

Normal, healthy

SHEEP & GOATS



Normal, healthy sheep and goats are bright, alert, and responsive. They have good appetites and are quick to come to the feed trough. They chew their cuds for up to 8 hours per day. Young lambs and kids nurse frequently and like to play. They often stretch upon rising (after a nap).



Some signs of sickness

- Changes in behavior
- Isolates itself or lags behind
- Lack of or changes in appetite
- Not drinking (or excessive thirst)
- Abnormal feces or urine
- Reluctance to get up
- Abnormal posture
- Droopy ear(s), tail down (goat)
- Dull or rough hair coat, wool loss
- Pain and discomfort
- Increased vocalization
- Teeth grinding
- On knees, limping

vitals ↓

Regular observation of sheep and goats is essential to keeping them healthy and productive. It is important to know what is normal and what is not. Early detection of illness increases the chances for successful treatment.

Sheep and goats, as prey animals, are known to hide signs of pain and weakness to avoid attracting predators. It is important to be able to detect subtle changes in their behavior and appearance, such as a droopy ear or being a little slower coming to the feed trough or going through the gate to the next pasture.

ANIMAL	SHEEP	LAMB	GOAT	KID
Rectal temperature	102-103.5°F	102.5-104°F	101.5-103.5°F	102-104°F
Respiration rate	12-72 breaths/min	30-70	15-40	40-65
Heart rate	60-120 beats/min	120-160	70-110	120-160
Ruminations	1-2 ruminations per minute (regular cud chewing)			
Packed cell volume (PCV)	24-45 % (FAMACHA© 1,2)		22-38 (FAMACHA© 1,2, sometimes 3)	

