

On Your Way to the Banner

A beginners guide to successfully raising meat goats

Table of Contents

Selection.....	2
Training.....	8
Feeding.....	13
Exercise.....	15
Digestion.....	17
Health.....	19
Clipping/Fitting.....	22
Anatomy.....	25

Selecting your Perfect Goat.....

The Basic Steps to Judging Meat Goats Evaluate the four main views of the goat, which would include the top view, rear view, front view, and side view.

Top View: When viewing from the top the goat should be rectangular in shape and be smooth with firm flesh. The back should be strong with a nearly level top line that is broad in its appearance. The loin should be wide, full, and deep. Width of top and boldness to the shoulders indicated more rib capacity.

Rear View: When viewing from behind the hind quarters should be full, wide, and deep with muscling carrying down into the hocks. The muscle should be present on the inside and outside of the legs. The hocks should be wide and set far apart with the round being the widest part on the goat when viewed from behind.

Front View: When viewing from the front, the head should be medium in length, masculine in appearance, broad across the muzzle, large open nostrils, strong jaw, wide spread to the eyes, and a wide across the forehead. The front legs need to be medium in length with a wide set between them. Legs should be fairly straight when viewing from the front with a deep set to the heel. The heart girth should show a bold sprung rib cage with depth through the fore rib and hind rib. Meanwhile the brisket should be broad, deep, and fairly firm.

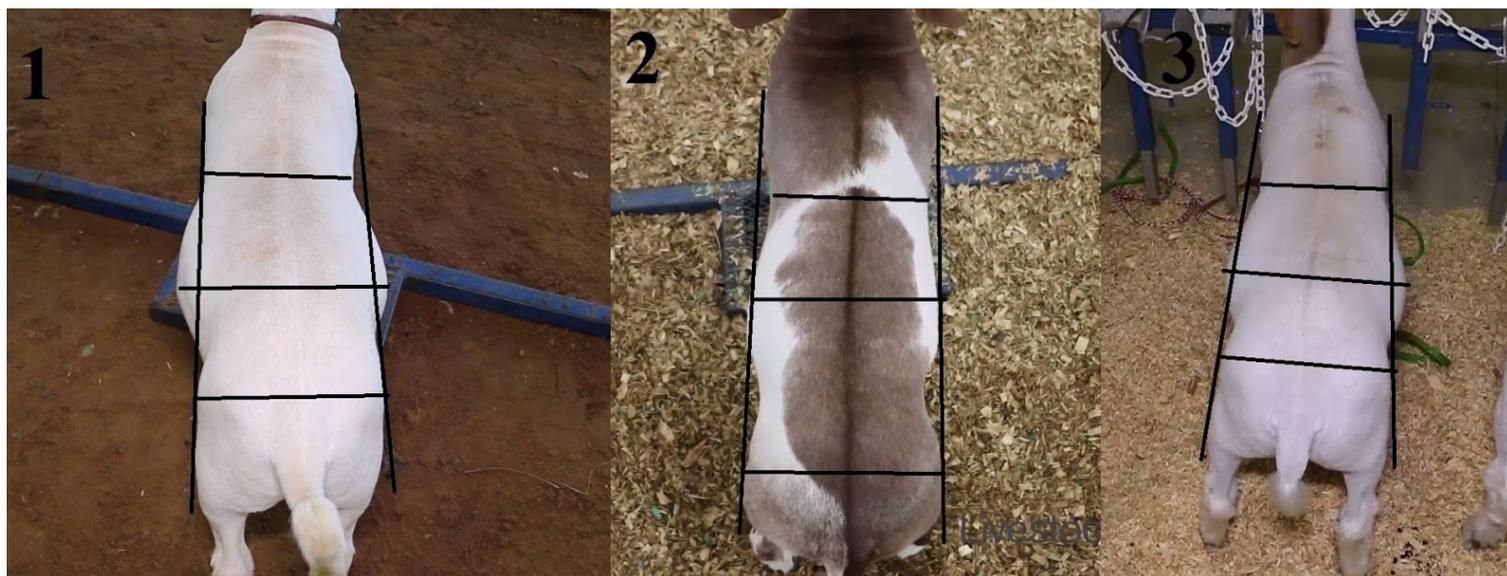
Side View: When viewing from the side the neck should be long to medium in length. The neck should be strong and thicker at the base which blends in smoothly at the shoulders. The neck should also tie in nicely to the brisket. The rump should be long, broad, with a slight slope, and even in its flesh. The hips should be wide and separated apart between the pins. The tail head should be slightly placed higher than the pin bones. The fore and hind legs should be perpendicular to the hocks and pasterns. The hock should have some angulation to them and not be too straight in appearance. The barrel needs to be uniform in depth, width, and proportional from a profile. The shoulder should be moderately heavy, well muscled, with even cover and firmness of muscle.

Handling: The purpose of handling is to determine the amount of finish, firmness of muscle, and evaluate structural problems.

