

D.G.S.A.VIC BRANCH INC.

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021



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Dairy Goat Society of Australia Vic Branch www.facebook.com/DGSAVic



Editor's Note:

Welcome to our Spring 2021 edition of the DGSA Victorian Branch Newsletter.

Since the last edition there has been a DGSA Victorian Branch Inc. AGM on Zoom and the elections of our 2021/2022 committee members. Enclosed this edition you can find who has taken up the positions which help to shape the Victorian Branch over the next 12 months. Elected Committee Members are here to provide an interface with the DGSA Federal Council for you our Victorian Member.

Lockdown 5+ has just hit Victoria (I stopped counting at 5!) and there are a number of Agriculture shows that were in the planning stage to go ahead, but unfortunately many have now been cancelled. We endeavor to keep you up to date with these cancellations and they are updated on the DGSA Vic Branch Facebook page as they come to our knowledge. What we know at the time of print of this newsletter has also been included.

DGSA Victorian branch online Virtual Show results were announced on the Facebook page and in the Australian Goat World, August edition. Congratulations to all the Victorian Members who were successful with their exhibits. Thank you to our Judge Murray Grills for his time and contribution. The acknowledgements would not be complete without thanking Bryony LePoidevin for her significant efforts in making the Virtual Show happen.

Victorian Virtual Shows Best Exhibit, Champion Milking Doe, Champion Toggenburg Doe and Best Vessel Overall went to Roden Cache Verona, bred and owned by Belinda Cardinal.

Victorian Dairy Doe of the year for 2019/2020 has been announced with F107 Down Udder Amaia Q* taking out the honors bred by Alex Berry and owned by Bryony LePoidevin. The Victorian Dairy Kid of the year for 2019/2020 is Anama Arya, bred and owned by Bryony LePoidevin.

I am aware you have missed an edition of the Newsletter. The outgoing Newsletter Editor has made a strong start on the Autumn/Winter 2021. I will be endeavoring to get this out to you in the next couple of weeks as I am just finalising some additional articles. Life sometimes takes turns we do not expect and effects the ability of all of us to meet others expectations. Our committee members are all volunteers who freely give their time for the betterment of the DGSA Victorian Branch.

Thank you to all the contributors of articles and photos for this Spring newsletter. Deb.☺

Dairy Goats Society of Australia- Victorian Branch Inc.

(A0019830J)

Committee Meeting held on August 7 2021 at 3.45 pm

Venue: Zoom meeting due to COVID-19.

1.PRESENT: Rick Howard, Bryony LePoidevin, Ian Tyers, Ilana Leeds, Kirsty Stephens, Adam Fontana, Jack Robinson, Deb Porter, Carrie Florence, Peter Keays, Derek Taylor

2.APOLOGIES

3.MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved:Peter Keays

Seconded:Ian Tyers

Carried

4. AMENDMENTS TO MINUTES

NIL

5.CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

6.CORRESPONDENCE SENT

Motions for Federal Council re Measuring Nigerian Dwarf Goats for Postal Ballot

POSITIONS

MINUTE SECRETARY: Bryony

NEWSLETTER: Deb & Bryony

A.G.W. Correspondent: Kirsty

PUBLICITY: Whole Committee

MILK AWARDS OFFICER: Bryony

SALES: Derek

HERD RECORDING: Illana

7.TREASURER'S REPORT

As AGM

Accounts for Payment

Incorporation Peter Keays \$60

8.MEMBER APPLICATION

9.MILK TEST APPLICATIONS

Sharyn Carmichael approved by email

10. MILK AWARDS

Nil

2021

11.REPORTS

Nil

12.FEDERAL BUSINESS

GENERAL BUSINESS

Deb Porter brought up that we could have a "Goats Available" page on the website. Members with stock for sale to be asked to be added. Members to provide name and contact details but actual animals for sale need not be listed. Buyer can then contact directly.



