**Biosecurity when introducing new Angora goats onto the farm**

Farmers may be unaware of the risk that a lack of biosecurity poses to their Angora flocks and some of these risks can go undetected. Yet, the implementation of a biosecurity protocol does not involve much. Some biosecurity threats are obviously beyond our control but there are areas where we can be proactive. Some of the diseases which can be introduced to a flock by incoming animals are as follows:

1) Infectious Diseases with short incubation periods- Incubation period (the time from exposure until disease is evident) is given in brackets.

* **Opthalmia**  caused by *Moraxella* or *Chlamydophila* (3-21 days). The frustration of treating and controlling the spread of ‘infectious opthalmia’ when introduced onto the farm is enough reason to follow a quarantine procedure.
* **Footrot** **“Vrotpotjie”** (3-4 days) but may also remain dormant until conditions favour its development. *Dichelorbacter nodosis*
* **Orf** (2-6 days) *Pox* virus
* **Heartwater,** *Ehrlichia Ruminantum (*about 14 days), is transmitted by the ‘bont tick’ (*Amblyomma*) and potentially carried both by introduced goats or ticks. The tick may also be carried by kudu, warthogs, hares, guinea fowl and tortoises.
* **Necrotic Balanoposthitis** also known as sheath rot, pizzle rot or vulvitis (5-6 days) caused by *Corynebacterium renale.*
* ***Pasteurella***  (less than 7 days) pneumonia which can be triggered by the stress of travelling
* **Blue tongue** and other mosquito transmitted viruses (less than 7 days)
* **Foot Abscess “Sweerklou”** (*Corynebacterium Ovis)* (less than 7 days)

2) Parasites - internal and external are a common introduction onto farms. Particularly now with drug resistance developing is important to avoid bringing new resistant strains onto the farm.

* + **Red lice** (*Damalinia, Bovicola*) and **blue lice** (*Linognathus*)
  + **Roundworms** (Wireworm and brown stomach worm )
  + Other internal parasites such as **liver and conical fluke** should be investigated if considered a risk.

3) Diseases with longer incubation periods and causes of abortion are more difficult to detect while under normal quarantine.

* Enzootic abortion (Chlamydia) can be detected by blood tests.

4) Plants can be introduced onto a farm attached in the mohair.

* **‘Boetebos’** (X*anthium spinosum*)
* **jointed cactus**

5) Shearing teams can also introduce diseases

* **caseous lymphadenitis** *corynebacterium* abscesses

**Recommendations**

Quarantine is the most effective way of limiting the chance of introducing disease. Ideally it would be great if goats were dipped, dosed (and vaccinated against pulpy kidney and pasteurella) before their arrival but this is not often the case.

Suggested procedure after arrival of new goats:

* Examine the goats for overall health and with specific reference to their eyes and mucous membrane colour.
* Check the hooves and trim them if required.
* Check the testes, sheath or vulva for any abnormalities
* Collect a faecal sample for a faecal egg count by your vet. If dosing is needed then take another faecal sample 10-14 days after later to ensure they are clean and that resistant roundworms are not introduced onto the farm.
* Dip the goats
* Keep them in quarantine for at least 3 weeks. At the end of the quarantine period, repeat the checks recommended above before integrating new stock to the flock.
* If concerned about the introduction of enzootic abortion then a blood sample for Chlamydia can be checked. If possible keep pregnant ewes separate until after kidding and dry ewes until after mating.
* Ensure that shears are always sterilised on arrival.

The above protocol and quarantine procedure does take some time and management but goes a long way to preventing the losses and frustration that comes with the introduction of disease and parasites.

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