- Estimate the amount of cover over the top line and the ribs.
 - Estimate the width to the round at the halfway point from the rump and the hocks.
- Identify the firmness of the round and decipher the difference between muscle and fat.
- Check for depth of hind quarters from the tail setting to the flank.
 - Evaluate the bones, joints, knees, hocks, and structure on the goat.
 - Review the firmness over the rack, loin, and hind quarters.
 - Determine the amount of muscle over the rack.
 - Determine the amount of muscle in the loin estimating the length, width, and depth of loin.
 - Check for depth of hind flank, length of back, and width between the hocks.

(Above courtesy of www.thejudgingconnection.com)

TOP VIEW PICTURES



Goat #2 best shows the “rectangular shape” stated in the descriptions above, notice how he is broad over the top of his shoulders and maintains that width through his loin and into his hip. Goat #2 has the most attractive top view. Goats #1 and #3 show an over-extended belly- a common issue in goats that should not be your biggest concern but should be avoided. Notice the widest points of their barrel extend past the lines connecting their shoulders and hips. Also note how Goat #3 specifically does not fill up his lines at his heart girth, this is another common but undesirable trait in goats. Unlike a large barrel, a tight heart girth cannot be fixed so this should be heavy in consideration when selecting young goats. In these pictures Goat #3 shows the least desirable topline, but he is not far behind #1. In these pictures #3 also appears to be the narrowest made while #1 appears the widest- although the angle to his picture is differs from #2.

REAR VIEW PICTURES



For education purposes we are going to pretend these animals are stepping down how they normally would. That being said, #1 has the ideal rear view. The lines are drawn straight down from the top of the animals hip (hook) bones; the animals hocks should line up with their hooks as seen in #1, the goats rear leg muscle should protrude outside the lines as seen in all 3 goats. Goat #2 is considered “narrow based” as in his hocks are too close together therefore inside the lines, this trait suggests less muscling and a narrower animal when finished. Goat #3 is considered to “stand outside his skeleton” \, therefore his legs are too far apart and outside the lines. This trait leads to weaker animals as they grow, they will begin to break down faster and may become lame. Goat #3 could also be cow-hocked, this is seen as the points of his hocks turn inwards, towards each other. Goats #2 and #3 have incorrect skeletal structure that cannot be fixed.

FRONT VIEW PICTURES



(NOT SAME GOATS AS ABOVE) Lines are drawn from the top of the shoulder straight down, front legs should follow lines down. The first goat has the most ideal chest between these three. He stands wide, plenty of width from shoulder to shoulder and a clean, straight chest floor (horizontal line). His chest appears flat with minimal breast bone indicating he is “clean chested”. The second goat is extremely narrow based giving him a narrow chest floor. His chest also appears rounded rather than being flat. Notice how the second and third goats have large, prominent breast bones; this makes them “wastey” in their chest, an undesirable trait. The third goat is a less severe version of the second, he is also narrow based with a large breast bone.

SIDE VIEW/ PROFILE PICTURES



The profile view is the most complicated of the animals, these are the same goats 1, 2 and 3 from the first two sets of pictures for reference. The horizontal lines on the goats' backs connect the top of the hip to the withers/chine area, this area should be as level as possible- #2 has the most level topline. But #2 also has the steepest hip, notice how his pins and tail head are much lower than his hooks, this is undesirable. #3 has the weakest topline, he drops in his rack area. This trait will lead to weakness and early immobilization of the animal, this is another skeletal issue that cannot be fixed.

The underline of a goat is also very important, the lines connect the depth of the goat at their heart girth to their depth at their rear flank. Goat #2 has the most correct underline in terms of style and eye appeal. This line should be straight but should gradually become deeper towards the rear of the animal, like a wedge shape. Goat #1 has the least appealing underline in terms of style- he is shallow at his heart girth and rear flank but "soggy" (deep) near his navel. But Goat #1 is the deepest overall and Goat #2 may be considered shallow, preference between an eye appealing but shallow animal and an incorrect but deep animal will vary between judges. Depth can be increased with feeding but this practice can sometimes lead to the over extended belly mentioned above. Style and eye appeal will get you noticed but sometimes a good judge will pick through the crowd to find a solid animal.

The diagonal lines at the front of the goats roughly connect the point of shoulder to the neck, there should be minimal substance in front of this line. Notice how the breast bone mentioned above protrudes in Goat #3, this is referred to as being "wastey". Goats #1 and #2 have fairly clean chests.

Beyond the lines, the profile of the goat should be eye appealing, with smooth transitions. The goat's body should be long, leg should have a large circumference and muscling should be plentiful.

(Photos courtesy of www.livestockjudging.com and www.hummellivestock.com)

Training

Now you've got your new goat, once she's settled in for about a week it's time to start working her. Goats are very smart but very stubborn, if they don't want to do what you're trying to make them do- they're not going to. That being said; a goat's favorite things to do are to eat and sleep, so use that to your advantage if possible. Be sure during the week of settling in and throughout the training experience you spend time with your animal without making him do anything, spend an extra minute with her while she's eating or after feeding. This will get your goat used to you and allow her to become less afraid of people, she will be much easier to train if she likes you.