Photo:© Greenhaven Stud

We could also have a contact page for members who wished to be added. With Name, Stud and contact number and breeds.

Directors for Federal Council, there are three positions. Those who wish to be Directors to contact Rick and a ballot will be held.

We discussed the Branch donating to small Victorian rural shows. If shows go ahead we will donate \$200 to the show for prize money. Show must have a D.G.S.A. judge.

Moved Bryony: That the Branch donate \$200 to each Victorian rural show held this Financial Year for prizes, promotions. Shows to apply to the Treasurer and decide how to share the money. Shows must have a DGSA judge.

Seconded: Ian

All agreed

Bendigo Show to go ahead depending on lockdown rules. There will be No shearing competition this year.

Meeting closed 4.20 p.m.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Do you have a cute goat photo? Would you like to feature on the front cover of the next newsletter? Send your photo to the Newsletter Editor by the end of October 2021.



Email your photo entry to: victoriadgsanewsletter@gmail.com

FROM FEDERAL COUNCIL

Measurement of Nigerian Dwarf Goats

MEASUREMENT OF NIGERIAN DWARF BREED

- Registration into the Purebred Section (Grade P) is not automatic. **All animals eligible for Purebred Section registration are initially placed in a holding appendix, Appendix X, pending height verification.**
- **Nigerian Dwarfs are height verified at four years of age. Application can be made through the Federal Secretary for animals meeting the recommended breed height specification to be transferred from Appendix X to the Purebred Section (Grade P).**
- **Height is to be verified by an official measurer – a Dairy Goat Panel Judge or an appointed Branch Inspector.**
- **Animals only need to be measured once. The official height, upon application, will be transcribed onto their pedigree and registration level updated/papers reissued. Goats not measured and/or not applied to be upgraded will remain in Appendix X. Goats measured and found to be over height (OH) or under height (UH) will be transferred back to Appendix A with their pedigree amended to include their measured height along with the code OH or UH respectively. It will be the duty of the official measurer to notify the Federal Secretary of all goats officially measured and found to be OH or UH.**
- **Measurement Definitions**
 - **Measuring Stick: Measuring appliance.**
 - **Official Measurer: Appointed Branch Inspector or Dairy Goat Panel Judge**
- **Procedure for Measuring**
 - **It is important to make sure the goat is standing in a relaxed position and not leaning forward or backward. The goat needs to be standing on a firm surface.**
 - **The height is measured in centimetres.**
 - **Height measurement to be taken at the highest point of the wither to the ground with the animal standing squarely on all four feet with all legs in a vertical line to the ground and head in a relaxed position. Hooves to be neatly trimmed.**
 - **Measurement device can be a fixed two footed bar that is placed over the wither of the animal space under the top bar can be measured with a tape measure from the underside of the bar to the withers to provide an accurate measurement.**
 - **Two footed measurement bars may be 57 cm for does and 60 cm for bucks. Heights are Does-57 cm maximum and 43 cm minimum. Bucks 60 cm maximum and 43cm minimum.**
 - **Measurement surface must be a flat level surface, concrete, wood, solid ground. The measurer must take care to ensure that the surface on which the goats are measured is solid and level preferably concrete.**
 - **A total of three measurements may be taken, then added together and divided by three. This will give an overall average and the result should be the height of the goat.**

- Upon measurement the approved measurer to record the name of goat, registration number and height on the D.G.S.A. prescribed form and sign their name.

THANKYOU TO NIKKI BIRD FROM MALURUS MINIATURE GOATS FOR HOW TO MAKE HEIGHT BARS

How to make height measuring bars.

We originally purchased a set of height bars in the following sizes: 53.5 cm, 57 cm, 60 cm and 63.5 cm for Australian Minis and 66 cm for mini nuwbys. Now that we are breeding smaller miniature and Pygmy goats, we felt that we needed to make some smaller bars to help measure these goats. We have made a 39 cm and 48 cm bar. These heights were chosen simply because of the size of aluminium tube that we had left over from another project.

