Goat Anemia Treatment Plan

Overview:

- Simply put, anemia is a shortage of red blood cells in the body. This shortage can deprive the body of necessary oxygen.
- The number one cause of anemia in goats is blood-sucking parasites.
- The symptoms of anemia are pale inner eyelids and gums, lethargy, the appearance of bottle jaw, and being off-feed.

Treatment:

Remember that rebuilding red blood cells is a long process. There is no quick fix. You will need to continue treatment until the goat is strong, eating, and their inner eye lids have returned to a nice pink color.

1 De-worm Your Goat

Since the number one cause of anemia is blood-sucking parasites, your first step is going to be to de-worm your goat. If the goat is critical, I will go with a chemical wormer- usually Ivomec. If I think I have time, I will use my normal herbal products.

- However you choose to de-worm, remember to follow up in a week to 10 days with another dose to make sure you kill newly hatched worms.
- The dose for Ivomec is 1 cc/ 34 lbs given orally. If you are using herbal, go heavy and give them a dose every day for at least a week.
- Check your goat’s coat for signs of lice or other external parasites that could cause blood loss.

2 Vitamin B Injections

Vitamin B 12 is vital for regrowing red blood cells. You will need to give your goat daily injections of Fortified Vitamin B Complex for 2 weeks.

- The dose for Fortified Vitamin B Complex is 4 cc/ 100 lbs. (You can get B12 from a Vet, but Fortified Vitamin B Complex is available OTC.)
- The injections are given subcutaneously.

3 Iron Supplments

For 1-2 weeks give your goat an iron supplement daily. The easiest way is to give them Red Cell @ 4cc daily. You can also use Poly-Vi-Sol iron drops (human).

My Vet’s # is: ____________________________

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Nutritional Support

Your goat will need extra support while recovering.

- Feed high quality alfalfa hay. If alfalfa isn't available, add re-hydrates alfalfa cubes or pelleted alfalfa to their feed. Continue to feed until all signs of anemia are gone.
- For 3-4 days give your goat a daily dose of Nutri-drench
- If your goat is off feed or very lethargic, mix up some electrolytes to give them to ensure they are staying hydrated. Feeding molasses water can also help.
- If you haven't given your goat copper in at least 4 months, give them a copper bolous.

Continue treatment for at least 2 weeks and then re-evaluate the situation. If the eye lids are a nice deep pink, they have energy and a good appetite, you are probably safe to stop all treatments.

If in 2 weeks you are not satisfied that the anemia has been resolved, continue the B Vitamin injections, iron supplements, and nutritional supports.

Note: This treatment plan is what has worked for me and my herd. Consult your vet if you need more information.