

Just a Spoonful of Sugar Helps the Medicine Go Down.... By Maggie Leman

Goats can be difficult when it is time to take their medicine. Instead of struggling to get a pill down whole, crush it thoroughly in a small bowl or serving spoon with the back of a teaspoon. Remove the plunger from a syringe, hold your finger over the tip and use a creased index card to pour the powder into a syringe. Dribble in a bit of syrup or honey and mix it with a skewer or toothpick. Carefully replace the plunger, turn the syringe tip up and ease your finger off the tip. Let the syrup/powder mixture settle and push the air out. The powdered pill stays suspended in the syrup much better than in water and it tastes pretty good! For giving injectable Ivomec orally (it tastes really bad) when deworming your goats, draw up the dose in a syringe and then draw up a bit of soda or syrup. One goat keeper swears her goats love Mountain Dew!

Treating And Preventing Hoof Rot By Maggie Leman

Hoof rot is not as common in goats as it is in sheep or cattle but it does occur. It is more likely to occur in wet weather and when hooves are overgrown. The signs are when the hard outer wall of the hoof has separated from the fleshy inner layer forming a pocket in which dirt and dead cells accumulate. There is also a pungent smell and sometimes the goat is quite lame. This pocket should be completely cleaned out and the hoof wall trimmed away to let air in. To kill the germ which causes the infection a strong bleach solution (2 Tablespoons bleach in a pint of water) can be sprayed on the hoof and into the pocket. Use the bleach solution to disinfect your trimmers after treating hoof rot. Some people use Kopertox instead, a treatment solution for horses with thrush, a similar condition. In severe cases bandaging the foot to keep dirt out may be required. A once every other day injection of oxytetracycline (LA 200 or Biomylin 200), along with topical treatments, can help in severe cases. Getting hoof rot under control may require more frequent trimming and treatment until all signs of infection is gone and the hoof has grown out normally. To prevent hoof rot keep your goat's hooves trimmed and be sure he has a dry, clean place to be when conditions are wet.

Easy Medicated Salve By Maggie Leman

This recipe made the rounds of several Internet forums. It is for a great salve for ringworm, fungus, minor infections and other "things" that cause skin lesions and irritations. It can sometimes be very hard to determine what the exact cause of a skin lesion is, even for a vet. This salve "hits" just about everything that can cause a problem and works like a miracle! Take a medium sized jar of Vaseline and mix in a tube of athlete's foot treatment, a tube of women's yeast infection salve, a tube of zinc oxide/antibiotic ointment (diaper rash ointment is the cheapest), and 4 to 5 tablespoons of Betadine liquid. Apply daily to affected area until healed.

A Warning About Collars By Maggie Leman

Unbreakable nylon and leather collars pose a deadly risk to your goats, particularly if any of your goats have horns. During head butting and normal play a goat's horn or leg can get caught in another goat's collar. In their frantic efforts to get loose, the collar can get twisted tight enough to cause strangulation. Collars can also get hung on tree branches and fence posts as goats stand on their back legs to reach for leaves. It happens way too often. If you feel you must collar your goat be sure it will break in an emergency.

Don't Get Hung Up! By Maggie Leman

Hay nets are wonderful for the right animals but not for goats. The openings in the mesh are plenty big enough for a goat to stick their head through. In their efforts to get to the choicest bits of hay in the center of the net they often thread their head through several holes and become trapped. They can become strangled if they panic and the net tightens.

Kiddie Containment By Maggie Leman

At some point a goat breeder will be faced with hand raising a kid. A baby playpen makes a wonderful temporary in-the-house baby stall. Used, but perfectly serviceable ones are often found in garage sales. They provide plenty of room for the new kid to get used to those legs without being underfoot or all over the furniture. A puppy playpen with a kiddie pool inside to hold some shavings is also a good indoors pen for baby goats.

