



Pan American Veterinary Laboratories

512 964 -3927

Why, When and Which test to run on your goats

Laboratory tests in goats can be a very important tool in overall herd management. These tests are helpful in diagnosing sick animals, in confirming healthy animals aren't carrying hidden infections and in adding value to the animals you sell. In order to utilize these tests to their full potential the breeder must understand the abilities and limitations of lab tests and know how to interpret the test results.

WHY TEST

The need to diagnose a sick goat is actually the least common reason for running a lab test. In a well-managed herd the number of goats that get sick is small and the diseases are usually short term and easily treated. In a few cases lab tests are needed to identify more serious diseases that threaten the entire herd and the people who care for them. While the diseases listed below cause illness in goats, some also cause disease in Humans.

Animal health CAE/CL/Johne's/Q Fever/Toxoplasmosis/Brucellosis*

Human health Q Fever/Toxoplasmosis/Brucellosis*

*Brucellosis (type Melitensis) has not been diagnosed in goats in the USA in many years

WHEN TO TEST

In many more cases the value of the test is in identifying an infected goat before the infection spreads to the herd. In >90% of disease outbreaks the initial introduction of the disease occurs with the addition of an infected animal to the herd. *Testing every new animal prior to purchase will greatly reduce the chances of buying an infected animal.*

The best time to establish a herd wide testing program is when you have only a few goats. In most cases breeders start with just 5-10 goats and in just a few years may have 50 or more. It's much less expensive to test 5 than to test 50. If 1 of the 5 is infected you can expect a similar percent of the 50 to be infected. With CAE, CL and Johne's, culling the infected animal is the only sure way to make the herd clean. Culling 1 animal in a small herd is much less expensive and heart breaking than culling then 10 out of 50

Which TEST

Understanding the technology of various tests along with the sensitivity and specificity is essential to interpreting test data.

NEWS FLASH: NO TEST IS PERFECT!

ELISA, AGID, C-ELISA, LFS, Culture, PCR, Culture, PCR, IMMUNOPRECIPITATION TITRATION

All these test technologies are available but in order to choose the best test for your herd you must ask these questions:

- What is the technology for each test?
- When is one better than the other?
- Which is best for a specific disease?
- How much does each cost?
- Where can you get each test done?

These questions need to be asked and the answers understood to make the best decision for your herd. At Pan American Vet Labs we will answer these questions for you as accurately and impartially as possible. Call us; if our answers don't give you confidence in our experience and expertise you need to find a lab that does.

PEDIGREE INTERNATIONAL TESTING PROGRAM

Pan American Vet Labs and Pedigree International have developed a testing program for PI clients that give a discount for testing services according to the following schedule:

Test Panel	regular price	Pedigree International
CAE, CL, Johne's	\$20/sample panel	\$15/sample panel
Q Fever, Toxoplasmosis	\$15/sample panel	\$11/sample panel

In order to get this discount submission forms must have a note that the submitter is a client of Pedigree International. Include your breed of goat and your PI Breeder number.