



What's Up Doc?

February 2018

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Ewe've goat to be Kidding (Or Lambing)! It's that season.



Does and ewes have similar birthing patterns. Sheep and goats are flock animals and don't usually stray from the group unless something is amiss during lambing or kidding. Normal approximate gestation for a doe is 147-155 days and normal ewe gestation is 145-150 days. If you notice a doe or ewe off on her own, it is time to watch her for the first stage of labor. She will move away from the flock to find a safe, quiet spot to create a nest to have her babies in. Have the birthing kit and veterinarians phone number ready just in case.

Stage one: With the oncoming of labor does and ewes may show signs of discomfort exhibited by kicking, pawing, attempting urination and laying down and standing up repeatedly. This stage lasts from one to eight hours, and longer for some first-time mothers. This stage ends when the fetus enters the birth canal. Stage one of labor should not last for more than eight hours. If you think the mother has been agitated or in the first stage for more than eight hours, it is time to call the veterinarian for further advice.



Stage two: You can see this stage occurring by the appearance of the water sac. You also may be able to see a foot emerging from the birth canal. If all goes normally, this part of labor goes very quickly. The mother is usually able to birth about 1 baby per 15-30 minutes. It is very common for these mothers to have twins, sometimes even triplets. If you see her straining for 30 minutes with no progress, or you see the water sac but no pushing for more than an hour, or she is in severe distress it's time to call the veterinarian for advice. Other things to look for in stage two are more than two feet coming at once, or a tail which would indicate the fetus being born in an abnormal way.



The animal has a retained placenta (has not been expelled) you can check for an elevated temperature, lethargy, going off feed, or a rotten smell.

Stage three: Stage three begins once all the babies have exited the mother. The doe or ewe still must pass the placenta which should occur within 15 to 20 minutes after stage two is completed at most it could be 8-12 hours. It is common for sheep and goats to eat their placenta. If she does not then it should be disposed of. The placenta can carry diseases and should not be ingested by other sheep or goats. If there is concern that



Common mistakes that people make are waiting too long before giving assistance. It is important to be vigilant with expectant mothers. They have the best chance when they are checked regularly. If you are new to kidding/lambing or don't have the confidence to adjust kids/lambs who present in an abnormal position, then it is best to bring them to the veterinarian to give the mothers and babies a better chance at survival. Countryside Large Animal Vet has a veterinarian on call 24/7 for your questions or emergencies 970-351-7045.

F.A.Q.'s

Can does and ewe's have normal births after a C-section?

Yes-the uterus is very good at healing. Does/Ewes normally can conceive and birth normally after a C-section unless there is a conformational concern like narrow birth canal. Most of the time there are no secondary issues such as metritis or other infection after a C-section if they are kept in a clean environment early on.

What do I do if the lamb/kid(s) die?

If you don't have another baby to put on mom, then you will have to reduce her milk slowly. Limited feed and water for the first few days will help. You can also milk her out a few times. The first milk should be colostrum which can be saved and frozen for future use.

How to freeze colostrum and how to re-warm for use:

Freeze colostrum in small portions. Frozen colostrum can be stored for up to twelve months. It should not be microwaved or placed directly on heat. Colostrum should be heated in a warm water bath. Direct heat or heating the colostrum too much will destroy the antibodies. You cannot refreeze it after it has been warmed up.



Join us on **Saturday April 14th** from
8AM to 2PM for our
Annual Client Appreciation Day!!

We will be serving **FREE** breakfast
and lunch to thank our wonderful
clients.

Information about Client
Appreciation Day and
awesome give away items
coming soon on our

Facebook page

@CountrysideLargeAnimalVeterinaryService



Spring Equine Vaccine Clinic- Get set for Spring
with an overall health exam, Spring vaccinations,
fecal floats and deworming!!

Waived Office Call!!

Your RSVP is appreciated. 970-351-7045