



Goat Veterinary Society

Day 1 skills for veterinary surgeons

The following practical and clinical skills contribute to the Day 1 competences of a newly graduated veterinary surgeon in relation to goats.

Veterinary surgeons should at all times seek advice on the treatment of a goat when they are aware of a lack of their competence.

Please note the Goat Veterinary Society (GVS) does NOT consider that disbudding or dehorning a goat to be a Day 1 competency, and that GVS strongly recommends any vet carrying out the procedure should accompany experienced colleagues and attend specific CPD before attempting on their own.

1. Handle and restrain and advise on this for effective and safe restraint of goats and understand the need to assess and advise on the safety of personnel involved.
2. Carry out a complete clinical examination of a goat (as appropriate) including auscultation and examination of thorax and abdomen. Obtain and effective history of the situation.
3. Understand the normal physiological parameters of a goat and the species' needs in relation to nutrition and management.
4. Assess the physical condition, welfare and nutritional status of a goat/group of goats and advise the owner/keeper on the principles of correct husbandry and feeding.
5. Develop a treatment plan for an animal/group of animals in the context of what is available in resources but at all times safeguarding the welfare of the animal(s). Be able to use the cascade system of appropriate drug selection where licensed drugs are not available for use in goats for a specified condition.
6. Be able to collect and report information on suspected adverse reactions to medication to Veterinary medicines Directorate.

7. Be able to apply treatment to a goat via intra-muscular, subcutaneous and intravenous routes of administration.
8. Understand the benefit of diagnostic imaging in aiding a diagnosis and be able to, with experienced assistance, carry out basic procedures such as X-ray, ultrasound and endoscope. Appreciate the limitations of interpretation and seek guidance as appropriate.
9. Be able to recognise normal and abnormal parturition in the goat and when to call for assistance/
10. Apply the principles of biosecurity in a clinical setting (including at a veterinary clinic) and advise on these to owners/keepers.
11. Advise on the welfare standards expected in legislation relating to goats including promotion of codes of practice. Apply welfare ethics in dealing with welfare situations.
12. Be aware of notifiable diseases and the reporting mechanisms to the veterinary authorities. Understand the Animal health requirements of keeping goats and public health related issues. Make the point explicitly that pet goats are still legally food producing animals and that includes official identification, and medicine usage.
13. Be able to sterilise/decontaminate equipment and carry out minor aseptic surgery at first opinion level. Be able to perform safely the sedation and regional anaesthesia in a goat and administer appropriate analgesia.
14. Be able to recognise disorder/disease in goat's feet, be able to trim goats' feet and advise on foot health and preventative measures.
15. Assess and manage pain in animals and prescribe accordingly.
16. Be able to assess the need for and advise on the euthanasia of a goat and be able to carry out the procedure swiftly, effectively and safely. Advise on the disposal of the carcase (TSE and Animal By-Products legislation).
17. Perform a systematic gross post-mortem examination, record results, effectively collect and dispatch relevant samples as necessary. Interpret results of the examination and/or samples and communicate the results appropriately to the owner/keeper.
18. Assess health and welfare records and advise on health plans and preventative measures.