

# QUIK-GUIDE TO BASIC GOAT VITALS

Things to know before you call the vet.....

If the problem is not obvious, you should always try to determine the goats vital signs before contacting the vet. Knowing simple things, such as an animal's temperature, helps determine the proper first course of action.

## **TEMPERATURE:**

A rise in body temperature may indicate that some type of infection process is going on.

- Normal Temperature:      Normal: 103.9° F      Range: 101.7° F ~ 105.3° F

Taking A Temp.....

- Use a veterinary thermometer, which is designed specifically for animal use.
- Insert the thermometer, full length, into the rectum.
- To avoid losing it, tie a clean piece of string around it before insertion.
- Hold thermometer in place for a full 3 minutes before reading.

Common Temperature Variances:

- Temperature will usually be lower at night, and in cold weather.
- Temperature can also be affected by age, excitement, stress, and exercise.

## **PULSE RATES:**

- Kid Goat = 100-120 beats per minute      Adult Goat = 70-80 beats per minute

## **RESPIRATION RATES:**

- Kid Goat = 12/20 breaths per minute      Adult Goat = 9/12 breaths per minute

## **RUMEN CONTRACTIONS:**

- Normal rumen contractions occur 1 to 3 times per minute.  
Observe the left flank movement to determine the rumen contractions.

## **ESTRUS** (Heat Cycle)

- Age at Onset = 7-12 months      Duration = 12 - 72 hours
- Frequency = 17 - 23 days      Gestation = 145-155 days
- The onset of breeding season is about 10-weeks after the longest day of the year, about mid-June.
- Classic signs of heat are excessive bleating, restlessness, swollen vulva that sometimes has a mucus discharge, with excessive tail twitching, and standing for mount.
- Of course, exposing the doe to a buck is the only sure way to determine if the doe is definitely ready to be bred.