Halter Breaking

An easy and common tool for initial training and exercising your goat will be a rope halter. Halters work better for daily exercise because they're easier to maintain total control over the goat's head, where ever she is looking he is probably going. As well using a halter for running exercise allows the goat to learn that it is okay to run on the halter but not think it is okay to run on a show collar. Collars may also be used but they often fall down on the goat's windpipe and if pulled can restrict airflow and cause goat's to seize. Do not allow halters to become too low or too tight on the goat's nose as this can have the same effect. Put the halter on your goat for a couple days and begin tying her up when he gets used to the feel of it. Tie her with her head up, close to fence. She will probably fight this but let her fight it out (without hurting herself) until she learns that she cannot escape from the halter.

Time to Pull

Now that your goat has learned how to stand calmly when tied on the halter, it's time to teach her how to walk on it. This task often involves some pulling and a lot of patience. Work for short (10-15 minutes) intervals each

day, not only will this prevent your goat from becoming bored but it will prevent you from being frustrated with her if she is a difficult learner. Goats react very negatively to physical punishment, they will relate you and being out of their pen to pain and their fear of you will prevent them from doing as you want.

Once you have your goat out of her pen, try walking and see if she follows you. Probably not, if so you're lucky. Pull on her halter- gently but firmly. If she is still not reacting you may want to pull her along a little, be careful not to drag her too far or fast just enough so she gets the idea. Stop if she is becoming frantic. Try pulling again, this time don't pull steadily but pull in short bursts- more like tapping- so that she doesn't feel the uncomfortable pull on her nose constantly. If you drag her around too much she will relate the halter to not being able to breathe, this is an instinctually bad thing for any living creature. If she reacts better to any one method keep doing this, she'll get it eventually but it may take days to weeks.

Basically there is no one way to halter break, do whatever works for you and your goat. Don't hurt her but don't let her think she's the boss.

Remember we said all goats want to do is eat and sleep? Reward her with feed or a treat of some sort when she starts to get the hang of walking, you can use hay or whatever she likes as a bribe to walk. This works well because she will then associate you and the halter to good things, not bad.

She Walks! Now What?

Exercise is KEY to proper development of your goat, if she does not get enough exercise her skeleton, muscular system and stamina won't develop properly. Depending on the size of her pen, she needs to be walked for at least 15-20 minutes daily. This could be laps around the farm, down the road, or free time to play with a friend in a pasture. Be consistent, but give her a few days off throughout the project to just be a goat and play freely with a friend if possible. After you have her walking consistently on a halter, you need to teach her how to show. The transition from halter to show collar is usually pretty easy.

Show Collar Training

Begin by letting her get the feel of the collar, make her stand still with it. She needs to learn that like the halter; the collar is the boss. Once she's gotten used to it try walking, this process will be very similar in concept to halter breaking. Just be much more conscious about the amount you're pulling on her neck. Keep the collar high so that its at the very top of her neck, right under her jaw bone. This prevents excess pressure from falling on the windpipe.

Show Time

The whole reason you've been reading this book and the whole reason you have a goat, to show her! Showmanship is vital to how you and your goat perform in the ring. A bad showman can make a good animal fall in the class, a good showman can get a sometimes bad animal more looks. So how do you be a good showman? Easy! Let's look at a few key points for showmanship...

- Always keep your goat between you and the judge, like a goat sandwich. The people (you and the judge) are the bread, the goat is your peanut butter. This is so the judge always has a clear view of the animal. When switching sides always cross slowly and in front of the goat, do not go behind him.
- Eye contact! Stare down the judge, you should always know where he is in relation to you. Make sure he sees you looking. When walking away turn to keep your eyes on him as much as possible while still maintaining safety- don't run into any fences.
- Keeping your goat set-up! If you're stopped, you should be set-up. This included waiting to walk towards to the judge or right before entering the ring. If the judge is looking you should be set-up. (How to set up is explained below.)
- Know your animal. Know what good about her, what's bad about her, what you want to change. Know how to change that in the ring if you can (sway-backed goats can have their top lifted by pinching or rubbing under their belly). Know your goats weight, breed, age and

any other key information. Know about goats in general, about the breed, nutrition, diseases. Know as much as you can to be prepared for anything.

- Give your goat some personal space, stay a comfortable distance away from her. Make sure you give the judge plenty of room to look down the side of the goat if he is directly in front of or behind you. Stay as far as you can while still being able to hold your arm at that length for long period and don't step so far that you have to lean and look funny. Be reasonable but you don't want to hug your goat.
- Walk steadily, not too slow and not too fast. If the person in front of you is racing around the ring, that doesn't mean you have to. Slowing your pace slightly will increase the length of your goat's stride, she'll look better. A slow walk also prevents any jiggling of excess belly and will help your goat last longer in the ring. Don't crawl, but stay a little slower- be smooth.
- Have confidence but be humble. Feel good in the ring, you have prepared for this and you are ready. A little pep in your step will help you. Be intense, but don't be mad. You're there to show the goat. A good showman presents their animals and fades away into the background.