Height bars are really easy to make. We have found the materials available at Bunnings. You will also need a hacksaw, and maybe a rubber mallet.

https://www.bunnings.com.au/connect-it-2-way-corner-joiner_p1138466

https://www.bunnings.com.au/connect-it-end-cap_p1138539

https://www.bunnings.com.au/connect-it-25-4-x-25-4-x-1-2mm-1-8m-anodised-aluminium-square-tube_p1138301

Cut your top bar of 40 cm first. For the sides, remember to put the end caps into the tube first before measuring to the desired length. Cut two side lengths the same length. Join the sides to the top bar using the Connect-It 2 way joiners.





IT'S KIDDING SEASON

First Aid Kit for Kidding

On her Facebook page Goat Veterinary Consultancies - goatvetoz, Dr Sandra Baxendell shared a daily column called 'Your kidding first aid box'.

AI or shoulder length gloves. Kidding does can excrete large numbers of germs that can infect people e.g. Q fever. You need to protect yourself and also ensure you don't introduce bacteria into the doe's uterus so long plastic gloves are essential.

Digital thermometer, hot water bottle, with cover and kid size coats. Weak or low birth weight kids need to be kept warm. You need to be able to take the kids temperature to identify kids that are cold. They then need to be warmed up so surround them with warmth e.g. towels straight from the dryer, put in a garbage bag and place in a warm water bag, use a lamb warming box (can make one with a box and a hair dryer). Use a hot water bottle or heat lamp only if the kid can move away if too hot. Keep checking the kid's temperature . Once warm put a jacket on - can buy kid ones or use dog coats or cut one from an old large sock or jumper sleeve.

Note if the kid is so weak it has no sucking reflex and is more than 5 hours old don't warm until you have give glucose by an intraperitoneal injection as otherwise they will have convulsions and die. Keep looking for my future posts for more explanation. **Lubrication** is essential if trying to help with kidding. You can buy obstetrical lubricant from your vet or you can use human lubricant from a chemist/drug store. You must however get the lubricant behind the stuck kid so this means a large syringe with some tubing attached. Pass the tubing behind the stuck kid.

A stomach tube for weak kids is essential. Can either buy a red rubber one or use a human urinary catheter or even a piece of intravenous giving set tubing heated and inserted onto a large syringe. Keep head horizontal and watch it go down the oesophagus on the left hand side of the kids neck. This video will help

Junket tablets are rennet and useful for nutritional scouring in kids. Crush half a tablet and give quickly in a small amount of milk via a bottle. This will mean the rennet gets straight down to the 4th stomach. It must be given quickly or the milk with clot in the bottle.

Betadine for treating the naval cords of newborn kids. The naval cord has a vein and artery that goes directly into the kid's circulation and a tube to its bladder. This allows germs to crawl up and then circulate and settle into joints. Weeks later the kids get joint ill. Dipping the cords in iodine prevents this.

Quick-Eze It provides a calcium boost to does around kidding and often giving to does with a long labour. I am not sure what flavours are best and would love to know what goat owners have found.

Urine Test Strips. At this time of year many does are in late pregnancy in Australia so these urine test strips are essential. You can buy from a chemist (drug store) as the human form is what vets use. If does have ketones in their urine they have pregnancy toxaemia and need treatment ASAP with propylene glycol or glycerine plus injections from your vet.

Pregnancy Toxaemia This reference will remind you to get vet treatment for pregnancy toxaemia very early.

FURTHER READING

[Usefulness of clinical observations and blood chemistry values for predicting clinical outcomes in dairy goats with pregnancy toxaemia \(nih.gov\)](#)

Treating Pregnancy Toxaemia in sheep

[Advances in managing pregnancy toxaemia in sheep - Crilly - 2021 - In Practice - Wiley Online Library](#)



©Photo: Greenhaven Stud 2021

FEEDING NEW BORN KIDS

Everyone has their own way of raising kids but this is what I do.

