

ABN 70 601 832 062



AJ & JL Williams Pty Ltd T/A

# WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC

3 Baker St, Wangaratta 3677 Ph (03) 5721 4000 Fax (03) 5722 1269

*Friendly service and professional care for all.*

## Basic Goat Husbandry

Goats can be a fantastic and inquisitive animal to have on your property. A fun fact about goats is their pupils are rectangular so they can see 320-340° vision without moving their head.

### Vaccination

Vaccination should be performed 2-6 weeks prior to kidding. Kids should be vaccinated at 6-8 weeks old with a second dose 4-6 weeks later. A yearly booster vaccination should also be performed, ideally 2-6 weeks prior to kidding. *Glanvac<sup>®</sup> 6* is recommended to provide protection against the five main clostridial diseases (black disease, black leg, malignant oedema, pulpy kidney, and tetanus) and cheesy gland. The vaccination should be given under the skin at the base of the neck.

### Internal parasite control

We recommend drenching your goats if they have worms. To determine whether they have worms, we can perform a worm egg count on a sample of their faeces. To check the efficacy of a drench, faecal egg counts should be performed 10-14 days after drenching. Registered products recommended for use after a positive faecal worm egg count, include drenches containing oxfendazole or albendazole.

### Lice

There are two types of goat lice, biting lice and sucking lice, that may infest goats. Lice are most prevalent over the cooler months, and you may find them amongst your goat's hair or on their skin. Some effective lice treatments registered in goats include dips or sprays containing diazinon, or a pour-on containing deltamethrin pour-ons. If required, two treatments, two weeks apart, at the beginning of cooler weather is recommended.

### Disbudding and castration

Disbudding/dehorning is best performed when the goat is still young, approximately 10 days of age. At WVC we can disbud and castrate your goats surgically under sedation and give them LOTS of pain relief!

### **Nutrition**

If it is necessary to bottle feed kids after birth, colostrum should be fed in two to three feeds of 100 to 150 mL each. After that, kids drink about 0.5-0.7L per day for the first week, then 1.0–1.5 L per day after that. Provide hay from 2-3 weeks of age. Wean at 2-3 months of age or whenever the kid is increasingly eating solid food.

Goats should have continuous access to pasture as well as browse (bushes and shrubs). Goats may need to be supplemented with good quality hay, grains or mineral supplements during dry months if pasture is inadequate. Provide ad lib access to clean fresh water and check daily.

### **Routine Foot Trimming**

Foot trimming is an essential regular husbandry activity to prevent future problems. It is recommended to start trimming with foot shears at 4 weeks old to get them accustomed to it early and continue to perform trimming 3-4 times yearly. If trimming isn't performed the feet can grow unevenly and cause your goat's severe discomfort.

*If you are concerned about the health of your goat, give us a call on (03) 5721 4000.*

Handy resources:

<https://www.mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools/going-into-goats/looking-after-your-animals/>

[Give goats a go | Meat & Livestock Australia \(mla.com.au\)](https://www.mla.com.au/give-goats-a-go)