Step up and Set up

Setting up your goat properly is crucial to showing him as his best. She should be set up as a "square/rectangle". Her front legs going straight down so they create a smooth line, her rear doing the same. Keep the animals head and neck up at all times. The topline and the neck should create a 90 degree angle. Pay attention to the direction of the animal's head, if she is looking somewhere she will want to go that way. Keep her head straight at all times. Below are some pictures illustrating setting up.

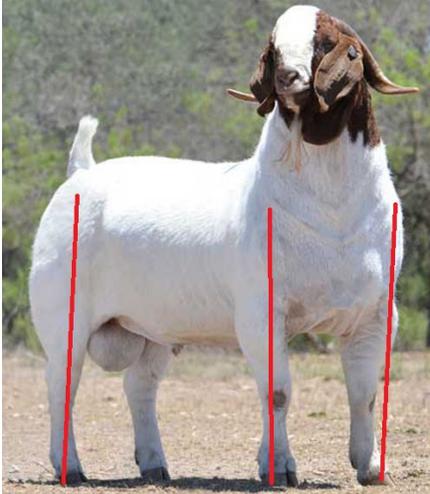
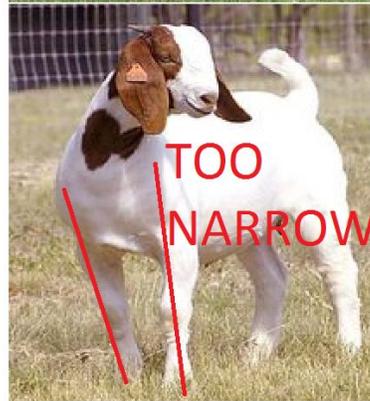


Figure out how your goat looks her best, sometimes it's good to elongate rear legs to increase body length while sometimes this practice leads to a weak top.

Be sure you practice with your goat on endurance, teach her to stand set-up for as long as possible. Practicing like this will prevent her from getting bored in the ring.

Feeding

Goats eat everything, right? This part should be easy. Unfortunately while that is sometimes the case, it does not make feeding out your goat any easier. Feeding is the most important part of your project. You'll do it everyday, twice a day.

The Basics

You look at the feed tag on the bottom of your bag of feed, briefly check levels of protein and fat and then move on. But what do these things do? What does the rest of the label mean?

- **Protein:** This nutrient will likely be at the top of your label, that means it's the only thing I need to worry about right? And more is better? Not exactly. Protein is made of amino acids, these amino acids make up the majority of bodily tissues like hair, collagen and MUSCLE! Protein in the diet is crucial to the proper development of muscle.
- **Fat:** Fat is energy, if your goat does not have a sufficient amount of fat in his diet she will not have the energy to grow. While excessive fat can make your goat, well fat, it is a necessary component to the diet as it aids growth and activity.
- **Fiber:** Fiber is the stuff that helps your goat digest, it is very important in the total diet although less important on the feed tag. More important is the amount of "long fiber" in the diet, this is some form of roughage like hay. The long fiber runs against the side of the rumen causing it to contract and mix the contents around. This process of "mixing" allows the microorganisms in the rumen to better digest and process the contents. Does may be free fed hay or given a set amount at least once a day. While high quality hays such as alfalfa or perennial peanut are beneficial and recommended for their added nutrients, simply coastal or another grass hay the goat will eat will suffice.

Branding

Don't be fooled by the pretty pink bag, intricate brochures or sales pitches of any feed company. Do your own research and know what your goat needs. One of the most important factors is palatability; no matter how good the feed is- if your goat does not eat it, it is worthless to you. Some goats are very picky so be aware of this.

Tactics

The end goal of this project is to have a well muscled, fresh appearing and feeling goat. Does may be fed as much as they will eat for the duration of the project to achieve maximum size and mass. Back off feeding if the animal becomes too fat. Over conditioning can be combated by raising protein levels and/or simultaneously decreasing fat levels. A goat who needs more muscle but not particularly lose fat can be achieved by increasing protein levels while keeping fat fairly constant. A goat who needs more overall size and appearance should have the overall diet assessed and ultimately raise fat levels and possibly raising protein. As a whole protein results in muscle while fat results in fat and to an extent frame size.

Growing goats should be fed a feed containing no less than 14% protein, ideally 16-18%. Fat levels are much more variable amongst feeds, no less than 2% fat should be incorporated in the diet with 3.5-5% being more ideal.

Protein can be added with protein based supplements such as Show Bloom, Purina Champion Drive or Calf Manna. Look for a supplement with over 20% protein and a moderately low fat content such as less than 5%.

Fat can be added to the diet with a wide range of commercial supplements such as Purina Power Fuel, Purina Amplify (for horses, safe for goats.

Cheaper and more palatable than Power Fuel) or ADM Fast Fuel as well as cheaper alternative household products such as corn oil.

Exercise

Probably the second most important part of your project. The amount of and quality of exercise your goat gets will determine a lot; how she develops, her appetite, her stamina, her behavior, etc. A goat who doesn't get enough exercise will be soft, bored and or over excitable, uncooperative and will have not have the appetite of a goat who gets plenty of exercise. This fact seems to counteract the fact that most show goats are kept in very small pens, how will I be able to get her proper exercise? The goat needs approximately 20 minutes of movement outside her pen per day, but more can be better.