How you decide to raise your new kids depends on many things, how much time you have, how much milk the doe has and whether or not you are milking the doe each day. I take my kids away from the does as it is just easier. The kids are better to handle and when I go to the show the kids don't try to drink from the mother. The years I have left Anglo Nubians on their dams have been a disaster-Feral kids to say the least. But I have found kids left on British Alpine dams are fine.

Colostrum is very important for newborn kids. A newborn kid must receive colostrum within it's first 24 hours after birth. Colostrum is life saving and full of protective antibodies.

When the kids are looking for a feed I always give them a drink from a bottle and using a Pritchard teat. I make sure each kid has had a drink of colostrum as soon as I can. Sometimes with very weak kids they are exhausted from being born and you just have to keep them warm and let them sleep. Usually when they wake up they drink. I always have colostrum frozen from the previous year as an emergency supply. Sometimes first-time mothers have multiple births and not enough colostrum. If you do get colostrum from another breeder make sure that the herd is tested CAE and JD free. In the past I have used cow's colostrum with success and nowadays you can buy colostrum powder.

I try to get at least 200 ml of colostrum into the kids in the first eight hours then I find they are fine. Many breeders leave the kids with the does for three days and let them drink. I find this doesn't work for me and the does are too stressed.

I start the kids on four feeds a day of about 300 ml each. I get them onto three feeds as soon as they can drink a little more. At ten days my Anglo Nubians are drinking over 500 ml a feed and I put them on two feeds a day. This has mainly because I have worked and can't feed at lunchtime. I also teach them to go onto a bulk feeder or feeding rack as soon as I can. Last year I had 8 kids from two does on the same day and it was pretty hectic until I got them drinking independently.

If you have does that have multiple kids they may not have enough milk and you need to supplement. I have used full cream milk powder from Aldi with success if you have only a few and mix it with the goat milk. If I need more powdered milk I use Palastart Shepherd which has been very successful for me. I also keep my bottles and teats really clean and use Milton Baby bottle cleaner or a weak bleach to clean bottles.

I feed my doe kids for 3 months and buck kids for 4. I get the kids nibbling bran and chaff as soon as I can. Because my kids are allowed out with the does the older goats teach them to eat hay and hard feed. Kids also need access to clean water.

I never give my kids more than 1500 ml of milk a day. This allows the rumen to develop properly. A big milker for the future needs a big rumen and if this is constantly filled with milk as a kid the rumen doesn't allow the adult to eat enough food to sustain her and make lots of milk.

I also give the kids their first 5 in 1 at four weeks and again four weeks later. Does are immunised before kidding to give some protection to the kids.

Bryony LePoidevin from Anama Nubians

VICTORIAN VIRTUAL SHOW BEST EXHIBIT



Roden Cache Verona

Victorian Virtual Shows Best Exhibit, Champion Milking Doe, Champion Toggenburg Doe and Best Vessel Overall went to Roden Cache Verona.

Sire: California Franchise Cache

Dam: Roden Spirit Vail

Bred and owned by Belinda Cardinal.

Judges' Comments:

Champion Toggenburg doe: First Lactation, the future is assured with this doe. Let's look at her in sequence. A powerful muzzle with erect ear set leads to a long neckline. The blend to the shoulder is smooth and muscular. The chest is deep and broad and we get a glimpse of a prominent wither. She displays a strong topline which runs into a level and long rump. The barrel is deep and well sprung with great depth for her age. Then the udder, such a high and broad attachment to the rear is stunning, the medial ligament is strong and supports the large udder beautifully, the teat placement is perfect. And true to that long rump, the udder attaches well forward in a smooth meeting with the barrel. This young doe has a charismatic and engaging style. Dairiness exemplified.

