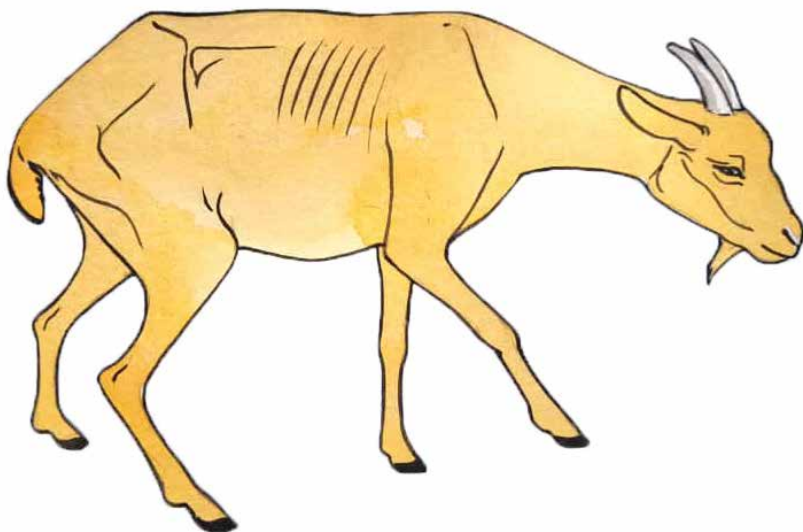


Diarrhoea in Goats



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Diarrhoea in Goats

Diarrhoea in goats happens when they frequently pass loose or watery stools. Minor changes in stool consistency are normal, however chronic diarrhoea is a red flag. This condition is more than simply an inconvenience; it can cause serious health consequences such as dehydration and electrolyte imbalances, which have a substantial influence on goat health.

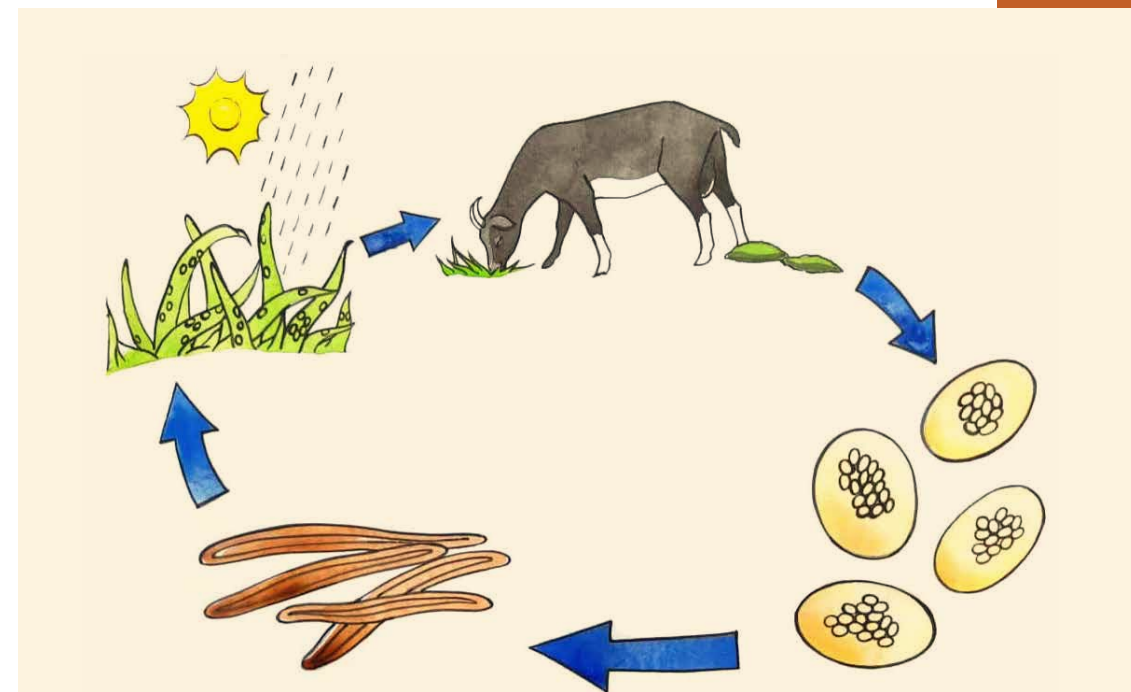


Diarrhoea (scours) in goat kids can have several causes, including bacterial infections, coccidiosis, and other underlying conditions expored in the follwoing pages.



