

Anemia

by Gary Pfalzbot

Anemia is a condition caused by a shortage of hemoglobin or red blood cells. There are several possible causes of anemia in a goat, ranging from improper nutrition levels such as a lack of copper or iron, to certain blood-sucking parasites, liver fluke, barberpole worms or brown stomach worms. Anemia can also be caused by internal bleeding or from excessive bleeding from external wounds where significant blood loss is evident. Symptoms of anemia are most commonly characterized by a goat that is lethargic and off-feed. The membranes of the eyes are usually a tell-tale sign that anemia is evident. The membranes should be a good deep pink to red but will possibly be a rather pale pink to white. Treatment for anemia includes vitamin B12 injections, a properly balanced mineral/vitamin ration and frequent worming for blood-sucking parasites and worms. It is also believed that anemia can cause low butterfats in milk tests. Certain poisonous plants can also cause anemia in goats as the toxic properties of some plants work directly on depleting/increasing certain essentials in the blood to critical levels.

Bottle Jaw

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Bottle Jaw (often mis-spelled as "bottlejaw") is characterized by a hardened swelling beneath the jaw (as seen in pictures above) and is most often caused by worms or liver flukes. It can also be seen when a goat is weak or becoming ill. This can be a symptom of a goat that is sick or is becoming sick. Quite often, worming will cure this condition but one should also consider other herd health management techniques as found in the Health section. A typical treatment plan includes the use of vitamin B12 injections and/or the administration of a product called Red Cell[®] as well as worming the goat.

Anemia Treatment from Don Johnson: Please note this is what has worked for him on his own herd. Consult Your Veterinarian.

Bottle jaw is caused by worms, but what it is is anemia. Once you kill the worms, then you have to treat the anemia. AGGRESSIVELY! If not, the animal can die. The following has worked very well, and since I started doing this, I have lost no animals.

1. Give Vit B 12 injections daily for two weeks 2-3 cc per 100# SQ or IM.
2. Fortified Vit B Complex daily for two weeks. 6-8 cc orally.
3. Ferrodex 100 injections for 5 days. 2 cc per 100# IM
4. Goatade or Nutridrench 20cc orally twice a day for a couple of days.

Feed them good hay. Quit this treatment too soon, and you get to start all over. You will see the jaw go back to normal in three or four days, but it is not over until you get the red cell count back to normal.

I lost my first two cases of this because I did not know what it was, or how to treat. I said treat for two weeks, but I have trimmed it to ten days. But I have also had to start over also a time or two. Good luck.

Don Johnson