



## Chlamydia

Chlamydiosis is a major cause of abortion in goats. It is caused by *Chlamydia psittaci*, a gram negative intracellular organism. The organism is also the cause of arthritis, conjunctivitis and respiratory diseases. After exposure the organism multiplies in the intestine, eye or genital tract. It gains access to the placenta and fetus and causes abnormal absorption of nutrients through the placenta, leading to death and abortion of the fetus. Other animals become exposed by ingesting diseased placenta or uterine discharges.

**Symptoms:** Symptoms include abortion during the last two months of pregnancy, especially in the last two weeks. Fetuses usually appear fresh. The doe is usually not clinically ill, and the placenta is not retained. Fertility is usually normal in subsequent pregnancies though it is thought that immunity decreases after three years. The organism can be transmitted to other does in the herd.

**Treatment:** Medical care includes treating all susceptible does with tetracycline or tylosin, or other effective antibiotics. Consult your veterinarian for an appropriate course of treatment.

**Prevention:** Control measures include practicing good sanitation and establishing an effective vaccination program. Buy replacement does and kids from reputable sources with no history of the condition. **Chlamydia is contagious to humans.**

References cited: Mary C. Smith & David M. Sherman: Goat Medicine

<http://www.extension.org/pages/23825/chlamydiosis>

## **Chlamydia – [www.jackmauldin.com](http://www.jackmauldin.com)**

Chlamydial abortion is one of the most common causes of infectious abortion in goats. Pigeons and sparrows may be the carrier of the organism that causes Chlamydia and ticks or insects may play a role in the transmission. Non-pregnant Does may become infected but the organism can stay dormant creating little or no immune response. The organism may stay dormant until the Doe becomes pregnant resulting in both an abortion and the immune response. Inflammations of the placenta caused by the infection prevent the normal transfer of nutrients across the placenta and that results in the fetal death and it's abortion. After a Doe aborts, she will normally develop a good immune response that eliminates the Chlamydia from her uterus normally within 3 months of the abortion. The infectious organism does not proliferate and attack the placenta until around 90 days after breeding. Chlamydia has been found in a buck's semen 29 days after being experimentally infected however the primary modes of transmission are from vaginal or uterine secretions of aborting Does and Does shedding the organism the following year. During future breeding seasons, the Does normally show no signs of infertility and the natural immunity following an abortion lasts around 3 years.

In newly infected herds, 25% to 60% of the Does may abort. In herds that have been exposed to the infection, abortion rates drop to between 1% to 15% and the new abortions generally are in new animals to the herd. The abortions generally occur in the last month of the pregnancy but may happen as early as day 100 of pregnancy. Does may show loss of appetite, run fever and show a bloody vaginal discharge 2-3 days before aborting.

- **Treatment** - If chlamydial is confirmed or highly likely to be present, it is common to treat all Does remaining at risk of aborting. Treat with long-acting oxytetracycline (20 mg/kg IM or SC). Bio Mycin 200 is one antibiotic that can be used. Some have given the drug twice a week during the final 4-6 weeks of pregnancy. However because of the management difficulties, the most effective process seems to be one injection every three days for three times before kidding followed by an injection 3 weeks after kidding. Aborting females should be removed from the herd for at least 3 weeks, and fetuses and placentas should be burned or buried.