Parasites (Coccidiosis)

Coccidiosis develops when a goat is significantly infected with Coccidia parasites. It is the common cause of diarrhoea in goat kids between 3 weeks and 6 months old, especially after weaning. Coccidia is a protozoan parasite that is mostly found in the local environment, and most goats carry it. Coccidiosis is prominent in warm, wet weather causing the parasite to multiply rapidly. Most goats build resilience to this parasite over time, but younger goats, having weaker immune systems, are more vulnerable to its effects especially between three and six months old. Symptoms therefore must be treated immediately to avoid permanent damage (stunted growth, poor fertility, poor quality meat and a disease carrying goat).



Bacterial infections

Bacterial infections are another common cause of goat diarrhoea. Certain types, such as E. coli and Salmonella, can cause major health problems in a herd. Bacteria thrive in nutrient-rich environments, thus poorly managed feedlots or overcrowded pens are good places for infection. Colibacillosis and paratyphoid (salmonellosis) often affects kids under two weeks old and can be caused by stress, dirty environments, or insufficient colostrum intake.

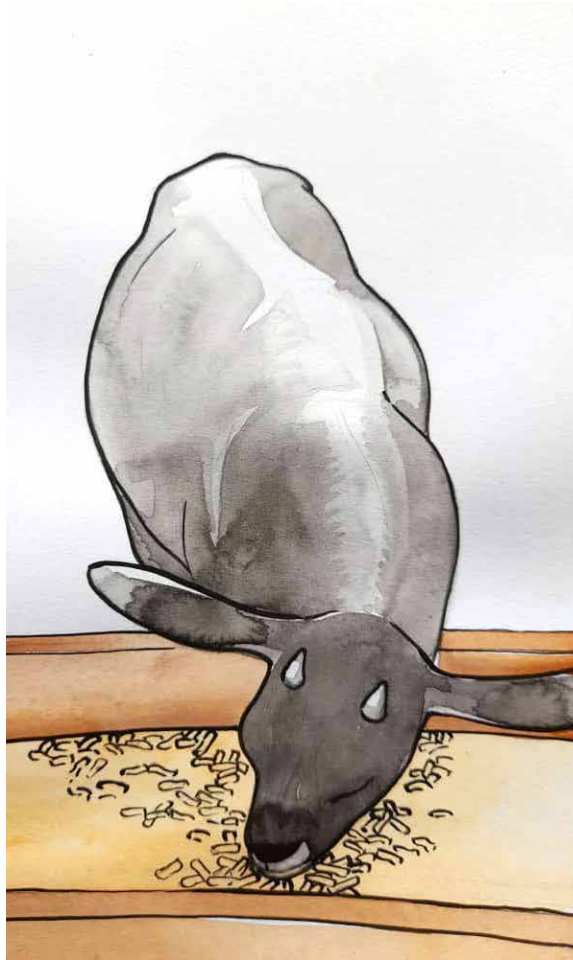


Nutritional Factors

Nutritional factors are at the root of many goat health problems, including diarrhoea. The food directly affects the robustness of the digestive system, and any miscalculation can have significant consequences.

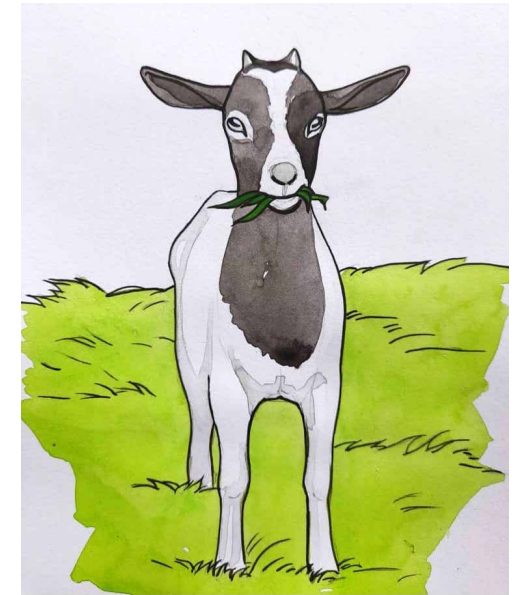
Changes in Diet

Often scours in goats are not caused by a major illness but simply eating too much of a new thing. e.g., increasing their grain suddenly or moving goats to a new green pasture. This can temporarily disturb up a goat's rumen and cause a bout of scours. To prevent this, gradual feed changes are recommended. Dietary changes can be both a cause and symptom of various underlying disorders thereby complicating diagnosis and treatment.



