

**Caprine Arthritis and Encephalitis (CAE)**  
**Notes from RIDGA Workshop on September 12, 2015**  
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**What is CAE?**

Viral disease found in goats

Chronic, multisystemic disease with four syndromes:

- Arthritis (affects knees initially, swelling, eventually joints will appear fused; slow and progressive)
- Encephalitis (seen in kids, 1-4 mo. old; stargazing, weakness, inability to walk or nurse, usually die within a week)
- Pneumonia (older goats, does not respond to antibiotics)
- Mastitis (hard bag, enlarged bag, even in goats never milked)

**Transmission** is primarily via colostrum. Transmission also shown via sharing of bodily fluids (needles, tattoo pliers, dehorning, milking equipment). Contact transmission also possible. Transmission in utero unlikely.

Goat is still a carrier and can spread the disease, even without symptoms

**Treatment:** control pain, soft bedding – NO CURE

**Prevention:**

**Know the status of your animals!**

At birth – separate kids IMMEDIATELY from infected dam. Feed powdered colostrum. Isolate kids and raise on milk replacer. Test kids at 6 and 12 months.

Prevent contact transmission – separate positive and negative animals (solid wall or 2 meters between fences)

Sterilize all equipment with phenolic or QAC disinfectants (ie Roccal)

Monitor ALL animals that come to your farm.

**Testing for CAE:**

Blood test, use ELISA test, not AGID

Recommended testing at 6 mo and 1 year; annual testing after that

CAE does not affect milk or meat for consumption; humans cannot contract it