Victorian Dairy Doe of the Year 2019/2020



F107 Down Udder Amaia Q*

Sire: Down Udder Playboy's Sextape

Dam: Down Udder Rock the Night

Bred by: Alex Berry

Owned by: Bryony LePoidevin

Victorian Dairy Kid of the Year 2019/2020



Sire: Datadoo Lanos

Dam: Down Udder F107 Down Udder Amaia Q*

Bred by: Bryony LePoidevin

Owned by: Bryony LePoidevin

Behaviour change: An early indicator of disease.

Dr Lauren Conochie BVSc (hons)

Article reprinted in full from the Goat Health-Aid Scrapbook, Book: Problem Recognition Prevention and Cure & The Newsletter of the British Alpine Breeders Group of Australia. September 2005.

In this article I hope to provide a guide to how changes in a goat's behaviour and appearance may indicate illness. Veterinarians are trained to thoroughly examine an animal and take its history, then compare the information with our knowledge of diseases to develop a list of possible problems (the 'differential diagnoses'). We then consider which diseases are most likely and what further tests may be required to give a diagnosis. A prognosis and treatment plan can then be established. This process is applied to each case that we see. Often a firm diagnosis is not established, so knowledge, clinical judgement and experience are used to develop an appropriate plan of action.

The normal goat

The best way to recognise when something is abnormal is to know what is normal. Experienced goat-keepers will usually recognise problems early because they have a good 'feel' for what is normal. Spend time each day observing your goat – their posture, grazing behaviour, alertness and movement. Know the appearance of normal faeces. The healthy adult goat has a resting heart rate of 70 -90 beats per minute, takes 15-30 breaths per minute and has a rectal temperature of 38-40 degrees Celsius. Kids have a higher heart rate (90-150) and respiratory rate (20-40). Contractions of the rumen occur at a rate of 1-2 per minute.

Systemic signs of illness

Often the first signs of illness are behaviour changes such as sitting down more often than usual, reluctance to rise or lagging behind the rest of the herd when moved. The goat's appetite may be decreased and weight loss may be evident. On examination of the individual animal there are some general things to look for that indicate illness:

- The colour of the mucous membranes of the mouth. Normal is pale pink, look for paleness (white), Cyanosis (blueish) or jaundice (yellow);
- Dehydration (indicated by tacky mucous membranes, the tenting of the skin when pinched);
- Cardinal signs (observe the respiratory rate by the rise and fall of the chest, feel the heart beat behind the left elbow, and take the rectal temperature). A digital thermometer is a sound investment!
- Pain may be indicated by shallow, grunting respiration, getting up and down repeatedly, or kicking at the belly.

The following is a very general list of behaviour and signs that may indicate problems with different body systems:

Respiratory system

(for example, a lung infection)

- Increased respiratory rate
- Shallow breathing
- Increased respiratory effort (heaving, using abdominal muscles)
- Coughing, noisy breathing

- Grunting
- Breathing with mouth open (usually a sign of severe illness)
- Discharge from nose

Cardiovascular system

(for example, heart failure)

- Weakness
- Exercise intolerance (tiring quickly)
- Coughing
- Increased respiratory rate
- Pot belly
- Collapse

Gastrointestinal system

- Decreased appetite
- Diarrhoea/abnormal faeces
- Absence of faeces
- Kicking at belly (a sign of abdominal pain)
- Straining
- Abdominal distension (bloat) on left, right or both sides
- Inability to settle, getting up and down repeatedly

Nervous system

- Head tilt, asymmetry of face
- Circling
- Blindness
- Ataxia (incoordination)
- Paralysis
- Convulsions

Urinary/reproductive system

- Straining to urinate
- Repeated small squirts of urine
- Crystals or discharge on the hairs below the vulva

Providing a thorough history

There is a saying in veterinary medicine that “70 per cent of a diagnosis is in the history”. The following is a guide for things to take note of and information that should be on hand when calling the vet:

The Animal:

- Age
- Reproductive status (pregnant, lactating, last date of kidding)
- Last worm drench and vaccination, including names of the drenches used
- Any previous medical history

The illness:

- Date/time of onset
- Has the condition deteriorated/improved/much the same?
- Clinical signs and the sequence in which they occurred
- Any treatments you have given (have bottles/drugs on hand)

The herd:

- Any other animals affected
- Any recent dietary change (including change of paddock)
- Last introductions of new animals, form where and when

The information in this article is of a general nature, but hopefully has provided some useful clues as to where and what to look for if your goat is sick. I can't emphasise enough the importance of knowing "normal" and all its variations, so do practice examining your healthy goats as often as possible using the above lists as a guide.



