



Pseudopregnancy in Goats



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What is it?

- Pseudopregnancy is a common pathological condition in goats that may develop in does with or without exposure to a buck.
- The condition is characterized by accumulation of fluid in the uterus.
- Other names for this condition include hydrometra, mucometra and “cloudburst.”
- It is one of the major causes of temporary infertility in goats during breeding season.

When should you suspect it?

- Does with pseudopregnancy may have signs of pregnancy (no heat cycles, abdominal enlargement, mammary gland enlargement, vaginal discharge, etc.).
- Blood tests for pregnancy may be positive.
- Sometimes the fluid in the uterus is spontaneously released by the doe and a clear, slightly cloudy or slightly blood-tinged fluid will be seen coming from the vulva (“cloudburst”).
- Older does are more prone to development of the condition than yearlings.
- Out-of-season breeding, delayed breeding until after the first or second estrous cycle during the fall breeding season, and use of hormones to manipulate the estrus cycle may increase the risk of pseudopregnancy

How is pseudopregnancy diagnosed and treated?

- Examination of the doe with an ultrasound is the only way to differentiate between true pregnancy and pseudopregnancy. Examination for pregnancy should be performed 30-70 days after breeding using the transabdominal method. A large fluid-filled uterus with no signs of placentomes or a fetus is indicative of pseudopregnancy.
- Treatment involves the use of luteolytic drugs.
- If you suspect pseudopregnancy in a doe, please contact your veterinarian for accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment.
- Prognosis with treatment is good unless there is a congenital malformation that causes the pseudopregnancy.

How is pseudopregnancy prevented?

- Ovariectomy in pet females.
- Limit exposure to phytoestrogens.
- Limit out of season breeding.
- Limit use of hormonal manipulation on the reproductive cycle.

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