

GOAT SECTION

Preparing Your Goat for Calf Club Day



Early goats are those born between 1st July and 12th August
Late goats are those born between 13th August and 23rd September

It is important to remember that goats are NOT sheep and need to be reared and cared for differently. Generally, a goat loves human company and makes a great animal friend.

Once your goat is chosen you can begin to take responsibility for the care and feeding of it. You will need to arrange a pen/small paddock for it. For very young goats you will need to provide shelter in the garage or laundry, until it's strong enough to be left outside at night time. An old dog kennel makes a great goat house once it is outside in the paddock. Your goat will need a house that is warm and dry. Goats are very clean animals and prefer to stay away from wet and damp areas. This means their house needs to be cleaned out frequently. Straw or hay are very good bedding materials.

Make sure you have time to look after your goat, before and after school.

You will need to allow at least 30min, morning and afternoon to care for your pet.

Feeding

For new born goats it is important that they have had colostrum for the first few days before introducing goat milk replacement (available from farm supply stores). Feed as per instructions on the bag. Right from the start your goat will need feeding at least four times a day. A plastic 1.5 lemonade bottle is fine, with a screw on teat which are available from your vet or farm supply store.

It is very important to keep whatever equipment you use to feed your goat, completely clean – as goats can get scours (diarrhoea) from dirty feeding equipment, so clean everything after feeding with hot soapy water and rinse thoroughly. If your goat develops scours, contact your local vet for advice.

Your goat will grow quickly and begin to nibble grass and drink water, so make sure that this is available within the first week.

You will notice that at about two weeks of age your goat will start to nibble at things. Offer small pieces of hay. This helps encourage and develop the digestive system. If the goat is

outside it will nibble at grass and trees. Some plants are poisonous to goats and can kill them or make them very sick. Plants like camellia, cestrum, oleander, rhododendron, rhubarb and potato leaves are all poisonous to goats.

You should not have weaned your goat before Calf Club Day – ideally it should still be receiving at least two feeds per day.

Preparation and Care

- Goats must be hand reared by the child entering, using a bottle from approximately four days of age.
- Spend as much time as possible with your goat, make it your pet
- Goats do not have to be dehorned.
- Do not brush fibre goats (eg Angora). This removes the oil from their fleece. You may brush meat or milking goats (eg Saanen, Boer)
- Do not wash your goat as you will lose points at Calf Club Day. If they are very dirty they can be rinsed with warm water. You may wash their mouth, bottom, feet and ears with a damp cloth.
- Consult your local vet regarding vaccination recommendations
- Hooves need trimming regularly, but let your parents do this. Trim the hard part of the hoof even with the central softer part, making it flat.
- Check the goat's hair for lice weekly. Seek advice from your local vet.
- If you select a buck kid goat he will need to be wethered before he is four weeks old, otherwise he will become smelly and aggressive as he grows older.

Leading

- Collars and leads can be purchased from your local vet or farm supply store.
- The collar once in place can stay on the goat. When fitted correctly, you should be able to fit two fingers between any part of the collar and your goat's skin, and it should not pull off, if the goat pulls back. As your goat grows, check the collar regularly and loosen it off as you need to.
- Hold the lead in the right hand, not less than 200mm and not more than 350mm from the goat. The goat must walk with its shoulder alongside your right leg and

the slack end of the rope folded is in the left hand.

These will be very short walks to begin with, but can be increased to long walks quickly. Have the goat walk beside you and remember not to grab it or pull it when it stops. Practise leading around the course you set up at home. Do NOT pull your goat.

Calling

Always practise calling your goat before feeding it. Get someone to hold it while you move away. Then call loudly to it, when it is released. Move further away as the goat gets used to coming to you. Now walk along with the goat beside you, perhaps holding it by the collar without strangling it. Later you can try to walk with it at your heels.

Practise calling the goat to you (about 9m) and when it gets to you turn (DO NOT TOUCH it yet) and walk approx. 5m with the goat following beside you, then turn and calmly catch it and attach its lead.

This is what will be required on Calf Club day. *Don't forget to reward the goat for its efforts with a huge cuddle not food. Children are not to hold items of food in their hands when calling the goat.*

Rearing

The judge will want to know when your goat was born, what breed it is and how often you feed it, etc. They will look at the general appearance of the goat and look for lice, etc.

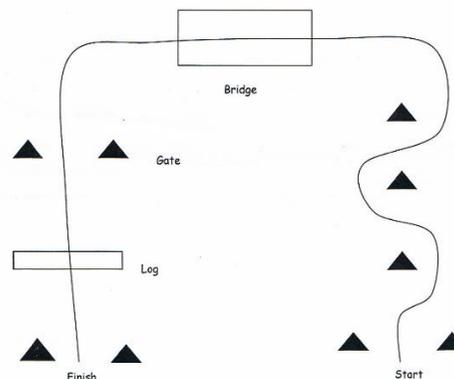
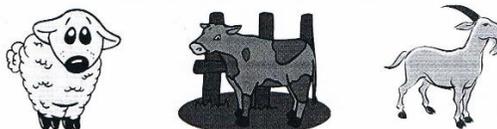
On the Day Bring

- A bucket with any washing equipment so you can spot clean if necessary
- A water bucket so you can give your goat a drink
- Food, so you can reward them after a good effort

More information regarding the general care of your goat can be found on the website www.anexa.co.nz

LEADING COURSE

Course for Calves /Lambs/Goats



- Weave in and out of the standards
- Over bridge without stopping
- Stop at the gate, count to 5 slowly, walk on
- Over the log and Finish