

Question on Dry skin

I have noticed my goat has dry scales flaking off of her all over her head neck and back. How do I treat this? She is drinking and eating normally. She eats grass hay. She is 3 years old. Everything else is normal. Your advice would be much appreciated.

This very well could be because of the temperature fluctuation. I would try giving her either some black oil sunflower seeds in her diet or a slice of bread with a tsp or so of olive or corn oil on it daily. You should see some results in a week or so, That Being said-

The easiest and most accurate method of determining what is causing it would be to take a skin scraping sample to the vet and have it tested.

There are a few other reasons for flaky skin:

Chorioptic Mange (treat using sprays or dips containing organophosphates (diazinon, metrifonate, propetamphos) or pyrethroids (deltamethrin, flumethrin)),

TRICHOPHYTON VERRUCOSUM (goat ringworm),

Vitamin A deficiency, Zinc deficiency,

Vitamin e/ selenium-responsive caprine dermatosis.

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If the flaky skin were all over her body, I'd say zinc deficiency. Hair loss on the face is typical of copper deficiency, so that's something to be considered.

Put some oil on them -- olive and sunflower are especially good for dry skin. And as far as the hair loss and showing -- goat are completely clipped (shaved) when shown, so as long as her skin looks good, you'll be fine. I've only had one goat with flaky skin, and even though in retrospect I think it was a zinc deficiency, my oil concoction took care of it. I also added some citronella and eucalyptus to the oil because the flies were feasting on that dead skin

don't know of any reason not to give sunflower seeds to bucks. In fact, I'm going to start doing it myself. In addition to rubbing down that buck last year with sunflower oil, I also started feeding him sunflower seeds because I'd heard it was good for the skin (but didn't know exactly why), but that probably explains why his skin condition totally cleared up.

Here is a link to nutritional info on sunflower seeds:

<http://nutritiondata.self.com/facts/nut-and-seed-products/3076/2>

It says that a cup of sunflower seeds with hulls has 2.3 mg of zinc.

1 cc of MultiMin 90 contains 60 mg zinc, and the vet recommended .5 cc, which is 30 mg zinc for my bucks,

So if a buck consumes a cup of sunflower seeds on a weekly basis (2-3 tablespoons a day), they'll ultimately wind up consuming the same amount of zinc as if I injected them four times a years, which was what the vet recommended, which kind of freaked me out, because it also contains

selenium and copper, which could be toxic in high doses, and I know someone who just lost three does after injecting them with MultiMin, so it took me a couple weeks to even get up the nerve to inject my bucks with it.

If you look at the nutritional data for sunflower seeds, they also contain a lot of Vit. E, which is good for your skin. They contain lots of other vitamins and minerals too, including copper and selenium. Keep in mind that you need to look at the weights of the nutrients and not the %DV, which are for humans who consume a 2,000 calorie diet.