

How to Drench and How to Give a Bolus

Place a hand under the head of the sheep or goat and tilt slightly to the side. Keep the nose level to the eyes. Slot the nozzle in the gap between molar and incisor teeth and then over the back of the tongue. You must get the nozzle over the back of the tongue. If the dewormer is just put into the mouth, it may cause a gag effect when the animal tastes the medicine causing the medicine to bypass the rumen and instead escape down the esophageal groove to the true stomach. While this can be desirable when treating ketosis, it is not desirable when deworming. This is because the dewormer will tend to break down faster than optimal in the true stomach as compared to the rumen. This is particularly important for white (BZ) drenches such as Safeguard and Valbazen. Feeding the animal baking soda immediately before drenching can also cause a gag effect. Tipping the nose higher than the eyes can cause the drench to go down the windpipe rather than into the digestive system.

Giving a bolus in a bolus gun or pill popper is a similar technique. When you feel the end of the gun go over the “bump” at the back of the tongue, eject the bolus.

