

ACIDOSIS

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What is Acidosis

How sheep and goats get acidosis is by eating too much grain or under feeding. Acidosis results in the rumen pH becoming acidic. Acidosis is known to be in two forms.

- ▣ Acute Acidosis
- ▣ Subacute acidosis

Acute Acidosis

This form of Acidosis is the worst you can have in your animal, but luckily more rare. The symptoms are easy to see when your animal has them. They are listed below.

- ▣ decrease or cessation of rumen movements
- ▣ bloat
- ▣ increased pulse
- ▣ respiration rates
- ▣ founder
- ▣ coma

Subacute Acidosis

Subacute acidosis occurs much more frequently but is more difficult to recognize. The primary result of subacute acidosis is reduced feed intake and an accompanying reduction in animal performance.

- ▣ Panting
- ▣ diarrhea
- ▣ reduced cud chewing
- ▣ kicking at the belly
- ▣ other signs of discomfort

Prevention

- ▣ Feed a good quality and balanced diet with grain and forage
- ▣ Avoid too much grain
- ▣ Introduce new feed programs slowly
- ▣ The animal should only eat about 3-4% of their body weight in food. (This includes forage)

Treatment

the best treatment is to try to neutralize the acid in the rumen

- ▣ baking soda diluted with water and physically drenching the animal
- ▣ anti-inflammatory agent (banamine or aspirin)
- ▣ Magna-Lax
- ▣ magnesium hydroxide or magnesium oxide in a liter of warm water