

PENGARUH FREKUENSI PEMBERIAN AIR MINUM TERHADAP TINGKAH LAKU DAN PERTAMBAHAN BOBOT BADAN DOMBA EKOR TIPIS

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INTISARI

Domba merupakan ruminansia kecil yang banyak digemari oleh masyarakat Indonesia dalam pemenuhan protein hewani. Dalam pemeliharannya para peternak seringkali memberikan minum secara *restricted*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pengaruh frekuensi pemberian air minum terhadap tingkah laku dan pertambahan bobot badan domba ekor tipis. Penelitian ini dilaksanakan selama 25 hari yang menggunakan 12 ekor domba ekor tipis jantan dengan bobot rata-rata $23,18 \pm 1,99$ kg yang dibagi menjadi dua frekuensi pemberian (sekali dan tidak terbatas). Parameter yang diamati meliputi konsumsi air minum, konsumsi pakan, tingkah laku (frekuensi minum, frekuensi makan, lama berdiri, lama berbaring, frekuensi defekasi, dan frekuensi urinasi), serta pertambahan bobot badan ternak (*gain* dan *average daily gain*). Pengambilan data tingkah laku dilakukan melalui pengamatan secara langsung selama 2x24 jam. Data dianalisis menggunakan *independent sample T-test* dengan *software* SPSS. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa frekuensi pemberian air minum secara tidak terbatas meningkatkan konsumsi air minum, tingkah laku (frekuensi makan, lama berbaring, frekuensi urinasi), dan pertambahan bobot badan domba ($P < 0,05$). Frekuensi pemberian air minum secara tidak terbatas juga meningkatkan frekuensi minum dan konsumsi pakan ($P < 0,01$) serta menurunkan durasi berdiri domba ($P < 0,05$). Namun, metode pemberian air minum tidak berpengaruh terhadap frekuensi defekasi domba ($P > 0,05$). Dapat disimpulkan bahwa, frekuensi pemberian air minum secara tidak terbatas mampu meningkatkan pertambahan bobot badan serta domba merasa lebih nyaman.

Kata kunci : Air minum, Bobot badan, Domba, Konsumsi, Tingkah laku

THE EFFECT OF WATERING FREQUENCY ON THE BEHAVIOR AND WEIGHT GAIN THIN-TAILED SHEEP

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ABSTRACT

Sheep are small ruminants that the Indonesian people widely favour for animal protein. In their maintenance, farmers often provide restricted drinking. This study aimed to determine the effect of watering frequency on the behavior and weight gain of thin-tailed sheep. This study was conducted over a period of 25 days using 12 male thin-tailed sheep with an average body weight of $23,18 \pm 1,99$ kg, which were assigned to two different watering frequency groups: once daily and ad libitum. The observed parameters included water consumption, feed intake, behavior (drinking frequency, eating frequency, standing duration, lying duration, defecation frequency, and urination frequency), and weight gain (total gain and average daily gain). Behavioral data were collected through direct observation for 2×24 hours. Data were analyzed using an independent sample t-test with SPSS software. The results showed that ad libitum access to drinking water significantly increased water consumption, eating frequency, lying duration, urination frequency, and weight gain ($P < 0,05$). It also significantly increased drinking frequency and feed intake ($P < 0,01$), while reducing standing duration ($P < 0,05$). However, watering frequency did not significantly affect defecation frequency ($P > 0,05$). In conclusion, providing drinking water ad libitum can enhance weight gain and promote greater comfort in thin-tailed sheep.

Keyword: drinking water, body weight, sheep, consumption, behaviour