Walking

Walking around on a halter, or training for show, is a good gentle exercise for beginning goats. In the beginning of your project walking is the perfect form of exercise. It allows your goat to stretch and use her muscles without burning too many calories. Her appetite will be stimulated as well as giving you and her time to bond to have the best connection in showmanship. Again, a goat who likes you is far more likely to behave.

Running

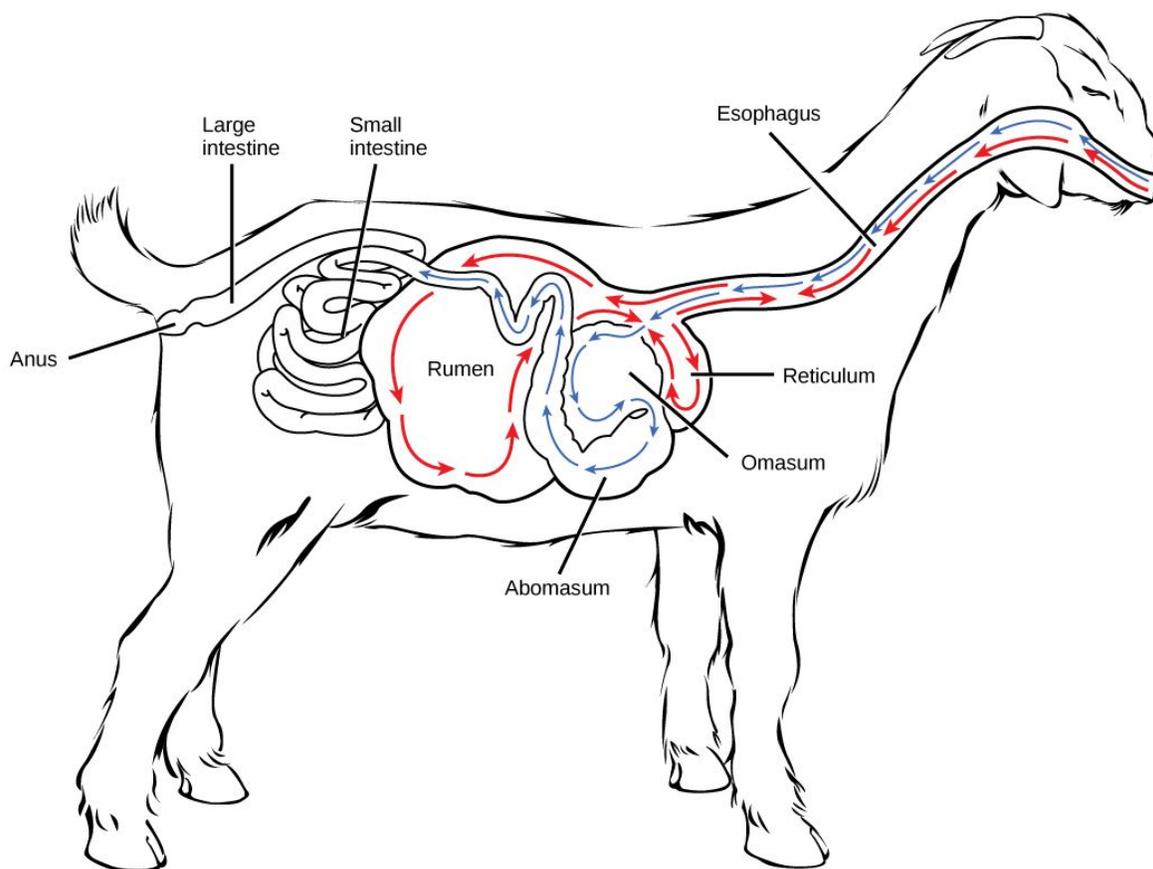
Running your goat for long distances should be avoided unless you are trying to get her to lose fat. Sprinting is much better for building muscle. Look at pictures of marathon runners versus sprinters, sprinter will have large muscular legs while marathon runners tend to be more lean. Getting your goat to sprint is not as hard as it seems. Walk her away from her pen and let her run back, if she is not running by herself you may need to run with her or bring another goat to encourage running. Sprinting and running can also be accomplished on a treadmill. Train goats slowly and carefully on the treadmill and do not leave them unattended. Running backwards on

a treadmill is also very beneficial to the building and firming of rear leg and loin muscles. Be very careful not to go too fast when moving backwards. Sprinting should be incorporated at the end of the project during the muscle hardening stages. Avoid sprinting too much in the beginning as it will cause the goat to become too lean. Sprint animals no more than 3 times per week until the end of the project (30 days or closer) where daily sprinting can give the animal a firm and fresh feel.

Jumping

Goats naturally are built for mountain ranges, so jumping and climbing comes naturally to them. Jumping on and off objects build rear and fore legs muscles, it is also often fun for the animal. Be sure not to allow your goat to jump on or off of anything too high. Jumping is a fun exercise that can be carefully incorporated into the exercise regimen during the entire project.

