

TREATING GOAT DIARRHEA

Treating goat diarrhea depends on the cause, which can range from diet issues to infections or parasites. Here's a step-by-step guide for both emergency management and targeted treatment:

Step 1: Identify the Cause (Look for Clues)

Possible Cause	Signs
Diet change	New feed, sudden green pasture, overfeeding grain
Parasites (worms/coccidia)	Weakness, rough coat, pale eyes, weight loss
Bacterial/viral infection	Fever, foul-smelling diarrhea, lethargy
Toxins or plants	Sudden onset after grazing
Antibiotic side effects	After recent treatments

Step 2: Emergency First Aid

Regardless of the cause:

1. Rehydrate

- Give electrolytes: e.g. Replamin, RedCell, or mix your own:
 - 1 L clean water
 - ½ tsp baking soda
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 2 tsp molasses or sugar
- Provide fresh, clean water always

2. Stop Concentrates

- Stop grain or commercial feed for 1–2 days
- Offer good dry hay only (like Rhodes or Boma)

3. Isolate the Goat

- Prevent spread if contagious (like coccidia or bacteria)
- Monitor temperature: Normal = 38.6–40.0°C

Step 3: Targeted Treatment (Based on Likely Cause)

1. For Worms

- Use broad-spectrum dewormer (rotate brands):
 - Albendazole, Levamisole, Ivermectin
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- Deworm all in-contact animals if many are affected
- Repeat after 10–14 days
- Follow with a vitamin boost (B-complex or E-Selen)

2. For Coccidiosis (common in kids <6 months)

- Treat with Amprolium (Amprol) or Baycox (Toltrazuril)
 - Baycox: 1 mL per 2.5 kg once
 - Amprolium: 5 days in water or orally
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- Give B vitamins (coccidia affects absorption)

3. For Bacterial Infections (Suspected if fever & foul smell)

- Injectable antibiotics:
 - Oxytetracycline (e.g. Alamycin) or
 - Penicillin
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- Probiotic paste after antibiotics

4. For Bloat or Diet-Related Diarrhea

- Give activated charcoal
- Baking soda drench can help neutralize rumen pH
- Allow only hay, rest the gut

Step 4: Monitor

- Check if diarrhea clears within 24–48 hrs
- Recheck temperature, appetite, hydration
- Check eyelid color (FAMACHA scale)
- Send stool sample to vet for lab if not improving

When to Call a Vet:

- Goat is weak or can't stand
- Diarrhea is bloody or black
- Fever above 40.5°C
- Not improving after 2 days of treatment

Supportive Supplements:

- Vitamin B Complex injections
- E-Selen or multivitamins
- Natural remedies: plain yogurt, aloe vera, garlic (as tonic)