Don't overlook dental health of goats!

By Dr Elizabeth Pannhill

From Capricorn Newsletter, Northern Hudson Valley Club, USA, November 1988 as printed in The Australian Goat World October 1991. Reprinted in full.

Dental problems are often overlooked when examining goats. Many times, dental disease becomes very serious before it is discovered. It is important to know what the teeth of healthy goats look like, Adult goats have 32 permanent teeth. These are eight incisors, or cutting teeth, on the lower jaw and 24 molars in the back of the jaw. Each side of the upper and lower jaw have six molars. The molars function is to grind the feed and the incisors are used to bite grass and shrubs.

Remember, goats have no upper front incisors. The gum line in this area is called the dental pad. At birth, the first three pairs of incisors are beginning to come through the gum line. Goats will shed, or lose the baby teeth every few months for the first two to three years of life. All permanent teeth are in place by three years of age.

The chart below lists the average time baby teeth come in and when they are replaced with adult teeth.

BABY TEETH	Eruption time	PERMANENT TEETH	Eruption time
First pair incisors	At birth	First pair incisors	16 months
Second pair Incisors	At birth	Second pair Incisors	21 months
Third pair Incisors	At birth	Third pair Incisors	27 months
Forth pair Incisors	1-3 weeks	Forth pair Incisors	36 months
Pre Molars	3 months	Pre Molars	17-20 months
		First Molar	5-6 months
		Second Molar	8-10 months
		Third Molar	18-20 months

The front incisor teeth can be used to determine the age of the goat. The permanent incisors are much wider and larger than the baby teeth. Once all of the permanent incisors have come in the age may be estimated by checking the amount of wear the teeth show. The incisors of a young goat will still have a rounded top edge. As the goat grows older these wears flat. The incisors of an old goat may be very short and spread apart. Some may be missing. Goats that are kept on sandy pastures may have teeth that are worn smooth at an early age.

