

Sick Goat Worksheets

When examining a goat that appears to be unhealthy, it's important to gather data in a way that will allow you to communicate the information to your assigned veterinarian or Ambulatory Care at Cornell. These worksheets are only an aid and are in no way meant to be complete. Keep a copy of these worksheets, with a pen, in a zip-loc bag in your First Aid Bucket.

Start the worksheet by gathering the goat's medical history and observing him for at least a few minutes unless you immediately see that you're looking at a medical emergency.

Today's Date: _____ Time: _____

What is the name or number of this goat? _____

Gender: doe buck wether

Breed? _____ **Age?** _____ **Weight?** _____

Last illness?

What are the goat's **feed rations and his feeding program?**

grain hay mineral pasture

What vaccines, medications or "home remedies" has the goat been given and when?

What are the **presenting symptoms?**

How is the goat standing, lying down? Does he seem weak? Does he seem lethargic or listless (of low energy, sluggish and apathetic)? Anxious? Nervous? Restless? Confused? Describe his **behavior:**

Have you seen his **manure**? Is there an unusual smell?

Describe: color, consistency and frequency

pellets clumpy mushy dark diarrhea clear diarrhea blood tinged hard&dry pellets
Is he **urinating**? Does he seem to be having any difficulty when doing so? Is he acting like he might be constipated? Describe:

Can he walk? What is his **movement** like? Is he walking and trotting uncomfortably? Does he stand in a hunched way? Is he staggering or acting “drunk”? Is he holding his head tilted? Is he walking in circles? Is he leaning? Is he refusing to move? Describe:

Does he appear to be in **pain** or discomfort? Is he grinding his teeth, pressing his head against the wall, or rolling on the ground? Is he biting at his side? (which side?) Is he drooling? Is he crying out at all? Describe:

**Having observed most of this from afar,
now it's time to catch the goat and finish your worksheet.**

What is the **body temperature**: _____ (normal is usually 101.5 - 103.5°F)

What is the **respiratory rate**? _____ (normal is about 12-24 breaths per minute)

Breathing: Does his nose have mucous on or in it? If so, what color and consistency is the mucous? Is he coughing or sneezing? Does he seem to be having difficulty breathing? Breathing in or out? Describe:

Can you feel or hear his **heart rate**? _____ (normal is about 70-80 beats per minute)

Eyes: Are his eyes dull, pink or cloudy? Is the hair around his eyes wet? Is there mucous? Does he seem to have trouble seeing? Is there an ulcer on the eye? Is he **blind**? Describe:

Inner Eyelids: Do his eyeballs appear yellow? Is he moderately or severely **anemic**? What color are his inner lids? Inner eyelid color may be identified subjectively as +4 = highly pink; +3 = moderately pink; +2 = moderately pale; +1 = very pale; 0 = white. Describe:

Ears: Is he twitching or repeatedly scratching at one ear? Is he holding his ear in a “cocked” position? Does the inside of his ears look dirty? Do they smell bad? Does the skin around his ear tag look infected or bloody? Describe:

Coat: Does his coat look dry, dull or thin? Does he have bite marks or rubbed areas? Does he have dander or nits or lice in his hair? Describe:

Fitness: When you run your hands down along his ribs, back and hips, does he feel thin or bony? Do you feel he's lost weight? Describe:

Skin: Does he feel **dehydrated**? When you pull out his skin does it lag snapping back in place? Do you see any cuts, abrasions, abscesses, and scabs? When you run your hands over his skin, do you feel any lumps under it? Describe:

Rumen: placing your hand on the left side of the goat, in the triangle below the backbone, behind the rib cage and in front of the hipbones, can you feel his rumen gurgling at least twice a minute? Does his rumen feel hard, tight, **bloated** or distended? Is he biting at his rumen area? Is he chewing his cud? What does his cud smell like? Describe:

Legs: running your hands down each of his **legs**, do you feel any bumps, lumps or areas of warmth/heat? Describe:

Feet: Are his **hooves** over-grown? Looking between his toes, do you see any blackish material? Do you see any lumps or abscesses? Do you see skin blisters or "cold sore" looking areas indicating foot scald? Are there any wounds? Is the wall of any hoof separating from the body of the hoof? Do you smell a strong odor? Describe:

For male goats-

Penis: examining the male external reproductive area, is there any swelling to his scrotum or penile sheath? In the area immediately around the sheath opening do you see or can you feel any crystals, swelling or leaking of urine? Is the hair wet or damp around this area? Is there any discharge? Is there an odor to the discharge? Are you able to flip the goat into a "sitting position" and extend the penis? (Ask for a veterinary demonstration.) Is the pizzle swollen, purplish in color, or inflamed? Is the penis swollen, purplish in color, or inflamed? Does urinary flow appear to be blocked?

For female goats-

Vulva: is the vulva slightly swollen or does it have a clear or cloudy discharge? These symptoms would suggest that the goat may be in heat. If so, this may be why she is acting agitated or is less interested in her food than normal. However, an extremely swollen vulva or a foul smelling discharge would be symptoms of possible injury or infection.

Udder: Is the udder abnormally hot or cold compared to the goat's body temperature? Is the udder swollen or sore to the touch? Does it appear to have any wounds or abscesses or skin disorders? If milking, does the milk from both teats appear normal or are there clots or blood in it?

Is there anything else you'd like the vet to know?