**Your new goats!**

* **Temperature** = 102.5 - 104 - This varies depending on the temperature of the goat's surroundings.
* **Pulse rate** = 70 - 80 beats per minute
* **Respiration** =15 to 30 per minute
* **Rumen (stomach) movements** = 1 - 1.5 per minute and located on the goats left
* **Puberty** = 7 weeks - 8 months (separate bucks from does at 2 month)
* **Estrus/Heat Cycle** = 17 to 23 days
* **Gestation** = 143 to 155 days
* **Life span:** 
  + **Does** = 11-12 years average age. Does that "retired" from breeding, age 10 live longer: 16-18 years
  + **Wethers** = 11-16 years average age
  + **Bucks** = 8-10 average age - bucks usually live shorter lives due to the stresses of going into rut

**Full growth size:** Most goats do not reach their full size until they are about three years of age.

**Feeding:**

* Each day the kid is fed: (2mo-1yr)
  + up to 1 pound of [grain](http://fiascofarm.com/goats/feeding.htm#grain) (approx. 3 cups) a day 2:1 Ca/phos ratio grain
* [Hay:](http://fiascofarm.com/goats/feeding.htm#hay) twice a day in winter/ once a day in summer.
* [Pasture/Browse](http://fiascofarm.com/goats/feeding.htm#pasture), [minerals](http://fiascofarm.com/goats/minerals.htm) and clean water free choice at all times.
* Bucks & Wethers can be fed 1/4 tsp. [Ammonium Chloride](http://fiascofarm.com/herbs/supplements.htm#AmmoniumChloride) per 50 pounds or so to help prevent "[stones](http://fiascofarm.com/goats/stones.htm)"

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| **How to trim a goat's hooves:**  The side walls to the goat's hoof grow faster than they wear down and so need to be trimmed.  Note: Goats are not horses; their feet and hooves are different.  You are just trying to trim the goats foot to get it flat and even so it is more comfortable to walk on and also make sure there are no places where dirt can collect and rot can start.   * Clean out any dirt with a hoof pick or the tips of your trimmers. * Trim the side walls of the hoof, and the heel down so that they are even and flat with the sole of the foot (sometimes referred to as the "frog"). You may trim the sole if necessary. * Trim slowly and carefully until you start to see pink. Once you see pink, stop, or you will cause the goat to bleed. * Trim any excess between the two heel areas, if necessary. * If you encounter a dirty pocket, or the wall of the hoof separating from the hoof, you need to totally trim this out/off until it is open and clean. Leave no dirt, or you risk "hoof rot" * You're shooting for nice, relatively flat sole with no dirty pockets.   **Common Issues:**   * Broken horns- control bleeding with blood stop powder (good to have if you cut hoof to short) you can splint horn or remove broken piece. If skull fracture, horn must be splinted. * Bleeding hoof- control with pressure or blood stop * Bloat- The abdomen is obviously distended, especially on the left side. Signs of discomfort such as "mawing", kicking or grinding their teeth. Depression. In more serious forms: difficulty breathing.   Treatment-Stop feeding, give ¼-1/3 cup vegetable/peanut oil, message sides until burping and farting.   * Cough/cold-SNEEZING is normal! Only treat if temp is greater than 104.5. Probios(over the counter), Penicillin(vet)   **Vaccinations/Worming**   * Clostridium perfringens type C+D and tetanus = CD&T they get yearly * We only worm after a fecal test shows a high worm count and specific parasite. |

**Adult males**

**Courting/Mating**

Bucks have their own special way of getting the ladies in the mood. Along with their smell and peeing habits they also have some certain behaviors that may seem odd, especially if you have never seen it before. These mannerisms are most often exhibited toward the doe in heat, but because breeding and dominance can be so closely related, you will also see does and wethers, as well as bucks asserting their dominance over each other (or you) by exhibiting these traits. Also, does in heat will exhibit these traits and we call this "acting bucky".

These mannerisms are totally normal and the buck may try them on you as well as a doe. When a buck is "in the mood" he doesn't always care what sex or species he tries to breed. If a buck exhibits these traits at you, he may have a crush on you and you should be careful that he doesn't try to mount you when you aren't looking.

* **Tongue flapping**- The buck will lower his head and flap his tongue at the side of the doe (or you).
* **Leg pawing** - The buck paws at the side of the doe with a straightened leg. This is usually done at the same time as tongue flapping.
* **Blubbering**- This is done toward the doe (or you); it can can be done in conjunction with leg pawing and tongue flapping

**Smell**

As bucks grow they will develop a distinctive odor. Many people find it a bad smell, others don't find it that bad, they just find it strong. The odor will not be quite so bad the first year, but will increase with maturity, Does and wethers (neutered males) do not develop a smell like bucks do. If you keep your buck with your does (not recommended) the buck smell will get on the does, and if you milk the does, it can get in their milk.

