

HYPOTHERMIA + starvation

Hypothermia and starvation are among the leading causes of deaths in newborn lambs/kids. They often occur together, as they are interconnected. Lambs/kids are born with limited energy reserves (brown fat) and need to quickly consume colostrum to prevent hypothermia and maintain body temperature. Measuring rectal temperature is the best way to recognize hypothermia. Starving lambs/kids are often hypothermic, too, but sometimes their dams simply lack milk.



Hypothermia

Starvation

Excessive heat loss Body temperature drops dangerously low		Low blood sugar (hypoglycemic) Energy reserves depleted	
Causes	Symptoms	Causes	Symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold wet conditions • Delayed nursing • Insufficient colostrum consumption • Maternal neglect or inexperience • Low birth weight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold mouth • Hunched up • Hollowed out sides • Lethargic • Excessive calling • Dehydration • Unresponsive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sickness, weakness • Difficulties sucking • Inadequate colostrum intake • Rejection • Udder, teat issues • Inadequate milk • Hypothermia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunched up • Tucked in abdomen • Dehydration (skin tent test) • Weakness • Lack of energy • Vocalizing • Hypothermia

T R E A T M E N T

Mild hypothermia, 99-102°F		Moderate to severe hypothermia, < 99° F	
Any age, can swallow	> 5 hours old, can't swallow	> 5 hours old, can swallow	< 5 hours old, can swallow
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry lamb/kid, if wet • Warm lamb/kid • Tube feed warm colostrum or milk • Ensure lamb/kid is nursing before leaving with dam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to warming, give IP injection of warm 20% dextrose solution • Warm lamb/kid to 99° • Tube feed colostrum • Continue feeding until temperature is normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry lamb/kid, if wet • Tube feed warm colostrum • Warm lamb/kid • Continue feeding until temperature is normal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry lamb/kid, if wet • Warm lamb/kid • Tube feed warm colostrum • Continue feeding until temperature is normal