

Meat Goat Project Help Sheet



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

If you are showing or leading with a collar, where should it be placed on the neck?

If showing goats with a collar, make sure the collar is placed right under the jaw of the goat like the picture shown. If the collar is down farther on the goat, the goat will not lead and not able to breathe.



How often should you trim your goats hooves?

Every 4 weeks, specially 2-3 weeks before fair

How often should you worm your goat?

Deworming is very crucial part of taking care of your goats. Internal parasites are a major cause of death and poor growth. They can be controlled by injection, pills, dry medication mixed in the feed or a liquid drench. When drenching, the goat's head is held in a normal position. The drench gun is inserted in the side of the mouth over the tongue. Alternating between oral and injectable helps reduce parasites that can become immune to one wormer.

What parasites are easily acceptable by goats?

Gut worms, lung worms, stomach worms, mites, lice are all acceptable to goats very easily. That is why alternating between injectable, oral, and pour on wormers is very important. If goats are high in worm count, they will not gain very well.

What feed is best for goats to eat?

Goats are very picky animals, that is why small pelleted feed is best to feed. Large pelleted and texturized feed is hard for goats to consume and they sort through the texturized feed.



Should yearling breeding does and market goats be fed together?

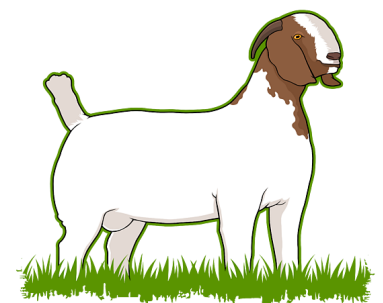
No, breeding does will push the market goats away. Also, breeding does and market need different feed with different crude protein and amount of fat. Breeding does can also eat more hay while market goats should only receive one nest size handful of hay every other day. Little hay for market helps gain more fat and weight from consuming more grain. Be careful if more than one goat is in the pen that they are eating equally. The larger goat may push away the smaller goat to consume more feed. But goats need friends to live with. A market goat should eat an 18% protein feed is best for growing goats and a 16% protein, higher energy feed is preferred to finish the goat. Always remember that high protein grows, high energy finishes.

How much should your goat gain per day?

Start out with a good quality 16%-18% protein ration with at least 10%-14% fiber. Feed goats all they will eat (a creep works great) each day until they reach 80 pounds. After they reach 80 pounds, you should start handling finish daily and feed goats accordingly. Purchase a good set of barn scales in order to know how much you are feeding your goats. A good rule of thumb would be to feed around 1 ½ pounds of feed twice per day. A goat should gain about .25 pounds per day to make it to the market weight of 60-80 pounds.

Can your lamb and goat eat the same feed?

Your goat may eat your lamb feed, but lambs cannot eat the goat feed. Sheep are toxic to copper.



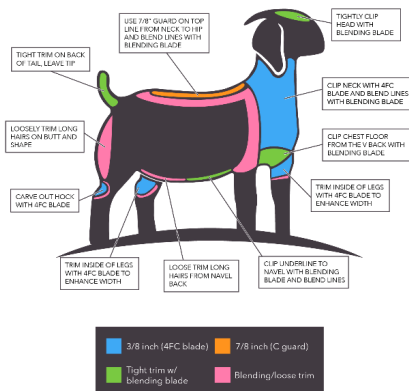
Where should my goats be housed?

- **Space-** Before purchasing a goat, make sure you have the space to raise one. The space you provide for your goat needs to be cool, dry, and draft free. You will also need space to exercise your goat. Be sure that keeping your goat in that space complies with all city or county ordinances. One goat needs at least 6 foot by 4 foot pen.
- **Fencing/Panels-** Fences should be at least 48 inches high. When building a pen for your goat, it is important to be aware that dogs can be a danger. Consider selecting materials that will keep your goat in and dogs out.
- **Shelter-** The shelter needs to keep the goat dry and provide it with shade during hot weather. It can be a barn, shed, or any type of structure that will cover the animal.
- **Bedding-** Sawdust, wood shavings, or straw can all serve as bedding for your goat.

How far in advanced should I clip my market goats?

Clip your goats 2-3 days before the show. Breeding can be clipped shown in the diagram. Market are slick shorn with hair 3/8 inch or less. The blades provided below are great to be used for market.

Breeding Doe Clipping Guide



3 TIPS FOR HALTER BREAKING

①

Use a catch pen. Do not chase them in order to catch them. Create a small, enclosed area you can safely push them into and more easily grab and halter.

②

Tie them to a panel/wall/fence. Do not leave them unattended. Pet on them, set their feet, don't let them climb the panel. Do this daily for 10-15 minutes at a time. Do this for 5-6 days straight.

③

Begin leading on the halter. Do not drag, do not use excessive force. Use reward based training by releasing when they give into what you're asking. Always end on a positive note!

Goat Common Diseases

Pneumonia

Cause: A virus, combined with stress, causes the initial damage. Bacteria invade secondarily.

Symptoms: Animal becomes lethargic, has a high fever and may have labored breathing and nasal discharge.

Prevention: Provide adequate ventilation, prevent drafts, and reduce stress.

Scours

Cause: Bacteria (salmonella, Escherichia) or virus. The lining of the intestines becomes irritated and fluid is lost in the feces instead of being absorbed from the intestine into the body.

Symptoms: Diarrhea (loose stool) leading to dehydration

Treatment: Immediately separate from other animals and administer fluids. Clean and disinfect.

Sour Mouth

Symptoms: Sores are typically found on the lips, muzzle, and in the mouth. Early in the infection, sores appear as blisters that develop into crusty scabs. Sheep and goats may get sores on their lower legs and teats, especially when ewes or does are nursing infected lambs or kids. Young animals may have difficulty nursing and may require bottle or tube feeding. Nursing ewes or does with lesions on their udders may abandon their lambs, and older animals with oral lesions may also require nutritional support.

Treatment: Except in rare cases, animals recover completely from sore mouth infections within a month. Particular breeds, especially Boer goats, may be especially susceptible and may have severe infections. Let the disease run its course. You can also vaccinate your goats as babies.

Fungus/Staff

Cause: Contact with other lambs or goats contaminated equipment, pens, stalls, grooming tools, feeders, and humans.

Symptoms: Skin is initially thick and red. Later it appears to be crusty and scaly skin. Staff shows up looking like zits to be popped.

Prevention: Disinfect all equipment and pens after shows and at home. Don't shear lambs too often. Don't wash your slick shorn goat very often because the oil taken out of the skin causes irritation and dries the skin out. After washing make sure you add oil like revive to put the healthy oils back into the skin. Make sure the goat is completely dry too. After shows, wash goat with fungus soap and spray.