**Urinating**

As bucks mature and go into rut, the male equivalent of heat (in the Fall), they will start peeing on their front legs and faces. They have a kind of "spray attachment" on the penis and can really spray. He will spray his urine into his mouth and then curl up his lip to get a good whiff. His legs, face and beard will eventually be coated with a sticky layer of urine (irresistible to a doe). Once rut is over (in the Winter) he may, or may not, stop peeing on himself.

**Aggression**

As a buck matures, he will get more aggressive. This is natural. Even the sweetest, most well behaved buck may challenge you, as well as his companions, from time to time (usually during breeding season). Aggressive bucks toward humans is not good. A buck he needs to know/be taught that you are dominant to him.

**Other habits**

As he goes into rut, your buck will want to make sure all his equipment is in proper working order, so he will be ready at a moment's notice to breed a doe. He will get erections quite often. He will check himself with his mouth

A buck will practice his sexual technique on his male companions. He may also try to practice on you if you are not careful. He may not intend to hurt you, but you should be very careful when you are around a buck in rut.

**URINARY CALCULI**

Like most forms of urinary disease, bladder & kidney stones (calculi) are the byproduct of metabolic dysfunction or poor diet. They are associated with the body's inability to effectively metabolize (use) calcium, magnesium, ammonium, or other minerals. Just eliminating these minerals from the diet will not prevent the problem. Many of the minerals that form stones are essential nutrients in a balanced diet, but they must be received by a healthy balanced body in a readily usable form.

Stones are formed when urine pH levels, or other chemical factors, cause the minerals to bind and form crystals, which in turn build upon each other to create solid structures- "stones", also known as uroliths. Uroliths are most likely to occur in the bladder, but they sometimes form in the kidneys.

To remain clean and free of harmful bacteria, the urinary tract must continually flush itself. If an animal's urethra (the tube that empties the bladder) is blocked by one or more stones, a potentially life-threatening condition, called uremia, can result. If the ureter is blocked, kidney damage may occur and progress quickly after the onset of symptoms.

Stones can be a problem in goats, especially wethers (neutered males), but also in bucks (intact males). This is because stones can become lodged in the bend in the penis, called the sigmoid flecture, or at the small tip of the penis, called the pizzle. Wethers are especially at risk because the urethra, does not grow to its full diameter if the male goat is castrated before puberty. **Does can get urinary stones also**, but these usually pass easily through the larger short straight female urethra.

**Symptoms of Stones:** (A goat may, or may not, show all symptoms)

* Abdominal discomfort. Restlessness, kick at their belly and frequent attempts to urinate.
* Attempts to urinate may be accompanied by twitching of the tail. The goat may groan or cry while attempting to urinate. In straining to urinate he may even prolapsed his rectum. This could be confused with constipation.
* There may be drops of bloody urine, or crystals on the hairs around the prepuce (penis shaft). Palpation (feeling) of the penis may reveal significant pain, distention and/or swelling.
* If the urethra has ruptured, the abdomen may be swollen (known as water belly) and the goat may lose its appetite and become depressed.

**Prevention:**

* The key to prevention is proper diet. Feed ration with at least a 2:1 calcium to phosphorus ratio (2 parts calcium to 1 part phosphorus). Be aware that alfalfa hay is higher in calcium than grass hay which can also upset the balance.
* Make sure your goats have access to clean water at all times.
* Avoid too much grain or pelleted ration. Most full grown wethers do not need to be fed more than 1 CUP of grain per day. Always provide plenty of fresh, clean, water. Addition of 3-4% salt in the ration stimulates water intake and thereby may be beneficial.
* Postpone neutering as long as possible to allow the urethra to grow. We never neuter earlier than four weeks of age.
* Another preventative is the addition of ammonium chloride to the diet; this helps to acidify the urine. This helps to make the crystal components more soluble, and the goat will be more likely to urinate them out than form stones. Ammonium chloride (NH4Cl) can be added your individual wether's/buck's feed at the rate of 1 tsp. per 150 pounds
* The diet should provide ample amounts of Vitamin A.

Grain with the following is good.

16% Protein

4% Fat

6.5% Fiber

.5-.9% Calcium

30% minimum Copper

.4-.6% Phosphors

.3-.6PPM Selenium

100PPM Zinc

Vit A,D and E

**Good resources:**

<http://fiascofarm.com/sitemap.htm>

FB page “Goat Vet Corner” “GVC-Social Lounge”