



## GOAT SECTION

Preparing your goat for Ag day:

Goats are to be born between 1<sup>st</sup> of July and 15<sup>th</sup> of 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.

The kid should be chosen no later than 5 days after birth. It is better to get your goat at about four days. By this time, it will have received the very important 'colostrum' from its mother.

Colostrum is high in both vitamins and protein and this protects against diseases.

If you select a buck kid, he will need to be wethered (castrated) with a rubber ring before he is 4 weeks old, otherwise he will become smelly and aggressive as he grows older.

Dehorning goats – the breeders feel for buds on the top of their heads the day the goats are born and judge from there when it is time to disbud. It can be anywhere from 4 days old to 10 days old, it just depends on your breed of goat. Males tend to grow their horns faster and will need to be disbudded sooner, while females can wait a bit longer. Please check with your breeder if they have been dehorned or not.

### APPROXIMATE REARING NEEDS:

- A warm, dry shelter
- Milk powder
- Feeding bottle and teats (Malt vinegar, coke bottles work well with the teats or you can buy the bottle and teat together at Falloons, RD1, Farm Source)
- Pellets or Meal (from approx. 3-4 weeks)
- Collar and lead
- Brush
- Drench
- Vaccine
- Cover (Optional) a dog cover is ideal when it is small.

**EARLY DAYS:** On selecting the kid, give it a name, record the breed and date of birth.

**HOUSING REQUIREMENTS:** When the goat pen is made choose a sunny position and put an A framed shelter or a kennel into the pen so that the kid can keep out of the rain, cold winds or hot sun. Sacking or clean straw is ideal for bedding as this compensates for the warmth that a kid receives from its mother. The kid must be kept warm, dry and clean and the area free from draughts. Kids are extremely susceptible to pneumonia and will die quickly if they lose the will to live.

**FEEDING:** Lamb Milk Powders are specially formulated to meet the needs of your goat.

Mixing and feeding instructions are clearly written on the bag but **Please** talk to your local vet about how much to feed and what milk powder to use as vets are now recommending little and often feeds to stop abomasal bloat.

Your kid may not be used to a bottle and teat, so remember to be patient for a few days. The milk should be body temperature, that is so it feels warm on your skin or 'clean' finger when you test it.

You will notice that about two weeks of age your kid will start to nibble things. Offer small pieces of hay. This helps encourage and develop the digestive system. If the kid is outside it will nibble at grass and trees. Pellets and meal can be purchased from a farm supplies store.

They are useful additions to the kid's diet. If your goat is tethered keep moving it regularly so that it has access to fresh grass.

#### **DAILY CARE:**

- Regular feeding
- Wash/wipe its face to remove any milk residue
- Walk it on a lead and play with it
- Brush it at least once a day
- Practice calling your goat before each feed

**SCOURS (Diarrhea) – if your goat scours** - Stop feeding it milk immediately and keep it off milk for 24 hours. Feed it an electrolyte mix to keep it hydrated. (Electrolyte mix is available in small pack sizes from your local farm store or vet and are always good to have on hand when rearing a goat). Continue electrolytes with four to six feeds of 120ml by bottle or tube feeder. Keep your kid in a clean, dry draught free environment and keep it warm. If at all unsure, please seek your local vet's advice.

**VACCINATIONS AND DRENCHING:** If the mother goat was not vaccinated with a 5 in 1 one month prior to being born or if you do not know if it was vaccinated, it should be vaccinated with a lamb vaccine or PK/Antitet from one week old. If the kid has come from a vaccinated mother and has had adequate colostrum in the first day of its life it will have protection for about 3 months.

Your kid should be vaccinated with a **5 in 1 injection/ 6 in 1/ 10 in 1** at weaning (3 months) and then given a booster shot 1 month later and thereafter once a year. This vaccine prevents pulpy kidney, tetanus, black disease, malignant odema and blackleg. These diseases can kill the healthiest and largest of kids. PLEASE seek advice from your local vet.

**Drench** at about 4 weeks old and again at 10 weeks, an oral lamb drench is suitable for goats. Again, your local vet or farmer can do this.

