

Letter to the Editor

Hair Loss

Last Spring we had four does giving birth, they all had twins except for one had triplets, her name is Aquarius. She had two bucks and a doe. She raised all three of them on her own with no problems until we weaned the babies. At this point she began to lose weight, to a point where she was skin and bones despite her eating very well. We called our Vet and he advised us to put her on a high protein diet. Her weight did start to return, but she developed another problem. She began to lose her hair on her back legs and her hindquarters. We did some research online and discovered that she may have mites. According to what I found, there are three different kinds of mites, Psorptes, Chorioptes and Sarcoptes.

Psorptes Mites - Infections of Psorptes mites, called mange or scab mites usually starts on the shoulders, back or the tail area since they prefer areas that are well covered by hair. These mites do not burrow into the skin. They have piercing mouth that they use to puncture the skin and to suck lymph. This stimulates an immune reaction by the host. The area will swell and fluid will seep to the surface creating a crust and scabs. The hair will fall out or host will pull it out when biting at the very itchy lesions. The mites do not prefer to live on the bare crusty patches so they will migrate to the edges extending the infection outward.

Chorioptes Mites – A non-burrowing mite, commonly called mange mite, cause tail or foot mange. There are different species of this genus, but the species called Chorioptes Caprae is more commonly found in goats. Infections of Chorioptes Caprae usually begin on the lower legs, later spreading to the hindquarters. Infections cause itching, and crust and scab formation.

Sarcoptes Mites - This is a mange mite that burrows into the skin often spending the entire life cycle within burrows. Sarcoptes Scabiei is the species that infects most mammals. An infection begins in hairless regions or regions of short hair usually on the face or ears.

After reading up on all the different types of mites, it would appear that Aquarius has Chorioptes Caprae.

Anyhow, after doing research and talking to my Vet, we came up with the following treatment, even though none of it actually says it'll treat Mites, but it worked.

1. Gave 5ml Selenium and Vitamin E Gel, Once a month
 2. De-wormed her with Albendazole
 3. Goat & Sheep Nuri-Drench 1 ounce every two days.
 4. Gave her a bath every two days in Anti-Fungal Shampoo that contains Chlorxylenol.
 5. After bathing, sprayed her with Topical Fungicide Solution
- Makes me wonder if she had Ring Worm, as it will also make her lose her hair, but if that's the case, she had it really bad and from what I understand, Ring Worm starts in the head area, not on the hindquarters and legs.

It's been month and Aquarius is doing great. Her weight is back and her hair is back. She's a lot stronger and healthier. Seeing how her giving birth to triplets may have caused her problems, we may not breed her again unless we can find a way of preventing those issues

she had after weaning her babies. Aquarius with her hair growing back..

Letter from Faron Stubbert, Little Piece of Heaven Farm, Cottage Grove Oregon