Digestion



Goats are ruminants like cattle, sheep, deer and camels! This means goats chew their “cud” after eating and they have “four” stomachs. The “four” stomachs are technically one stomach with four compartments, each playing a crucial role to digestion.

Functions

- **Rumen:** The rumen is the largest of an adult goat’s four stomach chambers. It is filled with microorganisms such as bacteria and protozoa that are responsible for breaking down the roughage. A goat will periodically cough up a cud and chew on it before swallowing it again. This process is called ruminating and is vital for goat digestion. The cud is filled with organisms that are needed in a healthy rumen. The microorganisms in the rumen will give off gas as they work to digest the plant material. Goats need to expel this gas by burping.

The rumen is often very noisy during the digestion process and will make lots of sounds. Not only do goats absorb many nutrients through their rumens, but all that rumen activity helps to keep them warm. Once the cud has been broken down enough it passes to the next chamber, the reticulum.

- Reticulum: The reticulum is the second chamber and aids the rumen in the fermentation process of food break down. The reticulum works like a “honey-comb”, if non-food substances are swallowed, they settle in this part of the stomach so they don’t enter the digestive system. From here the food moves onto the omasum.
- Omasum: This chamber has many folds that helps to remove the water from the food particles and further grind them up. Volatile fatty acids are absorbed in this chamber. This gives the goat needed energy. Finally the food enters the last chamber.
- Abomasum: The abomasum is often referred to as the true stomach as it is similar to a human’s stomach. The abomasum contains hydrochloric acid and enzymes that digest what remains of the food the goat had eaten. This is the last step before what is left enters the intestines.

Health

A healthy goat is important to the success of a goat project. Sick goats are slow growing and never reach their genetic potential. The key to a healthy goat is the development of a preventative health program.

Enterotoxemia or Overeating Disease

A major cause of death in goats is from enterotoxemia or overeating disease. Enterotoxemia generally results in death and seldom exhibits symptoms. This disease is caused by a clostridial organism which is normally present in the intestine of most goats. Goats which have their feeding schedule abruptly changed or consume large amounts of grain are the most subject to enterotoxemia. There are two types of enterotoxemia--type C and type D. Most often type D causes the disease. There are vaccines available for type D and for combination of the type C and D. All club goats should be vaccinated with the combination (CD/T) vaccine. The first vaccination should be given immediately after purchase or just prior to purchase by the breeder. A good vaccination program should eliminate losses from overeating.

Internal Parasites

Internal parasites are a continuous problem in goats. Newly purchased goats should be drenched immediately for internal parasites and a second drenching should follow about three weeks later. There are not many drenches approved for internal parasites in goats. Rotating dewormers may be effective in helping to eliminate internal parasite problems. Common dewormer for goat in Florida are Safe Guard, Valbazen, Cydectin Pour- On (used as a drench) and Ivermectin.

Soremouth

Soremouth is a contagious disease which causes the formation of scabs on the lips and around the mouth of the goat. This is a virus that can affect humans, so care should be exercised when handling goats with soremouth. Iodine can be rubbed into lesions after the scabs are removed and this will help to dry up the area and reduce the infection. Soremouth has no direct cure but once it “runs its course” in a few weeks the animal will not get the scabs again. There is a vaccine which contains many strains of the organism and will help to prevent goats from having soremouth. As this is a live virus vaccine, extreme caution should be taken when administering the product.

