



# FLOPPY KID SYNDROME

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# What is Floppy Kid Syndrome?

- ⦿ An acute onset of profound weakness or tetraparesis associated with metabolic acidosis in which no specific organ systems are abnormally involved
- ⦿ Affects kids from 3-21 days of age. Some get it younger or older, they can have it twice.
- ⦿ Is found in dam raised kids, as well as bottle raised kids.

# What causes this disease?

- Is caused by clostridial type AE bacteria.
- Clostridial bacteria, such as Tetanus live in the ground.
- Is usually found in late spring kids after the weather warms up. Here in Texas late April & May is FKS season.

# What are the symptoms of FKS?

- ⦿ A wobbly or unsteady gate.
  - If you see a kid cross his back legs when he is walking or runs a few steps and stumble he is probably in the early stages of FKS.
- ⦿ Eating dirt and having dirty mouths and faces.
- ⦿ Does have strutted udders.
- ⦿ Kids can be easily caught in the pasture and do not try to run from handlers.
- ⦿ Dam raised kids tend to be hollow, haven't nursed & appear to be weak.
- ⦿ Bottle kids tend to show the more prominent full belly because the gut shuts down and the milk stays in their stomachs. These kids seem to slosh when shaken.
- ⦿ Kids become lethargic, unable to stand, and eventually unable to even hold their heads up as they become completely unable to control any muscles.
- ⦿ Sometimes kids run high fevers or show signs of respiratory distress but not always.

# What is the treatment for FKS?

- For kids caught early enough that they are just starting to stumble, treat daily for 3 days with:
  - 500mg Thiamine
  - 2cc penicillin
  - 2cc B Complex
  - This can be mixed together & given orally

# What is the treatment for FKS?

- ⦿ For kids who are not discovered until they are “flat”
  - Prop up on brisket and hold head and neck up with a rolled up towel
  - Keep hydrated (tube feed electrolytes or 50% dextrose)
  - Withhold milk until the kid has been up and moving well for 8 hours.
  - Don't let him get too cold or too hot.
- ⦿ Treat with:
  - 1cc penicillin SQ
  - Electrolytes or 50% dextrose given orally do not give milk if their gut has shut down - Tube feeding may be necessary.
  - Probiotics mix with electrolytes to start the good bacteria going in the gut.

# Thanks to:

- [www.goatworld.com](http://www.goatworld.com)
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