**LICE CONTROL:** Lice are a common problem. For more information on managing this condition or for advice on the control strategies and products available to you, please don't hesitate to call your local vet. Keep infected kids and gear away from other kids.

**POISONOUS PLANTS:** Goats have a love of garden plants; however, they are not able to determine which ones are poisonous. There are potentially many poisonous plants in the home garden. Some examples (but not limited to) – plants of the Erica and rhododendron family, camellia, daphne, azalea, daffodils, snowdrops, hyacinths, hemlock, cress, red maple, oak, oleander, arums, ivy, five finger, lilies, poppies, poinsettia, titoki, foxgloves, snap dragons and rhubarb leaves.

#### **POINTS TO REMEMBER:**

- Hooves – need trimming regularly, but let your parents do this (or your local vet or farmer), as it is not easy. Trim the hard part of the hoof even with the central softer part, making it flat.
- Make sure your kid's face and ears are clean
- Brush it often to get a nice finish on the coat and to remove loose hair
- Ensure the collar is loosened regularly so it is not too tight otherwise it will wear the hair off around its neck.

**PREPARING A KID GOAT FOR AG DAY:** Take the kid for daily walks and introduce it to a variety of interesting obstacles such as walking a plank and jumping on to and over logs. Introduce one obstacle at a time and once the kid has mastered it move on to the next interesting obstacle. Try to make any challenge to 'fit' the size of the kid. EG: it is not

recommended that little kids try to jump on to hay bales as these may be too high. While out walking you should encourage the kid to walk beside you, ensuring the kid's front legs are in line with your legs and its head held high. This encourages the kid to become confident walking on a lead and close beside you. Allow the kid to run and exercise freely each day. The amount of time you spend with your kid is generally reflected in the bonding between you. You can practice in a ring but do not begin ring practice too soon to prevent boredom. To train a kid for calling you will need to have someone hold the kid while you stand some distance away with a bottle of milk. You call the kid's name. When the kid comes to you give it a gentle pat on the head, then it's bottle. Continue patting while the kid drinks. **NOTE:** On show day you cannot use a bottle of milk so ensure during practice the use of the bottle is gently phased out.

**ON WAINUI SCHOOL AG DAY:** Take your goats food and water requirements for the day. Take a bucket and brushes, an old towel to clean it if it is dirty when you arrive. The goats will be judged on Leading, Calling, High jump and Rearing.

**LEADING:** When leading your kid, you should stand on the left shoulder of the kid. The right hand should grip the lead palm upwards and the left hand should grip the lead, knuckles upward. Actions which could incur penalties are – pushing your kid with your hand, jerking on the lead, allowing the end of the lead to trail on the ground, buffeting your kid with your leg. Try to lead your kid at a reasonable pace ensuring that you walk at the same pace as your kid with dragging or pushing it.

**CALLING:** This is when the goat comes to you when you call its name. The distance the kid is called from will be determined by the judge on the day. Ensure you call in a clear, loud voice so it can hear you. You must be able to hook your lead back on your kids collar without moving from your spot.

**HIGH JUMP:** A high jump is about 40cm high which supports a plank approximately three metres long and 30 cm wide, rough sawn. You will lead the kid to the ramp, up the ramp, pause, and then the kid will jump off the end, with you walking alongside the plank.

**REARING:** The judge will want to know when your kid was born, what breed it is and what, how much and how often you feed it. The older children should know about health problems such as scours, foot rot and the treatments. You should be able to talk about your kids with confidence, knowledge and to describe strategies that you may have used to rear it.

***Well done! Regardless of the results you are a success because you have begun to learn to take responsibility.***

If returning your goat, please ring the breeder and check when it is alright to take the kid back. If you are keeping the kid at home for a pet, do not forget it still likes the care and attention you have already been giving it. Enjoy your kid as it grows – it can be a lovely friend.

If you win a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> ribbon at Wainui School Ag day, you are eligible to enter the South Kaipara Group day. It is held on the First Friday of November at the Helensville Showgrounds. Please register with Mel at the school office after our school Ag day. For more information or questions on any of the above, please contact Kylie at [kallen@wainui.school.nz](mailto:kallen@wainui.school.nz)