect feeding practices. Milk goats too can suffer from metabolic disorders such as milk fever.

Milk fever

Milk fever or hypocalcaemia, means that the goat suffers from low blood calcium. This does not mean that the goat is calcium deficient. The bones are full of calcium, but the blood calcium level is too low.

This usually occurs just before, at, or just after kidding. It is not a common problem in goats and most likely occurs at the age of 4 to 6 years. Milk fever can also occur after a stressful event such as pre-kidding vaccination.

After kidding, the goat suddenly has to produce three or more litres of milk. As milk is high in calcium, this leads to a heavy loss in blood calcium. Because calcium is essential for muscle tone, goats with milk fever appear unsteady, show muscle tremors and uncoordinated movement. Goats are weak, lie down, stop eating and eventually go into coma if untreated.

Treatment and prevention

Goats with milk fever react very well to calcium borogluconate treatment. After treatment, the goat's body usually adjusts and mobilises its own calcium from the bones. Treated animals generally resume normal behaviour and start eating within about an hour, but they should be monitored.

Preventative measures include the right diet at the right time. If a ration low in calcium is fed prior to kidding, the goat's body adjusts to the change and metabolises calcium from the bone. However, if calcium-rich fodder is fed prior to kidding, the body's control mechanisms register this high input. Adequate quantities are absorbed in the bone, but it also reduces the absorption of calcium salt from the intestine. If this persists after kidding, the calcium lost in the milk uses up the reserves, resulting in low blood calcium and milk fever.

Note the difference

Often ketosis and milk fever reveal similar symptoms and it is difficult to distinguish between the two. A good indication is to look at the response of the doe to calcium administration. Rapid response to calcium therapy, contrasts with the poor prognosis and frequent lack of response to this treatment in the case of ketosis.

Goats: Milk fever

A goat may suffer from low blood calcium levels just before or after kidding. When the goat starts to produce milk the calcium in her blood is used up quickly.



Symptoms: Walks unsteady, muscle tremors, weak, lies down, stops eating, could go into coma if untreated.

Treatment: Inject calcium. The goat should start eating within an hour.

Prevention: Feed a ration low in calcium prior to kidding. This stimulates the absorption of calcium from the food in the intestine.

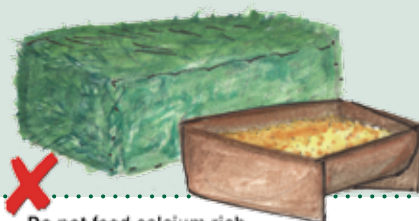
Bokke: melkkoors

'n Bok kan lae bloedkalsiumvlakke hê net voor of ná lamtyd. Sodra 'n bok begin melk produseer, word die kalsium in haar bloed gou opgebruik.

Simptome: Stap wankelrig, spiersametrekkings, swakheid, bly lê, hou op vreet, kan in koma gaan, indien nie behandel nie.

Behandeling: Kalsiuminspuiting. Die bok sal binne 'n uur begin vreet.

Voorkoming: Voer 'n rantsoen laag in kalsium voor die bok lam. Dit stimuleer die absorpsie van kalsium van die kos in die dermkanaal.



Do not feed calcium rich concentrate and lucerne just before kidding.

Izimbuzi: Imfiva Yobisi

Imbuzi ingaba namazinga aphansi ekhalsiyamu egazini ngokushesha ngaphambi kokuba ibe nezinyane noma ngemuva kwaloko. Uma imbuzi iqala ukukhiqiza ubisi ikhalsiyamu egazini layo isetshenziswa iphele ngokushesha.

Izimpawu: Ihamba ngokudengezela, imisipha iyaqhaq hazela, ibuthakathaka, ilala phansi, iyeka ukudla, ingangena esihlwathini (ku-coma) uma ingelashwa.

Ukwelashwa: Yijove ngekhalisiyamu. Imbuzi kumele iqale ukudla ngaphakathi kwesikhathi esiyihora.

Ukuvikela: Yidlise isabelo sekhalisiyamu esiphansi ngaphambi kokuba ibe nezinyane. Igqugquzela ukumuncwa kwekhalisiyamu ukusuka ekudleni okungaphakathi kwethumbu.

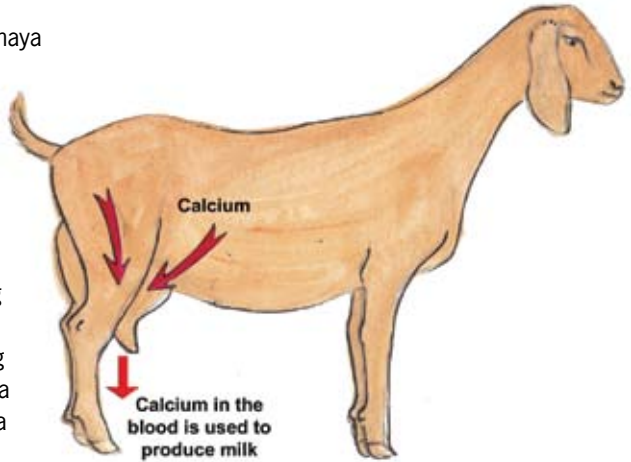
Dipodi: Feberu ya lebese

Podi e ka ba le bothata ba ho theoha ha ditekanyo tsa khalsiamo mading pele kapa ka mora hore e tswale potsanyane. Ha podi e tla ho hlalisa lebese khalsiamo mading a yona e sebediswa kapele.

Matshwao a ho kula: Ho tsamaya e thekesela, ho thothomela ha mesifa, ho fokola, ho robala fatshe, ho kgaotsa ho ja, ho akgeha ka nako e telele haeba e sa alashwe.

Kalafo: Ho e hlaha ka lemao le nang le khalsiamo. Podi e tshwanetse ho qala ho ja nakong ya hora.

Thibelo: E fepe ka dijo tse nang le khalsiamo e tlase pele e tswala potsanyane. Sena se kgothaletsa ho mongwa ha khalsiamo dijong tse leng ka maleng.



libhokhwe: Umkhuhlane wobisi

Ibhokhwe inokuba namanqanaba asezantsi ekhalsiyam yegazi msinyane nje okanye emva kokuzala. Xa iqala ukukhupha ubisi ibhokhwe ikhalsiyam esegazini layo isetyenziswa ngokukhawuleza.

Iimpawu: Iyagxadazela xa ihamba, ukungcangcazela kwezihlunu, ibe buthathaka, ilale phantsi, iyeke ukutya, inokufa isiqaqqa ukuba ayinyangwanga.

Unyango: Yitofe ngekhalisyam. Ibhokhwe kufuneka iqale ukutya kwiyure.

Uthintelo: Yondle ngereyishini enekhalsiyam esezantsi phambi kokuba izale. Oku kuvuselela ukufunxwa kwekhalsiyam ekutyeni okusemathunjini. **UM**