Ringworms

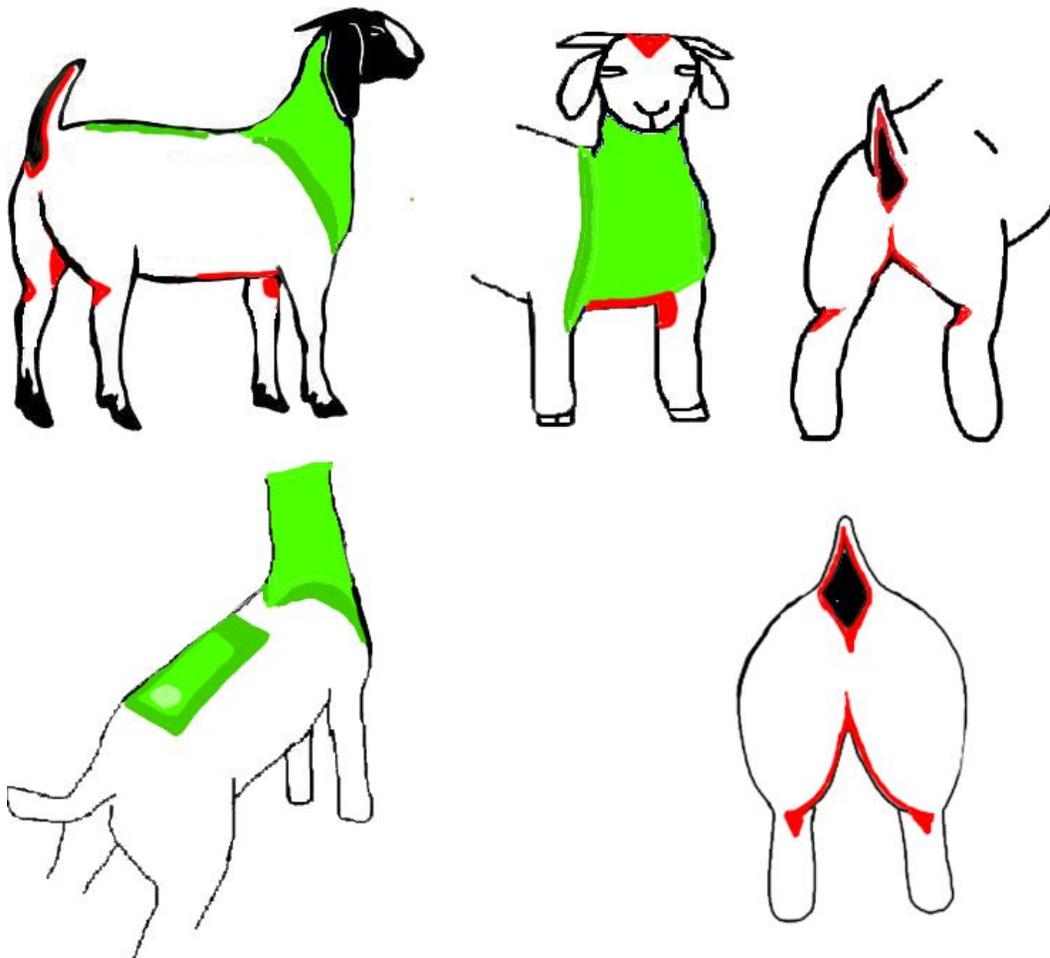
Ringworms have become a serious problem in the livestock industry. Since most goats are shown in the same barns and show rings, it is highly likely that ringworm will become a problem. Ringworms are very contagious and can be transmitted from goat to goat to human to goat, or from contaminated equipment to goat. Since ringworms are generally brought back from a show, a good preventative program is a must.

Pinkeye

Pinkeye is a contagious disease that is characterized by excessive watering and a clouding over of the pupil. Goats are very susceptible to pinkeye, especially after they have been transported and moved to a new location. Dry, dusty pens and constant exposure to sunlight can be contributing factors. There are several medications on the market

for pinkeye. If improvement is not seen within a few days after treatment, contact your local veterinarian.

CLIPPING TECHNIQUES



GREEN: Area of lightest green will be the shortest in length. These areas include the top of the hip and the very front of the chest. Darker green areas show ideal areas to blend out the short areas. Blending will often take patience and many different sized clipper guards or a skilled hand with a blending blade.

RED: These areas should be shaved or carved without clipper guards. Blending blades work best for these areas but regular #10 or #30 blades may suffice. The top of the forehead, the skin of the tail and chest floor should be shaved tight. This helps neaten and round the goat's face to appear to possess a more roman nosed curve. Clipping

the back of the tail shorts allows for a neater appearance as well as widening the rump, leave some hair in a curved shape at the tip of the tail to appear natural. Keeping the chest floor short will widen the goats stance as well as make her appear cleaner chested and more feminine. The rump or twist should be “carved” to appear longer. Follow the natural curvature of the goats rear leg muscle and clip off excess hair to accentuate this muscling. Shortening the hair on the hock directly under the curve of the rear leg will help the rear leg muscle pop. The underline should be made into as straight of a line as possible with a slight angle. The deepest point should be the very rear flank near the udder with the front near the heart girth being slightly more shallow. This often requires areas around the heart girth and navel to be taken shorter while leaving the flank long to prevent a “soggy” belly.

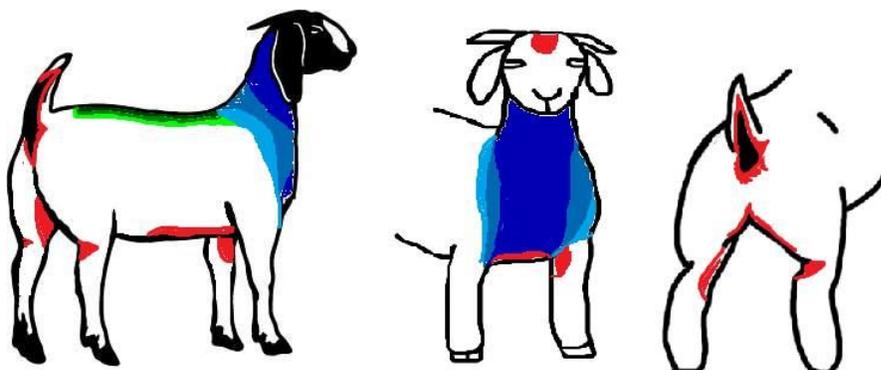
THE FOLLOWING IMAGE GIVES SUGGESTED HAIR LENGTH FOR CERTAIN AREAS OF THE BODY. THIS IS NOT A STRICT GUIDE. SOME ANIMALS MAY REQUIRE HAIR BE TAKEN LONGER OR SHORTER IN SOME AREAS OR BLENDED DIFFERENTLY.

-Hair should be left longer in areas that are not as well muscled, exposed bones such as the spine or point of shoulder are not ideal and should be hidden.

