

EXTERNAL PARASITES

Overview

There are three main external parasites to watch out for in Goats in New Zealand - ticks, lice, mange and mites.

Causes & Symptoms

Ticks

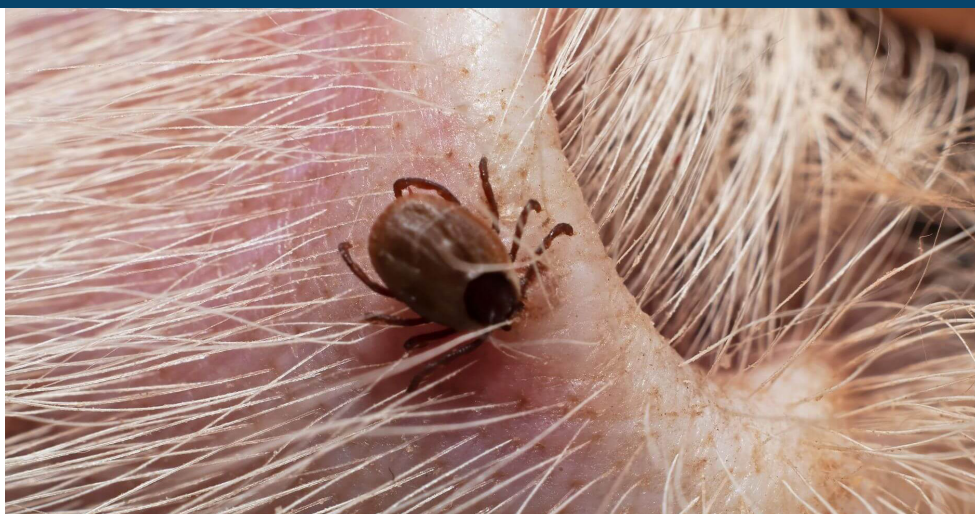
The NZ Cattle tick (*Haemaphysalis longicornis*) is commonly found in the warmer parts of NZ and while this tick favours cattle, it also feeds on goats.

Adult ticks generally start laying eggs in November when conditions are warm and wet, adults are commonly seen feeding on goats between December and February. Ticks cause blood loss, irritate the animal and the salivary secretions can have toxic effects. Young animals are most affected when heavily parasitized by ticks, causing significant blood loss, anaemia and often subsequent death.

Signs - signs of tick infestation on goats include the presence of ticks themselves, either attached to the skin or found as engorged ticks, or their eggs and feces. Goats may also exhibit signs of irritation, such as scratching or nibbling, and in severe cases, anaemia, lameness and weight loss.

Lice

Louse populations are highest in



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winter when the goats winter coat is dense, providing the perfect warmth for egg development to occur. When temperatures start to climb in spring and summer, temperatures within the coat become too high and egg laying stops.

Signs - Goats that are infested with lice tend to rub against everything and are often seen nibbling at themselves.

Constant rubbing can damage the fibre over large areas of the body, resulting in visible patches of hair loss. Heavy burdens can negatively impact poorly conditioned or diseased goats,

cause hair damage, and can become a significant welfare concern.

Mange & Mites

Signs - Restlessness, rubbing the affected areas, exhaustion and biting the infected areas causing skin damage.

Management/ Prevention/ Treatment

Shearing - Shearing can be done once a year in Angora goats, usually in November before the weather gets wet and warm.

Parasite	Product		Dosage
Ticks	Bayticol	Very effective product against ticks, however not licensed for goats. NB: care must be taken to ensure there is no runoff into the eye following application.	6 mL per goat 3mL on top of head (not on fibre) 1.5mL under each front armpit
Lice	Expo	Not licensed for goats. Do not treat when animals are wet or if rain is likely. Prolonged heavy rain following treatment may reduce efficiency.	Pour on evenly along the backline from the top of the head to the base of tail
Mange / Mites	Ivomec or Dectomax Injection	Injected under the skin of the neck.	Use 1.5 x sheep dose.



INTERNAL PARASITES

Overview

- Young goats, underweight animals or goats suffering other health problems are particularly at risk from internal parasites.
- Unlike sheep and cattle, goats remain susceptible to internal parasites throughout their lives.

Symptoms

- Ill-thrift
- Scouring
- Weight loss
- Anaemia and sometimes even death
- “Bottle jaw” edematous (excessive amount of fluid) swelling under the jaw is another sign of parasites

Management/ Prevention/ Treatment

Treating with an anthelmintic or ‘drench’ can remove worms but it is important to get the dosage and type of drench right. Using a single active drench for goats is not recommended as drench resistance is widespread in New Zealand.

Drench doses are weight dependent. Under-dosing is likely to be ineffective and may encourage drench resistance. Overdosing can result in poisoning, particularly with levamisole (‘clear’) drenches or mineralised drenches containing selenium.

There are no products licensed for goats, so 1.5 x sheep doses are used.

***Disclaimer:** Weight should be accurately estimated to decrease any risk of toxicity. If unsure have one of our vets or techs visit your animals or give a sheep dose twice 24 hours apart.

Careful management can help reduce your reliance on drenches to control internal parasites:

- Use cattle or horses to cross-graze pastures as these do not share the same parasites as goats
- Avoid grazing goats with lambs and hoggets. Both goats and young sheep are very susceptible to internal parasites and share the same worms.
- Allow goats to graze longer pastures. Forcing goats to graze very close to the ground increases their parasite larval intake.
- New animals arriving on property: Keep separate from other animals for a week (allows you to monitor general health too)



- Give a quarantine drench, regardless of drench history.
- Dosing animals to their correct body weight
- Use oral drenches with multiple drench agents in them
- Drenching adults only as required
- Graze cattle and horses through the paddocks
See table below for products and does rates

NB: Use 1.5x sheep doses for all sheep drenches

When to call us

Diarrhoea lasting more than 24hrs, accompanied by other symptoms like lethargy or depression.

Animal age	Product / Dose	Product Usage
Weaning to 12 months old	<i>Tape drench</i> every 4 - 5 weeks May to January	Treats tapeworm
	<i>Triple Drench</i> every 4 - 5 weeks May to January	Triple action gives better cover than triple drench, but <u>does not treat tapeworm</u>
	<i>Barbers Pole drench</i> February to April (Barbers Pole danger period)	Provides 42 days protection but has 56 day meat with-holding. Alternatively can use a triple drench every 3 weeks during the Barber's Pole season.
> 12 months old	Triple Drench	Any time of year as indicated (eg old, thin)
	<i>Barbers Pole drench</i> February to April (Barbers Pole danger period)	Provides 42 days protection but has 56 day meat with-holding. Alternatively can use a triple drench every 3 weeks during the Barber's Pole season.

* Updated Nov 25