

PNEUMONIA IN GOATS

Pneumonia in goats: Vaccination is cheaper than treating sick goats.

There are several organisms that cause pneumonia in goats, the most common being the *Pasturella* species.

Pasturella Hemolytica (now *Manheimia hemolytica*) can kill a goat in 5-6 hours: it causes bacterial sepsis, which produce toxins, that kill the vital organs. The goat usually does not have any symptoms of illness until the last hour or so, when it is already dying, and treatment is no longer effective. Often there is no snotty nose, no respiratory distress until the end, and the goat just dies. I have seen bucks beating at a gate to get with does, and three hours later, dead. There is no treatment, only prevention.

Ideally, a culture and sensitivity should be done of the nasal mucous if there is mucous. A vet should be consulted for access to the drugs you need.

Pasturella Multocida kills more slowly. The goat will go off feed, look 'hollow', stand very still, head level or down, tail level or down and move around very reluctantly. If you try to catch the goat, it will demonstrate respiratory distress: Nasal flaring, intercostal muscle breathing (muscles between the ribs) and open mouth breathing. There may or may not be fever. If not treated immediately, the animal can have permanent scarring and or consolidation of the lungs, which reduces the respiratory volume permanently. I vaccinate with Super Poly Bac B Somnus by Texas Vet Labs: a cattle vaccine. I use a 1cc SQ initial dose, and half a cc as a booster in 14-21 days. Goats that have had pneumonia have better immunity if vaccinated a third time.

I have not had pneumonia since I began vaccinating with this vaccine.

The treatment I use for pneumonia is: Nuflor 6cc SQ/100lbs as an initial dose, then 3cc SQ/100lbs every day for at least 5 days. In kids I do not give less than 3cc SQ of Nuflor period, they tend to die more easily, and do not have the reserve to survive a profound infection without aggressive treatment. Nuflor is not an amino glycoside, and does not attack organs. I use Polyserum, which has the antibodies to *Pasturella Multocida*, *Pasturella Hemolytica*, *Salmonella*, *E Coli*, and *Actinomyces Pyogenes*. I give 10-15cc Sq to a large animal, 7cc to a big kid, and not less than 5cc to a sick kid. You can use Bovi Sera also, it is a similar product. This can make the difference in life or death.

I give Banamine 1cc /100lbs IM as often as every 8 hours for severe respiratory distress. Frequency of the dose of Banamine should be every 12-24 hours in most cases: discontinue when the animal is no longer in acute distress. Banamine has several functions: it is a smooth muscle relaxant, so it eases respiratory distress. It is anti-prostaglandin, so it helps protect a pregnancy. It is anti-endotoxin, so it helps protect from toxins produced by the bacteria that damage vital organs. It is also anti-pyretic (reduces fever).

If the animal does not respond to Nuflor within 24 hours, the treatment can be augmented with Sulfa drugs: Albon 500mg-750 mg twice a day for an adult animal. I prefer Septra

for this treatment (Sulfadimethoxazole with Trimethoprim) If in 24 hours you do not see improvement, then it is likely not *Pasturella pneumonia*.

If the animal does not improve within 24 hours, then Batril is the next drug of choice, but I avoid using this except as a last resort, on valuable breeding animals, and only with a vet recommendation.

AGAIN: involve your vet for supplies and get a culture done.

Haemophilus Somnus is another organism that can kill in 5 hours or so. This bacteria causes symptoms that mimic a heart attack. It causes sepsis, and death. The goat will have acute congestive heart failure, more than likely a myocardial infarction (heart attack), and will die very suddenly. The rumen will be dry, and there will be systemic respiratory acidosis. You will see foam from the mouth and nose at death many times: Sudden death.

I have seen a young doe up and walking around, seemingly fine. I saw her collapse, so I ran to her, and she died in my arms. I took her immediately to the vet for a post mortem exam. She looked as if she died of a heart attack with acute pulmonary edema. The final result was that she died of *Haemophilus Somnus* sepsis.

Consult your vet for all the medicines you need, and have culture and sensitivity done to determine the exact cause, and best drug to treat.

I use the above treatment with excellent success.

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