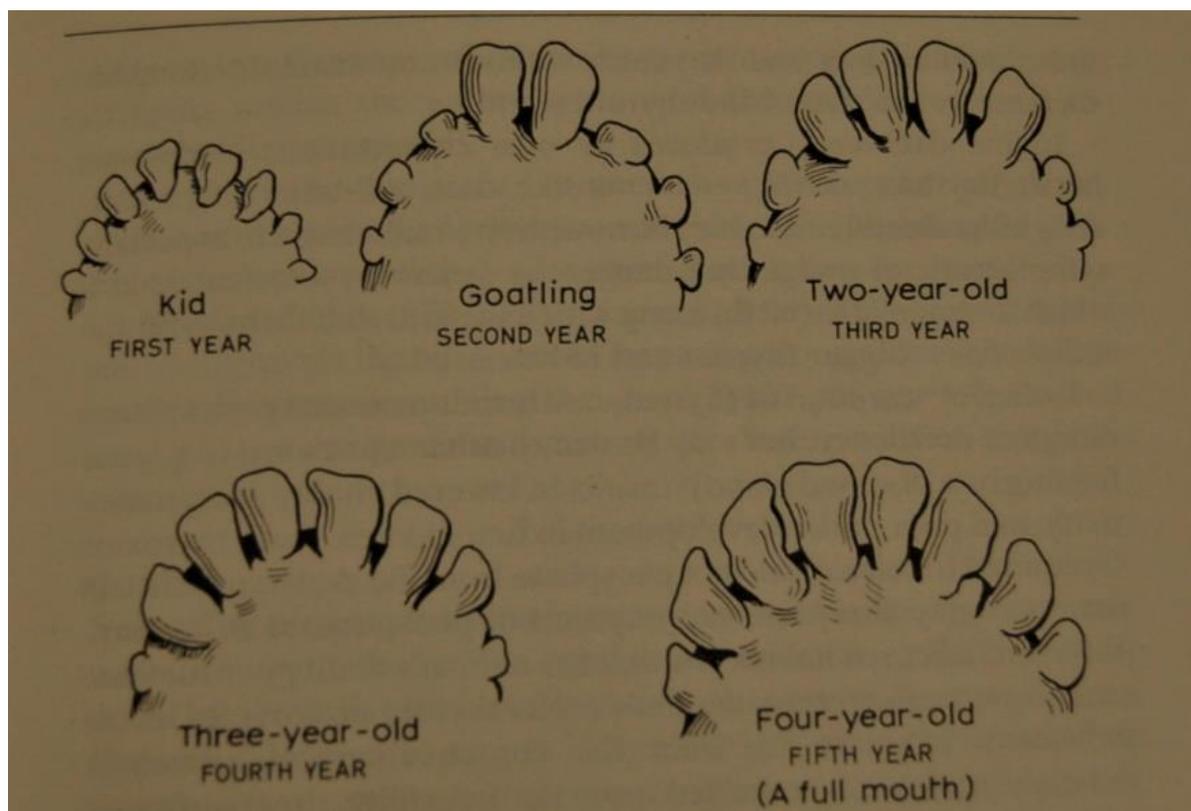
Gums may become swollen and painful when permanent teeth come in. Kids may go off feed or drop feed during this time. It is a good idea to check the mouth for other problems, however, the inflammation around a new tooth usually goes away in a few days. The baby teeth are probably swallowed or lost in the bedding, but you may find them in feeders.

Dental problems may result from excessive wear and from infection. A diet low in calcium and phosphorus may cause the teeth to be soft. Soft teeth will wear down sooner than normal. Once the cutting and grinding surfaces are smooth, the goat will have difficulty eating grass and hay and grinding feed. These animals will lose weight and will require special feed and pasture to survive.

Tooth infections and abscesses may start when foreign bodies become stuck in the gum next to the tooth, as an abscess increases in size, a swelling may develop on the outside of the jaw. Animals may drop feed while eating and dribble foul smelling fluid from their mouths. Abscessed teeth should be removed. Molar teeth may develop sharp edges which may cause sores to develop inside the cheeks. These sharp points should be filed or floated using a dental file.

A dental examination should be conducted on an animal with unexplained weight loss, having trouble eating or a swelling of the jaw. A mouth speculum should be used while looking at the teeth. Never attempt to examine a goat's mouth with your finger. Bites from the molar teeth can crush and cut fingers!

Many goats will require sedation for a good examination of their teeth. Even gentle goats become difficult when someone tries to look in their mouths. This is one reason we tend to forget dental problems.



David Mackenzie Goat Husbandry Fourth Edition pg.115



Photos: © Greenhaven Stud 2021

ARE YOUR GOATS AVAILABLE FOR SALE?

Put them on the DGSA Victorian Branch website

FOR SALE LISTING FOR VICTORIAN DGSA MEMBERS ONLY

Send your details, location, breed, CAE and JD status and contact details to the Secretary. No need to list individual animals for sale. The purchaser can contact you directly. Please make sure animals are of good breed type and in a healthy condition.

