

## **Pregnant Goat Care**

### **Description :**

Things to keep in mind as you care for your pregnant does.

### **Full Text :**

Pregnant Goat Care

How do you know your goat is pregnant?

If you exposed her to a buck and she does not go into heat again, probably bred.

How long is gestation?

150 days give or take 5-7 days

Make sure the goat is on a good quality hay and at a good weight.

Make sure she is getting good all purpose minerals but not ones intended for sheep as they won't have the copper goats need.

8 weeks before due date:

If the doe is still milking dry her off.

Give the doe a hoof trim.

If she is not getting grain start (1 lb. Once a day)

5 weeks before due date:

Give the doe a selenium supplement, either BOSE, Selenium gel or human selenium/Vit.E capsules. (2 mg selenium/1,000 I.U. Vit.E)

4 Weeks before due date:

If you vaccinate give CDT, 2 ml subQ

Start increasing grain ration so that doe will be at her full amount by her due date. (2-3 lbs, 6-9 cups split up for am and pm)

Trim hooves again

2 weeks before due date:

Give another selenium supplement

Gather all the items needed for your birthing kit

Start feeling her ligaments often

1 week before due date:

make sure birthing kit is ready

clean out and disinfect (bleach water) kidding stall and bed with clean straw

If desired shave goats udder, belly in front of udder, tail and privates. Why: helpful in keeping an eye on her changing body, makes it easier to clean her up after the birth, makes it easier for kids to find her teats and nurse, makes it easier to milk her.

Put doe in kidding stall at night, can put a friend with her to keep stress low.

Check does ligaments daily, they start out hard and feel like pencils, will gradually soften and "disappear". The area around the tail head will become very soft and the tail head will seem to rise.

Now sit back and wait! :o)

Birth Kit recommendations from Fias Co Farm

<http://fiascofarm.com/goats/birthingkit.html>

Phone Number of an experienced "goat birther" Have this by the phone and let the "birther" know you may need to call them and when you are expecting the kids.

### **Empty feed bags.**

Birthing is a messy business and feed bags are nice to deliver on and to use as absorbent garbage bags. They can be removed once they're soiled and replaced with dry. Have at least 4 per doe ready.

### **Paper towels or cloth towels**

Two rolls per doe or several towels. Use these to get the initial glop and goo off the babies and dry them.

### **Puppy Training Pads**

Wee-Wee Pads These are very absorbent pads used to house train puppies. They are great for putting wet goat babies on. They absorb some of the moisture from the babies and they are not as slippery as feed bags, so it is easier for the baby to make his first attempts at standing on them. We would never be without these for kidding. We buy these in boxes of 100.

### **Big garbage bag**

For the soiled towels, bags and afterbirth. You can also use a feedbag.

### **Flashlight**

Use the flashlight to check that the kid is in the correct position when the bubble first appears. We hold the flashlight behind the bubble and shine it through the bubble. This lights up the whole thing and you can see much better how the kid is positioned. Hopefully you see two feet.

### **Scissors**

To pop the bubble and cut the umbilical cord, if necessary. It is not always necessary to "pop the bubble", but it is good to be prepared.

### **Surgical Scrub**

So you can wash up just in case you have to "go in". We use Betadine Veterinary Surgical Scrub. (I just wash really well and trim nails.)

### **Warm water**

Just in case you need to wash up.

### **Antiseptic lubricant**

Just in case you have to "go in". We use Nolvalube. (I use olive oil)

### **Iodine 7% Tincture**

To sterilize the knife or scissors, if necessary. To dip the kids navels. Do this as soon after birth as possible. Dipping the umbilical cord and naval in 7% iodine keeps out naval ill and any other bacteria that may travel up the cord. It also helps the cord to dry faster.

### **Empty film canisters or pill bottles.**

These are perfect to put the iodine in to dip the navels.

### **Dental floss**

To tie the umbilical cord, if necessary.

### **Bottle & nipple**

To give the kid his first meal if he is having trouble feeding on his own but can still nurse. We used to use Pritchard teat & clean pop bottle. But now, we rarely have to bottle feed and when we do, I just use regular ol' human baby bottles and nipples (you need to make the hole in the teat bigger by cutting an X in it with scissors)

### **Weak lamb syringe (tube feeder)**

To feed the kid if he is too weak to nurse on his own. You

will hardly ever need this, but when you need it, you need it so you should have it on hand "just in case".

### **"Quiet" Hair Blow Drier**

Use the drier to finish getting the kids dry, especially if you are going to put sweaters on them. If it is cold, the newborn kids usually really like the warmth of the drier. We also find the extra warmth can help "jump start" slightly weak kids and helps get the blood flowing to weak legs.

### **Coffee--- strong & black**

For very weak kids - once they are breathing -3-6cc jumps starts them until you can get colostrum into them.

### **Goatbaby sweater**

In case it is really cold. Have at least 2 per doe, preferably three. You can knit or crochet your own or use a human baby sweater.

Heat lamp

In case it's really cold

### **Goatbaby "hut"**

Kids like to crawl into a "cave" to sleep and keep warm. We use half a large "pet porter" or a medium plastic dog house or "dogloo". It is also fun to play on. I use dog crates, or large cardboard boxes too. If it is a single baby I try to give it something to snuggle with like an old pillow or stuffed animal.

### **Grain & warm water**

For the mom and a job well done. You can add Molasses or Honey to the water for a quick pick me up.