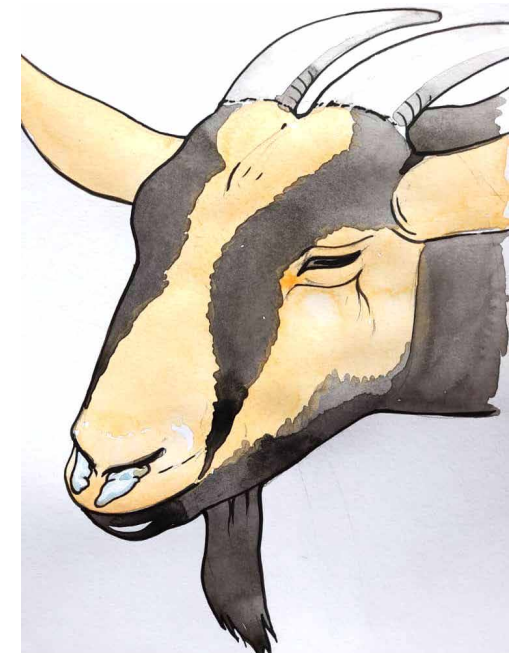
Poor Quality food

Mouldy, contaminated, or stale feed can cause serious intestinal problems in goats. Poor-quality feed usually contains diseases or dangerous compounds. This significantly impacts digestive health and must be monitored closely. Careful monitoring may include managing how feeding methods affect herd health and improving feed storage practices.



Other underlying conditions

Conditions such as Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), Johne's disease, worm infestations, and exposure to poisonous plants can be found at the root of health challenges with goats.

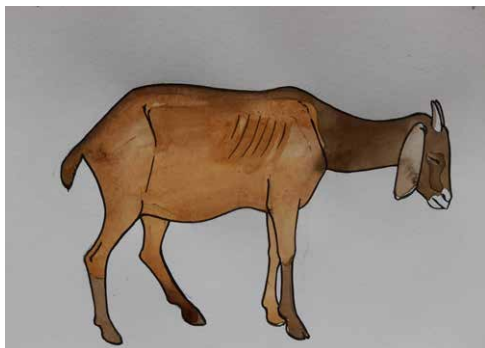


Symptoms in more detail

It is important to understand the signs of goat diarrhoea to effectively manage it. Spotting a problem early might mean the difference between a slight scare and a serious health crisis.



Physical signs are the first indication that something is wrong with a goat's health. These symptoms can reveal important information regarding the severity and underlying causes of the diarrhoea.



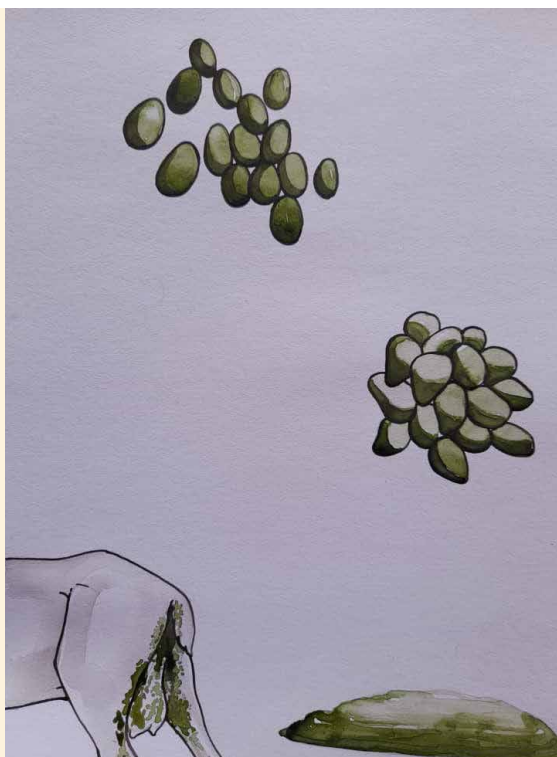
Dehydration works hand-in-hand with diarrhoea. It must be detected early to mediate its effect on goats' health. Dry gums, sunken eyes, and skin that does not easily snap back when pinched are all common traits. These indications are important as they help gauge the severity of the diarrhoea and need for urgent fluid replacement.



