

Goat Fetal Development

USED WITH PERMISSION FROM DEB "GOATLADY"

A normal live birth in goats occurs at 145-155 days. Day 147 is 21 weeks' gestation, or approximately five months.

LENGTH OF FETUS AT 30 DAYS: 1.4 cm | LENGTH OF FETUS AT 145 DAYS: 43.0 cm

20 days (3 weeks)

Heartbeat becomes apparent.

21-35 days (3-5 weeks)

The lung buds branch and form into the two principal bronchi.

28-35 days (4-5 weeks)

Limb buds become apparent.

35-42 days (5-6 weeks)

Differentiation of mouth, hoof digits, and dew claws.

42-49 days (6-7 weeks)

Nostrils and eyes become apparent; mammary buds form in females; empty scrotal sacs form in males. Jugular vein is barely visible through pink skin.

42-84 days (6-12 weeks)

Differentiation of bronchial divisions; their air-conducting system becomes established, lined with pseudostratified and/or single-walled columnar epithelium.

49-56 days (7-8 weeks)

Eyelids close; ear canal opens; membranous soft center develops in the top of the head.

56-63 days (8-9 weeks)

Jugular vein, facial vein, and scrotal vessels become visible; nostrils open.

70-77 days (10-11 weeks)

Hairs appear on eyelids.

77-84 days (11-12 weeks) — Horn pits appear; ear veins become prominent; hairs grow on eyelids and muzzle.

84-91 days (12-13 weeks) — Hairs appear on forehead; pigmentation develops around horn pits; testes become palpable in scrotum.

91-98 days (13-14 weeks)

Skin is whitish and thicker. Jugular, facial, and scrotal veins are no longer visible; ear veins are visible. Hairs appear along top of the neck. Top of the head hardens. Respiratory bronchioles develop quickly, primitive alveoli develop, respiratory bronchioles and primitive alveoli are lined by cuboid cells.

98-105 days (14-15 weeks)

Temporary tooth buds just appear. Hair appears around eyes and muzzle, and on chest; eyelids separate.

105-112 days (15-16 weeks)

Body sparsely covered with hair, except limbs. The respiratory divisions develop dramatically; lungs assume a more "aerated" appearance.

112-119 days (16-17 weeks)

Dense hairs cover body and limbs; tooth buds become prominent.

119 days (17 weeks)

One to three incisors barely erupted in females at birth; incisors at gum line in males at birth.

119-154 days (17-22 weeks)

Alveoli develop and differentiate into flattened (type I cell) and cuboid (type II cell) epithelial cells — here the baby can breathe on its own.

