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Health care practices by goat keepers across the flock size in north-west semi-arid region of Rajasthan

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Abstract

A survey was conducted to study the health care practices adopted by goat keepers in north-west semi arid region of Rajasthan. The health care practices followed in experimental area by the respondents viz. use of veterinary facility, isolation of sick animal, de-worming, vaccination, sanitization of shed and control of external parasite, was not significantly affected by flock size. The 58.33 per cent respondents de-worming, were not familiar with use of veterinary facility and 53.33 per cent did not isolate the animal during sickness. Awareness towards de worming by the respondents was 68.34 per cent while, 90.00 per cent respondents were not aware about vaccination against contagious diseases and sanitization of shed. The control of external parasites was practiced by 58.33 per cent of the respondents surveyed either through dipping or through dusting.

Keywords: Goat, flock, rearing, de-worming, vaccination, sensitization, sickness

Introduction

Small ruminants play a vital role for strengthening the backbone of rural prosperity in India. Goat rearing is a major occupation of majority of farmers in arid & semi-arid region of India and has become an integral part of their livelihood. The operation of a goat farm for maximum profit requires good care and quality health programs. The focus of a health program should be prevention and control practices, rather than cure. Early vaccination against diseases and de-worming against internal parasites will provide an appropriate means of control and prevention of diseases and parasites. The most effective treatment for internal parasites is a regular routine of de-worming that may start as early as weaning time. Avoid overcrowding of kids in a small area, rotate pastures, and follow a sanitary method of feeding. Avoid feeding on grounds or from feeders contaminated with droppings. Isolate sick animals. If new animals are added to the flock, quarantine them for at least four weeks. Consult your veterinarian for vaccinations, parasite control and other health care management practices as needed.

Material and Methods

The present was conducted in North-West semi- arid region of Rajasthan. Two tehsil Khajuwal and Pugal of district Bikaner were selected. From each tehsil, four villages were selected randomly and from each village 15 goat keepers were selected thus making a sample of 120 goat keepers. All the goat keepers divided into three categories according to their flock size viz. Small holder (1-10), medium holder (11-50) and large holder (more than 50). An interview schedule was developed and pretested to collect relevant information on different aspect of health care practices for goat. The observations on health care practices of goat keepers were collected through personal interview method. The collected data were tabulated and analysed to draw meaning inferences.

Result and discussion

The goat rearers in studied area mostly used Albendazole (helmin), Fenbendazole (Panacure), Tetramisole (Nilworm), Oxytoclozanide and Tetramisole (Nilzone) and Piperazine for de-worming their goat for internal parasites. Diarrhoea, Dog biting, bloat, Enterotoxaemia, Exanthema and FMD were the major common diseases occurring in the surveyed area. The goat rearers of surveyed area generally did not practice treatment but practice only, desi

treatment like drenching oil, dam (burning by iron rod) etc. The results obtained on different aspects of health care practices in experimental area are summarized in Table 1.

The data collected for use of veterinary facilities revealed that effect of flock size on use of veterinary facilities by goat rearers of surveyed area was non significant ($\chi^2=0.068$). Overall data shows that 58.33 per cent of goat keepers did not use veterinary facilities for the treatment of their sick animals. Present findings are in the line of Gurjar (2005) [4] among the goat rearers who utilize available veterinary facilities 34.00 per cent equally for medium and for large flock size whereas, 32.00 per cent for small flock size.

The awareness of isolation of sick animals was not dependent on flock size ($\chi^2=0.067$). About 53.33 per cent goat keepers did not isolate their sick animals from the rest of flock, whereas, remaining 46.66 per cent goat keepers separate their animals when they suffer from any disease. These observations are in agreement with the findings of Deoghare and Sagar (1999) [1], Rai and Singh (2004) [6] and Gurjar (2005) [4].