Also look out for:

- > Loss of Appetite
- > Fever
- > Weight Loss or Poor Growth
- > Hunched Appearance

Changes in stool consistency is a major worry and can take numerous forms: from watery to solid, with notable colour differences. Watery faeces are a symptom of diarrhoea, signalling immediate need for intervention. Farmers can detect patterns that indicate nutritional difficulties or infection by regularly monitoring these changes.

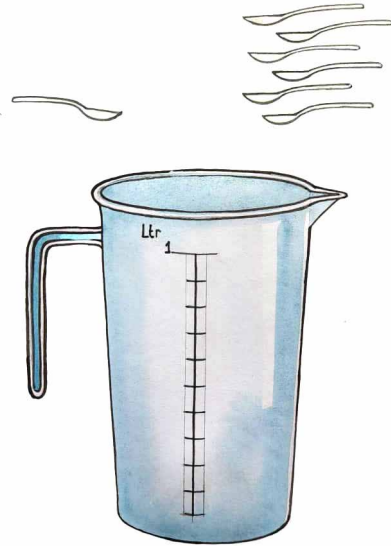


Goats' behavioural changes may range from Lethargy (a state of tiredness, sleepiness, fatigue, sluggishness, or lack of energy) to anxiety, critical in detecting diarrhoea. Observing these shifts provides insight into both physical and mental health. For example, a normally lively goat may suddenly become withdrawn, indicating distress.



Treatment Approaches

Fluid treatment (fluid administration to replace existing fluid deficits, replace on-going water and electrolyte loss) is frequently the first line of defence against dehydration caused by diarrhoea. This element of treatment helps to replace lost fluids and electrolytes, making it critical for goat recovery.



Anti-inflammatory Support:

Consideration for pain relief and anti-inflammatory support may also be necessary.

Dehydration Relief:

Providing oral electrolyte solutions can help manage dehydration caused by diarrhoea.



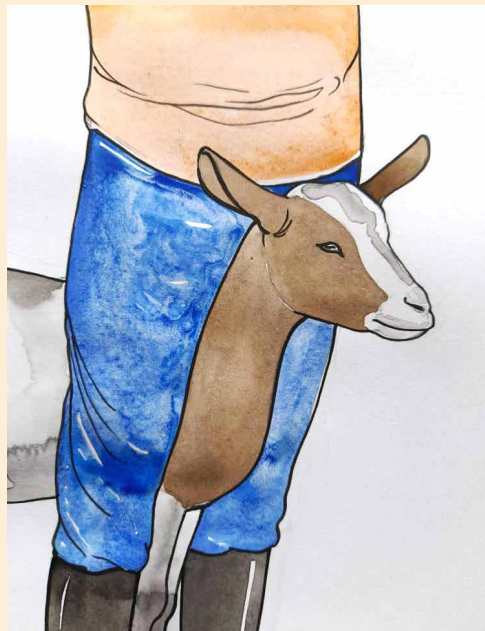
Medications: These are critical in diarrhoea treatment, targeting the causes and alleviating symptoms to promote quick recoveries.

Anti-coccidial Medications:

The commonly used medications include sulfadimethoxine, amprolium, and toltrazuril. Medication selection is determined by the severity of the infection.

Sulfa Drugs: Drugs such as sulfamethazine and sulfadimethoxine are effective, especially in the early stages of infection.

Drenching: Administering amprolium (Corid) orally for 5 consecutive days is often considered effective.



To achieve the best outcomes, a veterinarian should deliver these treatments.

