**Pinkeye**

Pinkeye is a contagious disease characterised by inflammation of the outer part of the eye (cornea) and the membranes around the eye. We are currently seeing a lot of Pinkeye cases in cattle but Pinkeye in goats is not very common. The cause of pinkeye in goats is most likely multifactorial, including bacterial organisms (Mycoplasma and Chlamydia organisms) and viruses but it is not caused by the same organism that causes Pinkeye in cattle (Moraxella bovis) so therefore the cattle pinkeye vaccination will not work on goats. There are certain conditions that make goats more susceptible to the disease and these include; dry dusty conditions, bright sunlight, lots of flies, wind, overcrowding and stress. We are certainly having conditions at the moment that are ideal for pinkeye transmission and increased spread. The disease spreads easily amongst the herd and is spread by flies and other possible vectors. Goats may come in contact with other infected goats or carrier goats at shows or when there is close contact at feeding troughs or cross infection with infected sheep.

Infected goats will have conjunctivitis, watery eyes, often hold their eyelid(s) closed due to pain, the cornea becomes cloudy (which is inflammation of the cornea), blood vessels grow across the eye, development of an ulcer on the cornea with a yellow discharge and possible rupture of the eye. Vision is affected and the goats may have difficulty finding their food and water, consequently they lose a lot of condition.

As the disease is highly contagious it would be a good idea to separate the goats that are affected and ensure they have easy access to food and water. Place them in a shady area out of direct sunlight. Most cases will resolve within a few weeks but others will require treatment with antibiotics that you will need to discuss with a private veterinarian. The antibiotics used in cattle pinkeye may not be effective against goat pinkeye due to different organisms being involved. Before applying medicines to the eye, the animal’s face should be cleaned and the debris around the eye should be removed. It is important when handling goats with pinkeye that you always use gloves to protect not only other goats but also to protect yourself.

**Enterotoxaemia in Goats Clarification**

Goats can develop three forms of enterotoxaemia which is different than sheep and cattle.

1. **Peracute (Pulpy Kidney)**: due to a grain/carbohydrate overload. This form of the disease is rare and usually causes sudden death.
2. **Acute Illness**: Due to sudden change in diet. Goats will present with yellow-green watery diarrhoea and sometimes mucus, blood and shreds of intestinal lining will be noticed, followed by death.
3. **Chronic Enterotoxaemia**: Goats appear lethargic, inappetant, reduced milk yield, intermittent soft faeces or frank diarrhoea with some death in individuals. This chronic form is usually a herd issue rather than an individual problem.

**Unlike with sheep and cattle, vaccinating when clinical signs are first noticed may result in recovery. Goats should be vaccinated every 6 months with a Clostridial vaccination but in some herds the frequency of vaccination may need to be increased to every 3-4 months.Malignant oedema and Black disease are very uncommon in goats so a 2-in-1 vaccine or a 3-in-1 vaccine (If you are vaccinating for CLA) is recommended. If you are only able to find a 5-in-1 vaccine that will be fine to use.**