secretarydgsavic@gmail.com

BREEDER'S LISTING FOR VICTORIAN DGSA MEMBERS ONLY

We have limited space for a Breeder's listing so first in best dressed. Send your details, location, breeds, CAE and JD status and contact numbers to

secretarydgsavic@gmail.com



Photo: RODEN SYRACUSE SADE

What's happening with Shows

<u>Show 2021/2022</u>	<u>Status</u>
Rochester	TBA
Ballarat	2021 Cancelled
Geelong	2021 Cancelled
Bendigo	2021 Show Cancelled
Euroa	TBA
Wangaratta	2021 Cancelled
Berwick	TBA
Lilydale	TBA
Colac	TBA
Daylesford	Nov 2021 Currently going ahead
Kingston	TBA
Clunes	Currently going ahead
Noorat	Currently going ahead
Bunyip	March 2022 Currently going ahead
Orbost	March 2022 Currently going ahead
Yea	TBA

Poisonous Plants – Capeweed

The current season has been favourable to the growth of capeweed. When assessing a goats paddock its important to correctly identify any plants that may be poisonous to stock.

Mike Terry, District Veterinary Officer, Bairnsdale DPI in 2003 wrote:

“The plant will a certain times store high concentrations of nitrates principally in the mature stems and leaves. If weather conditions are right for inhibiting the actin the capeweed plant of the enzymes which convert nitrates to ammonia, then toxic qualities of nitrate can occur. When nitrate is eaten by ruminants, it is broken down to nitrite by bacteria in the rumen. When nitrite is absorbed into the bloodstream it binds with the haemoglobin in red blood cells to form a substance called methaemoglobin, which does not carry oxygen to the tissues.”

Dr Megan Tomas B.V.SC in her article on poisonous plants 2008 writes:

“Animals with nitrate or nitrite poisoning will have rapid breathing, brown or grey gums, tremors, staggering, and terminally convulsions. If signs are identified and treatment is initiated quickly enough, animals may be successfully treated with methylene blue.”

The Department of Agriculture Victoria has information to assist in identifying capeweed at the following link:

http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/sip_capeweed



Leaves and flowers of Capeweed

Photo: A J brown

Reference:

Grazing Capeweed – Mike Terry, Goat Health-Aid Scrapbook 2, British Alpine Breeders Group of Australia

Poisonous Plants – Dr Megan Thomas, Goat Health-Aid Scrapbook 1, British Alpine Breeders Group of Australia

Department of Agriculture Victoria Website, accessed 26th August 2021,

http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/sip_capeweed

Tips and Tricks - Handy Hints for Goat Owners

For the Kids

1. If a kid has a very thick umbilical chord it can be tied off at the tummy with dental floss then spray with methylated spirits or iodine spray. I like methylated spirits as it dries the chord more quickly.
2. A human babies bottle works well on new born kids. I always give the kids their first drink in a bottle. I milk some colostrum out from the doe first. You never have any trouble getting them onto a bottle if you do this.
3. If giving 5 in 1 or 3 in 1 make sure you use a new needle for each goat. I inject in the fold of skin behind the front leg less likely to cause problems.
4. Never feed cold milk to kids.
5. Make sure you keep bottles you feed kids with clean. I rinse out with cold water and then Milton Baby solution. You can you a very thin bleach solution. I soak my teats in between in this solution too.
6. Encourage kids to nibble concentrates and hay at an early age, the does will teach them to do this.

For the Milking Does

1. Don't attempt to increase milk by rapidly feeding more concentrates.
2. Don't milk your doe right out for at least three days, if you do you risk her getting milk fever if her calcium levels drop too low. An old trick is to feed some of her milk back to her to replace some of the calcium and minerals lost.
3. Suggested diet for milker from Mr. N King Veterinarian, Australian Goat Gems

6 parts crushed oats, 3 parts bran, 1 part soy or linseed meal, 1 tablespoon salt

Feed 500 grams per litre of milk produced plus a kg of lucerne hay

For the Herd

1. Never place fresh concentrates on top of old food.
2. For strains on legs a paste of washing soda and green mouthwash will cool and reduce swelling. You need to bandage the paste on.
3. Keep a diary and enter little details that crop up.

Bryony LePoidevin

Anama Nubians