The data collected on de-worming were subjected for chi square analysis and observed highly significant association of de-worming practice with goat flock size ($\chi^2=17.90^{**}$). The overall data showed that 68.33 per cent goat keepers were well aware towards de-worming practices once or twice in a year, while 31.66 per cent were not aware about de-worming. These findings are in line with findings of Sharma (2005) [7] and Gurjar (2005) [4] and Ekambaram, *et al.* (2011) [2]. The proportion of goat keepers who followed de-worming twice in a year were found in increasing order with increase in flock size while, reverse trend was observed for those not adopted deforming practice.

The affect of flock size on vaccination practices was non-significant ($\chi^2=1.66$). The overall data indicated that most of goat keepers 90.00 per cent not adopted vaccination practice in their goat while, only 10.00 per cent adopted this practice. These observations are consonance with Gokhale *et al.* (2002), Gurjar (2005) [4] and Ekambaram, *et al.* (2011) [2].

Table 1: Health care practices of respondents across flock size

Practices	Households (Flock size) Group				χ^2 Value
	Small	Medium	Large	Overall	
Use of Veterinary facilities					
Yes	16(32.0) (40.0)	17(34.0) (42.50)	17(34.0) (42.50)	50 (41.66)	.06
No	24(34.28) (60.0)	23(32.85) (57.50)	23(32.85) (57.50)	70 (58.33)	
Isolation of sick animals					
Yes	18(32.14) (45.0)	19(33.92) (47.50)	19(33.92) (47.50)	56 (46.66)	.06
No	22(34.37) (55.0)	21(32.81) (52.50)	21(32.81) (52.50)	64 (53.33)	
De-worming					
Once	12(57.14) (30.0)	3(28.57) (7.50)	6(28.57) (15.0)	21 (17.50)	17.90**
Twice	10(16.39) (25.0)	25(40.98) (62.50)	26(42.62) (65.0)	61 (50.83)	
No	18(47.36) (45.0)	12(31.57) (30.0)	8(21.05) (20.0)	38 (31.66)	
Vaccination					
Yes	2(16.66) (5.0)	5(41.66) (12.50)	5(41.66) (12.50)	12 (10.0)	1.66
No	38(35.18) (95.0)	35(32.40) (87.50)	35(32.40) (87.50)	108 (90.0)	
Sanitization of shed					
Yes	7(31.81) (17.50)	7(31.81) (17.50)	8(36.66) (20.0)	22 (18.33)	51
No	33(33.67) (82.50)	33(33.67) (82.50)	32(32.65) (80.0)	98 (81.66)	
Control of external parasites					
Dipping	4(33.33) (10.0)	3(25) (7.50)	5(41.66) (12.50)	12 (10)	.69
Dusting	20(34.48) (50.0)	19(32.75) (47.50)	19(32.75) (47.50)	58 (43.33)	
None of above	16(32) (40.0)	18(36) (45.0)	16(32) (40.0)	50 (41.66)	

The sanitary operation of shed was found to be non significant ($\chi^2=0.11$) on flock size. The overall results revealed that maximum goat rearers 81.66 per cent did not care about the sanitary operation of shed while, only 18.33 per cent goat rearers of surveyed population were aware about the sanitization of goat shed. These findings are similar with Kulkarni and Jawahar (2000) [5] and Gurjar (2005) [4].

The association between flock size and control of external parasites was non-significant ($\chi^2=0.69$). It was observed that

41.66 per cent of surveyed population did not practice to control external parasite of goats. Present findings are lower than Gurjar (2005) [4]. Overall 43.33 per cent goat rearers practiced dusting while, remaining 10.00 per cent goat keepers used dipping method to control external parasites

Conclusion

The health care practices followed in experimental area by the respondents viz. use of veterinary facility, isolation of sick

animal, deworming, vaccination, sanitization of shed and control of external parasite, was not affected by flock size. The respondents at 58.33 were not familiar with use of veterinary facility and 53.33 did not isolate the animal during sickness. Awareness towards deworming by the respondents was 68.34 per cent while, 90.0 per cent respondents were not aware about vaccination against contagious diseases and sanitization of shed. The control of external parasites was practiced by 58.33 per cent of the respondents surveyed either through dipping or through dusting.

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