

BLOCKED GOATS: CAPRINE UROLITHIASIS

What causes it?

1. High grain diet
2. Lack of water
3. Diets with an imbalance in a calcium: phosphorous ratio

Common signs:

- * Straining to urinate
- * Dull behavior
- * Vocalization
- * Tail twitching
- * Dribbling urine
- * Abdominal pain

Treatment

Medical Management

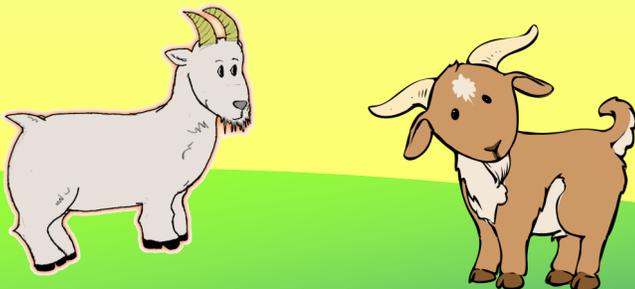
- * Sedation to relax the urethra to aid the passage of stones
- * Anti-inflammatories

Keep in mind most cases need surgical intervention

Surgical Management

- * Urethral process amputation
- * Perineal urethrostomy (PU)
- * Tube cystostomy
- * Bladder marsupialization

Most commonly seen in wethers, especially those castrated at an early age



Surgical Management Explained

1. Urethral process amputation: most commonly done on the farm, the penis is exteriorized and the urethral process (at the tip of the penis) is cut off. Sometimes stones can become lodged at this location.
2. PU: the urethra is re-directed to a new location so the animal now urinates like a female.
3. Tube cystostomy: A tube is placed in the bladder to facilitate the passage of urine. This allows for time for inflammation in the urethra to go down, as well as (hopefully) the passage of stones. The tube is then removed after the animal is challenged to urinate while the tube is clamped.
4. Bladder marsupialization: the bladder is exteriorized and secured to the abdominal wall. This allows for a permanent opening for the passage of urine. Urine scald is a common complication.

Prevention:

1. Ammonium chloride: can acidify the urine to dissolve certain types of stones
2. Always provide clean water
3. Add salt to diet to increase water intake
4. Dietary management: do not feed grain to those animals that don't need it

Complications:

1. Ruptured bladder
2. Ruptured urethra
3. Hyperkalemia (increased levels of potassium in the blood)
4. Re-obstruction after the block has been cleared