TOP TIPS

Administering liquid Medicine to Goats



- 1 Weigh Your Goat:** Accurate dosing starts with knowing your goat's exact weight. Use a livestock scale for the most reliable measurement.
- 2 Use a Syringe:** Draw the prescribed amount of medicine into an oral syringe. Ensure the liquid is evenly distributed by shaking the bottle before measuring the dose.
- 3 Hold the Goat Steady:** Secure the goat's head to prevent sudden movements that could cause you to administer the medication incorrectly. If possible, have someone assist you.
- 4 Administer Orally:** Gently insert the syringe into the goat's mouth, toward the back of their tongue, and slowly squirt the liquid in. Allow the goat time to swallow each squirt to avoid choking.
- 5 Ensure Full Ingestion:** Make sure the goat swallows the full dose by holding their head up briefly. Offer fresh water after administering the medication to help it go down smoothly.

Managing Diarrhoea in Goats

When you notice diarrhoea in your goats, it is essential to take immediate action to prevent further complications. Here are some steps to follow:

Clean and dry living conditions:

Maintain clean and dry pens and pastures to reduce the risk of coccidia contamination.

Isolation and quarantine:

Practise proper isolation and quarantine procedures when introducing new goats to the herd. This prevents the spread of coccidiosis and other contagious diseases. Separate the sick goats from the healthy ones to prevent the spread of infection.

Provide Shelter and Nutrition:

If any animals are lying down, offer shade, fresh food, and clean water to help them recover.

Good nutrition:

Provide a balanced diet to boost the goat immune system and overall health. Proper nutrition helps combat coccidiosis.

Hygiene and sanitation:

Regularly clean and disinfect pens, feeders and water troughs. Proper manual management such as regular removal and composting can also help reduce the coccidia load.

Regular deworming:

Establish a deworming schedule recommended by a veterinarian to control internal parasites including coccidia.

Fly control:

Clean the back legs of affected animals to prevent blowfly strike, a common complication with diarrhoea.

Note:

Weaning is a particularly difficult period for kids since they are no longer receiving immunity from their mothers. Monitor them closely during this time and assist them to be as calm and stress-free as possible. Extra nutritional support can help them through this dietary change without issue.

Seek Professional Guidance:

To identify the specific cause of diarrhoea and receive appropriate treatment, contact your veterinarian for expert advice. Sending fresh droppings from both healthy and sick animals to a laboratory for testing can help determine the underlying cause.

Summary of Key Points:

Different causes:

Goat diarrhoea includes pathogenic agents, dietary abnormalities, and environmental factors. Recognising the many causes is critical for focused treatment.

Symptom Recognition:

Identifying indicators such as weight loss and changes in stool consistency allows for earlier diagnosis, which can lead to improved outcomes.

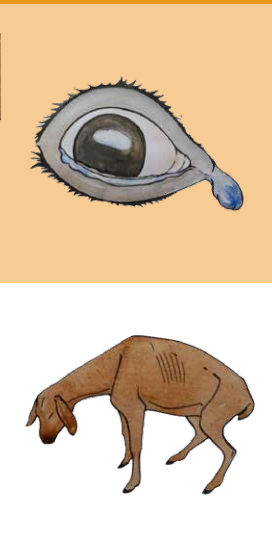
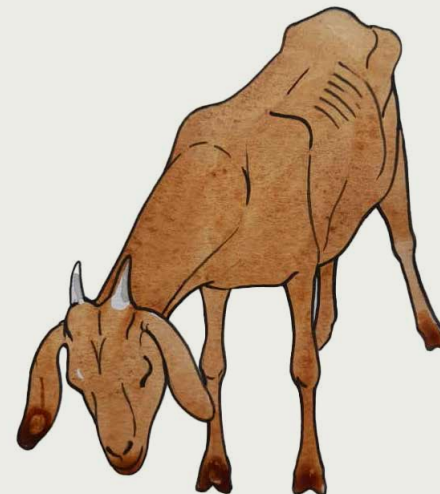
Treatment Protocols:

Fluid therapy, suitable drugs, and good nutritional management are all critical components in treating affected goats.

Preventive Measures:

Implementing cleanliness procedures and eating a balanced diet considerably minimises the incidence of outbreaks.

If you have a young goat aged 3 weeks to 6 months range scouring, and you know it isn't linked to a change in nutrition, treat it for coccidia just in case.





For more information about our business models or trainings on how to take care of your goats, visit us at:

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