

Mastitis

Mastitis is an inflammation of the udder, almost always caused by germs but also can be a result of injury. It can be very mild to extremely severe.

Clinical Signs:

Sub-clinical:

This type of mastitis is very common.
No visible changes in the milk or udder.

Mild:

Clots in milk.*
Lumps in udder.
Hardness in udder.*

Chronic:

Repeated episodes of Mild Mastitis.

Acute:

Swollen, painful udder.
Clots and or, blood in the milk.*
Hot udder
Reduced milk yield.
The doe may be off her food.

Very acute:

All the signs of acute.
Blood is present.
The udder may feel cold.
The doe will be off her feed.
The doe's temperature may be high.

PLEASE NOTE:

- A doe can have small clumps here and there in her milk and not have mastitis.
- A hard, or firm, udder could mean just "congested udder" and not mastitis.
- You can have a small amount of blood in the milk and it not be mastitis.

Mastitis

If you have dairy goats, you need to keep a California Mastitis Test on hand at all times. You need to be able to test your goats for mastitis. See the your local livestock supplier or on line like Jeffers or Hoegger Supply.

Use the **CMT** (California Mastitis Test) to help determine if your doe has mastitis. This test kit is cheap and easy to find. Anyone with even just one milking doe should own a CMT kit. Follow the direction that come with the test. Please note, that since this test is really designed for cows, the test will sometime indicate some thickening, even if the doe does not have mastitis. When testing goats A *trace* or *1* reaction, when the mixture looks a bit slimy, is not significant. Normal goat milk can produce this, so you can ignore this reaction. If the mixture forms a distinct gel, the *2* reaction on some CMT charts, the goat probably has mastitis. Test your doe when you know she is healthy and learn how the test should read for normal, this way you'll know when something is abnormal.

Be aware that a doe can have some blood in her milk and not have mastitis. Sometimes, when a doe first starts lactating and the udder is becoming used to it's new job and you may find a bit of blood here and there, as the udder gets itself in working order. A doe can even has a small "clot" or two, once and a while, and this is not mastitis.