-Hair may be taken shorter to show muscle expression, a particularly well muscled goat may have her topline, chest and/or shoulders taken shorter to show off this muscling.

-Blade sizes should never transition more than $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch while blending. Some animals require no more than $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch blend length together. This is especially prominent in solid brown areas where the shorter hair appears lighter. Color differences may be

inevitable but the hair can be cut to make the change a gradient rather than a split line of different colors.



FREE HAND

- Andis blending and blocking blades are best. Carve out inside of legs to appear to stand wider. Shave underline and blend into the sides. Flatten forehead to enhance roman shaped nose. Carve out the hock and shape the twist. Shave underside of tail. Be slow. Be careful. BLEND, BLEND, BLEND.

CHEST-SHOULDERS

- 3/8 Inch, all of neck and front of chest almost to the point of shoulder.
- 1/2 Inch, line along the 3/8 to blend
- 3/4 Inch, blend into flat of shoulder, swift, light movements. Dont put blades flat on the hair, tilt away from the body and go perpendicular to the direction of hair.

TOP LINE

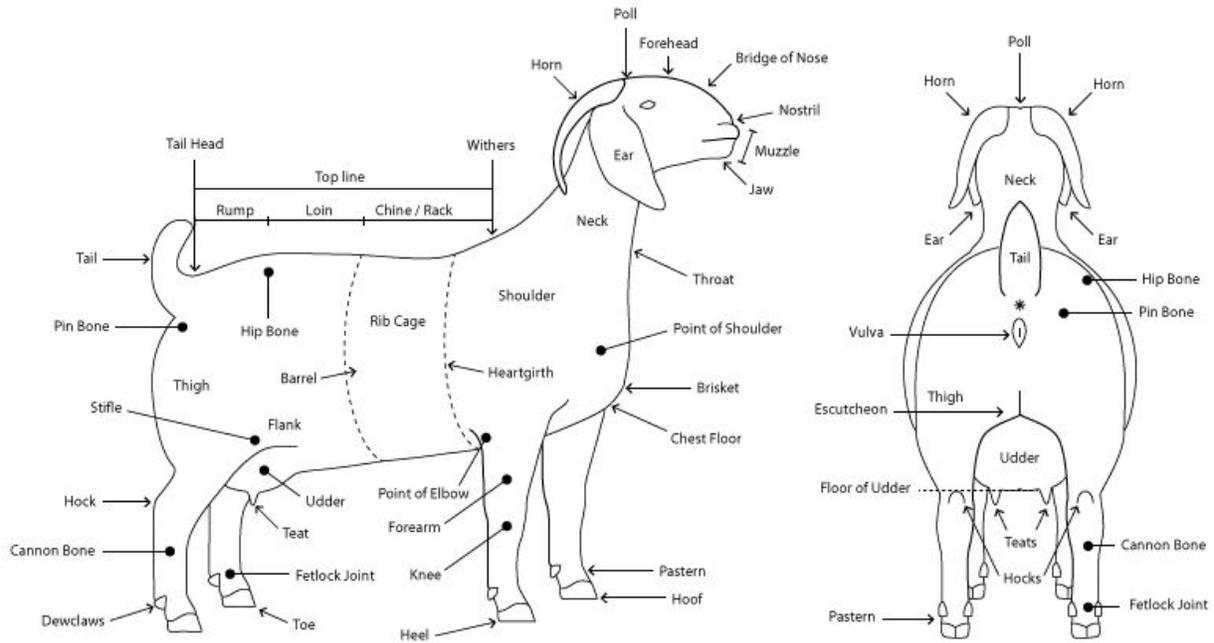
- 1/2 Inch, withers to the top of the hip (hooks) almost as wide as the loin
- 3/4 Inch, line around the 1/2 to blend
- 7/8 Inch, blend into body. Same motion as blending chest. May have to go up sizes to blend depending on length of body.

BODY

Leave hair as long as possible, cut to longest length to which the hair lays flat and smooth and flows towards the tail. Sometimes this requires no overall cutting rather touch-ups free-handed



ANATOMY OF THE BOER GOAT DOE



The majority of the content in this booklet was written and produced by Nicole Falk, any other sources that were directly quoted were referenced beneath that section.

This booklet is not intended to serve as an “end-all-be-all” guide to raising meat goats. Many aspects of livestock are based solely on that person's interpretation of standards and opinions. Following every guideline and direction in this booklet may not work for every animal, fair, judge, breeder, etc. One very important lesson students learn from showing livestock is their ability to adapt what they've been taught to real life circumstances.

Additional goat resources may be found at numerous online sites such as “Onion Creek Ranch”

(<http://www.tennesseeameatgoats.com/articles2/articlesMain.html>) or

“Clear Creek Farms”

(<http://www.motesclearcreekfarms.com/asp/articles/articles.asp>)

If readers have any questions or suggestions regarding this booklet, showmanship, feeding, breeder directory, personal availability for teaching, fitting or judging, or any other inquiries about meat goats please feel free to contact me at nicolef4lk@gmail.com