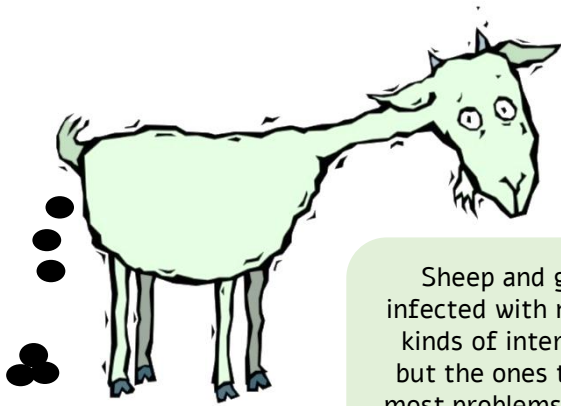
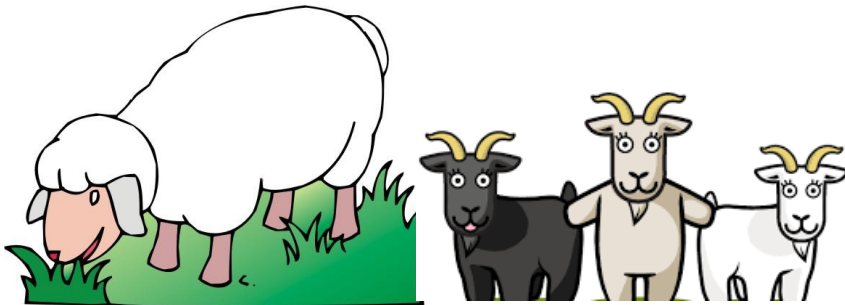


Internal Parasites 101 **for KIDS**



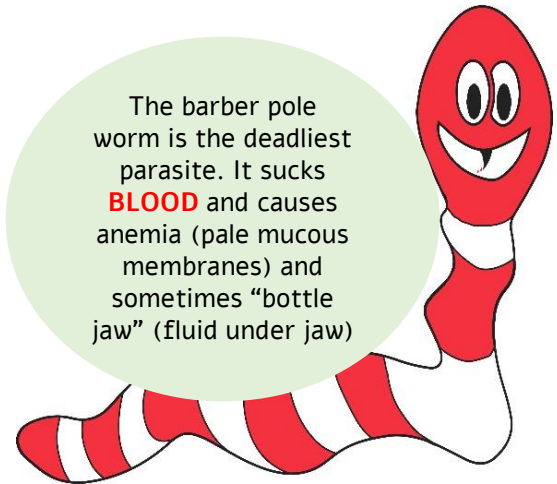
Sheep and goats can be infected with many different kinds of internal parasites, but the ones that cause the most problems are the barber pole worm and coccidia.

Parasites can be deadly, especially to lambs/kids, nursing mothers, and any animal that is thin and/or underfed.

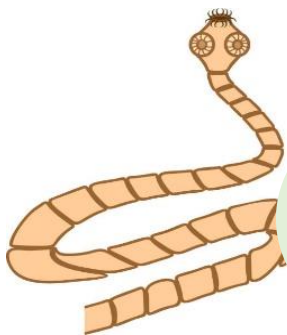


Sheep and goats get infected with worms when they eat infective larvae (immature form of worm) on the grass, so don't let them graze too close to the ground. They get infected with coccidia when they ingest feed and water contaminated with fecal material or live in a contaminated environment. Be sure to sure to keep pens dry and feed and water troughs clean. Worms are more of a problem on pasture, whereas coccidia is a bigger risk in the barn or dirt lots.

The barber pole worm is the deadliest parasite. It sucks **BLOOD** and causes anemia (pale mucous membranes) and sometimes "bottle jaw" (fluid under jaw)



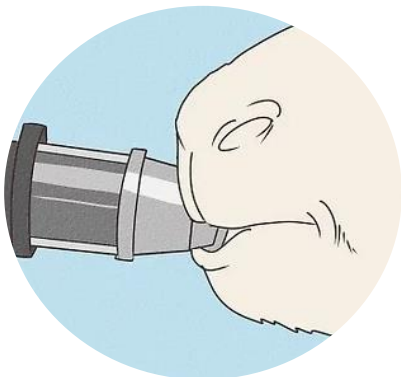
Coccidia are microscopic single-cell protozoan parasites. You can't see them, but they can cause problems in the small intestines. Nasty diarrhea (scours) is the common symptom.



Tapeworms are the only internal parasite you can see in the poop. While they look "yucky" they don't usually cause any harm.



You should only give deworming medicine to sheep/goats that are showing obvious signs of worm infection, such as anemia (blood loss) or weight loss. Additives in the feed or mineral can help to prevent outbreaks of coccidiosis. Consult with a veterinarian if you need to treat your animals for coccidiosis.



By Susan Schoenian (2023)
Sheep & Goat Specialist Emeritus
University of Maryland Extension
Visit wormx.info for more info