

PUEPERAL INFECTIONS IN GOATS

Puerperal infection of the reproductive tract can be caused by bacteria ascending into the tract during parturition, from a hanging placenta, assistance during labor, or from contamination of kidding area.

Assess for odor, presence of placenta, and or edema of the vulvar area. Gangrene can ensue from these infections.

I treat very aggressively. Time is of the essence in this situation, as it is truly an emergency. The doe is often septic. I give 20cc of longacting penicillin SQ, 15cc Polyserum or Bovi Sera SQ, 10cc CD antitoxin, Nuflor 12cc SQ, and Banamine 1ccIM/100lbs. ON days 2-7, I decrease the dose of Penicillin to 15cc, Nuflor 8-9cc. Polyserum or Bovi Sera may be repeated on day 3,5, and 7 as needed.

If the doe has an infection with edema of the vulva, treatment may be extended as long as 14 days. Sloughing resulting from Clostridial infection can cause damage to the reproductive tract. Supportive care is necessary: Revive, mixed 50:50 with water, and a scoop of calf pac each day will help. Keep the doe in a sternal position if she is down. Leave her kids with her, and bottle if necessary. They will give her the will to live.

Retained placenta

I usually give the doe 24 hours to pass a placenta. If in this time, with nursing of kids the placenta is not passed, I treat with 10cc longacting Penicillin mixed with a weight appropriate dose of Oxytocin given SQ. The oil base penicillin given SQ prolongs absorption, and contractions are weaker, but over an extended period of time. Most of the time placentas are passed in 12-24 hours with this treatment.

Pizzle Rot, or Vulvar infections

An infectious disease usually caused by *Corynebacterium*. In bucks, the penis may be extended past the sheath by edema. Pus may be evident. Culture and Sensitivity should be done. Clean the prepuce and milk pus from the sheath. I put a Cephalosporin mastitis infusion in the sheath, encircle the opening of the sheath and close it, then work the drug up as far as you can. Laying the buck on his side will make this easier. I have recommended treatment with high doses of Polyserum, and Penicillin. At least 20cc SQ of the long acting product every day for 7 days.

Does will have a swollen vulva, mucopurulent drainage, and sometimes a crusty scabby area around the vulva. Culture and sensitivity should be done. I also use the Cephalosporin mastitis infusion in the vulva, with treatment with Penicillin as above until cultures are back. Treatment is

changed per sensitivity report.

All animals should be inspected, and isolated from well animals until cultures come back negative. An entire herd may be treated with sulfa drugs in water, or as per culture and sensitivity. Infected animals should not be exposed to a breeding herd until well.

Mastitis

Culture and Sensitivity before any treatment is begun.

I usually treat with 20cc Sq of long acting Penicillin, Nuflor 9-12 cc SQ., Polyserum 15-20cc SQ on days one and four. When cultures come back then treatment can be adjusted as necessary. Mammary infusions may be instilled into a doe with a Tomcat catheter. Lay the doe on her side, and instill the infusion, and massage to get the drug into the highest reaches of the udder. In cases of valuable breeding animals that will never go into the food chain: I have used with great success the following.

5cc 25mg/ml Amikacin, 5cc normal saline mixed and instilled into the affected side every other day times three treatments. The affected side of the udder will cease to function for the duration of that lactation, but will be soft, and clean for the next lactation.

Parenteral drugs should be used according to culture and sensitivity.

Hot moist packs to the udder will often help with dispersion of edema and soften the udder so that it can be milked. Milk may be drained with a cannula if milking is not feasible.

Pink Eye

Pink eye in goats is usually caused by Mycoplasma or Chlamydia. What works is an eye spray that is made up into a small spray bottle:30cc.

10cc of 100mg/ml Gentamycin

10cc Dexamethsone 2mg/ml

10cc sterile water or normal saline

Keep refrigerated when not in use. Spray the eye at least once a day. Clean the face with Listerine and a paper towel to get eye drainage off. Flies spread the infection feeding on drainage.

Gentamycin is not prohibited in food animals if used topically, and the eye is considered topical.

This spray will heal pink eye in 24-48 hours in many cases. Even severe pink eye with keratitis of the cornea with ulceration respond in 3-4 days. The eye is clear and functional.

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