

Hypothermia and Your Kid

Article by Faron Stubbert

Birthing in the winter (Also in the summer) can be killers for your newborns, no matter if your doe gives birth out in the pasture or in the barns. Hypothermia can quickly set in, especially if your doe has more than one kid, as she is overwhelmed in trying to clean and dry her kids. My experience is that usually the first born gets all the attention leaving the second born vulnerable to hypothermia.

The normal temperature of goats is between 101.5 degrees to 103.5 degrees. Hypothermia sets in when the temperature is below 100 degrees. The signs of hypothermia are no desire to nurse, shiver, lays on its side and not responsive, feels cold. Another way I check for hypothermia is to put my finger in their mouths to see if it's cold or warm.



Placing them by the heater or on a heating pad is good, but not the quickest way to warm up your kid. I would fill the sink with hot water, but not too hot, you don't want to burn or cook your kid. Then I would slowly place the kid in the hot bath and repeat the process until the kid's temperature is above 100 degrees and the inside of their mouths feels warm.

Once the kid is warm, dry them off with a blow dryer. Then place them on the heating pad, which is covered with a towel. Also cover the kid with a towel. At this time, you can feed your kid. If the kid refuses to eat, you may have to tube feed the kid.

Before I place the kid back with its mom, I'll put on a miniature to small dog coat on the kid. I do this with all the kids during the winter months for a few weeks.

Hypothermia can strike anytime of the year, even in the summer. Quick response can save your kids, delay you'll lose your kids.