

DAIRY GOAT SOCIETY OF VICTORIA SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020



“Are you my Mummy?”

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Editors note:

It is a great relief to be able to say that our bushfires have at last been contained! If you have been adversely affected, we hope you have been able to access support - the Victorian gov. website or DHHS website have helpful phone numbers and links if needed.

As we are coming into breeding season, if you would like to share thoughts on choosing bucks, or have any other ideas or photos to send in, please don't be shy - I don't bite!

Please also note the **Bendigo All Breeds Goat Expo** is coming up: 28th March, and exceptional prize money is being offered again at the **Branch Show** - page 7!
Carrie Florance



DGSA VICTORIAN BRANCH Inc.

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Are you on Facebook?? Follow us, Dairy Goat Society of Australia
and www.facebook.com/DGSAVic



Also, check out **Bendigo All Breeds Goat Expo - 28th March 2020!**

Bendigo show Judges Report : Judge's Report for the 2019 Victorian Branch Show

Bendigo Showgrounds 26 October 2019

It was a great honor and privilege to be invited to come judge the Victorian Branch Show. It was a cold, windy day but a wonderful venue inside of the Bendigo Showgrounds for the event in conjunction with the Bendigo Agricultural Show. Exhibitors from several states made the trip for the outstanding prize monies offered. All breeds were represented with the exception of Saanen and Australian Brown. There was only one Australian Melaan doe kid exhibited in the show to represent her breed. I found her to have good length of body and openness of rib. I hope in the future to have the opportunity to see more of the breed in full function! The Alpine division had few representatives but it was nice to compare as that is the breed that I enjoy at home in the United States. The Alpines were all young does with good vigor. The milking does were only recently fresh and not in high production to be as competitive as I'm sure they could be later in lactation.

As a judge for the American Dairy Goat Association for over 30 years, this was my first opportunity to judge in Australia. The show began with first lactation and second lactation or higher Best Udder/Vessel classes. These were interesting classes to judge first with all does full of milk and then milked-out, a rare opportunity in my experience, to see full function of the mammary structure. First and second placings in the First Lactation class were both LaManchas does that excelled in the structure of the mammary system having fore udders that were more securely attached and productive. The Second Lactation class was topped by a two year-old, Toggenburg doe that was also named Best Exhibit. Her mammary excelled the class in height and width of rear udder and correctness of teat placement and she milked-down ideally with excellent texture.



Overall, the Toggenburgs and British Alpines dominated the major awards for Overall Champion Milking Doe, Goatling, Buck and Best Exhibit. The Toggenburgs were of medium size but excelled in mammary structure and combination of general appearance strengths in feet & legs and levelness of topline. The Best Exhibit was the Champion Toggenburg doe, a two year-old, who was also the best 2nd or more lactation udder winner from early in the day. This doe excelled in her smoothness of blending in front end assembly, levelness of topline and had outstanding rear leg angulation. The runner-up/Reserve Champion Overall Milking Doe was a British Alpine that had a beautiful, angular bone pattern, a trait that I found in nearly the entire breed presented...the Toggenburg excelled the British Alpine in the mammary system for the edge that day.

The British Alpines were a very consistent group of dairy females from the milking does, goatlings to kids. Some of the milking does had quite large udders, but not the strength of attachments as seen in the Toggenburg breed. The Champion Overall Goatling and Reserve Overall Champion Kid were both British

Alpines and they had the same impressive dairy style as seen in the senior does. I greatly admired the feminine, dairy strength seen throughout the British Alpine breed that was exhibited that day.



The Nubian breed had some of the largest class entries competing. Quality breed character and body capacity substance was consistently displayed although not as productive in the mammary systems as some of the Swiss-type breeds. As seen in the milking championship photo below, the champion displayed excellent breed character about the head with an advantage in feet, legs & pastern strength over the reserve champion.



The Nigerian Dwarf breed had a small exhibition of less than 5 does; however, the champion & reserve champion milking does exhibited excellent levelness of topline, especially a correct rump structure (being level both from hip-to-pin and thurl-to-thurl). The breed was stronger in general appearance and body capacity than in the mammary structure or dairyness. It is very encouraging to see the breed beginning in Australia with sound general appearance.

The LaManchas were very interesting to see as they are a new breed to Australia. The champion milker was a milking yearling that had the best combination of general appearance strengths in legs, feet & topline with the correct structure to the mammary system and length of bone pattern advantage in dairyness. The reserve champion milker was very smoothly blended with a well attached mammary system. Overall I found the breed off to a great, seed-stock start with quality mammary systems that excelled in udder support, teat placement and rear udders that were high and wide.



Champion overall kid was the LaMancha for her smoothness of blending and substance of bone. The Reserve Champion overall kid was the British Alpine, another beautiful example of dairy strength, femininity and balance.



In the buck division, the competition was mainly juvenile bucks, few had reached maturity. The Champion buck was a yearling Toggenburg that topped the class in his correctness of feet & legs and smoothness of blending in the front end assembly.

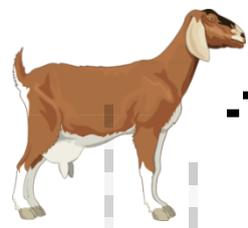


Overall it was a wonderful experience to be a part of, to interact with dairy goat producers and enthusiasts that share the same passion as I, only from the southern hemisphere. I encourage anyone who might be interested in United States dairy goat breeds or the American Dairy Goat Association to consider watching the ADGA National Show livestream online (June 21-26, 2020 in Grand Island, Nebraska USA) or come for an in-person visit, I'll show you around! More information and resources can be found at www.adga.org.

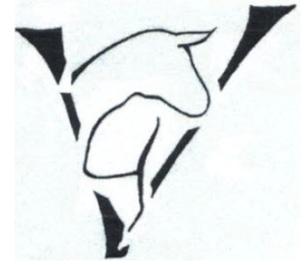
Thank you exhibitors and organizers for a fantastic Australian dairy goat show experience!

Sincerely,

Mark Baden, ADGA Advanced Judge USA



2020 VICTORIAN BRANCH SHOW
In conjunction with
Bendigo Agricultural Show Society
Saturday 24th October 2020



**We are delighted to announce for the third year
unprecedented Prize Money**

**We are also excited to have well known international judge Nick Parr
from the UK officiating**

MAJOR AWARDS:

BEST EXHIBIT

MINIMUM OF \$5,000*

CHAMPION MILKING DOES	\$1,000
RESERVE CHAMPION	\$ 500
CHAMPION BUCK	\$1,000
RESERVE CHAMPION	\$ 500
CHAMPION GOATLING	\$1,000
RESERVE CHAMPION	\$ 500
CHAMPION KID	\$1,000
RESERVE CHAMPION	\$ 500
BREED CHAMPIONS*	\$1,000
RESERVE CHAMPION	\$ 500

*If less than 5 animals of a breed are shown on the day the award will be \$500 for Champion and \$250 for Reserve Champion. Where no award/s are made for a particular breed or the lesser awards are made due to lack of numbers the "spare" prize money will be added to the total award for Best Exhibit.

The 2 best Udder Classes and the 3 Type and Production Classes will all have \$500 for First Prize, \$250 for Second Prize and \$100 for Third Prize.

Best udder overall \$250

All other classes will have \$100 for First Prize, \$50 for Second Prize and \$25 for Third Prize

The full Schedule of Classes and Entry Forms can be obtained from Rick Howard (dgexport@bigpond.net.au).

Goat accommodation together with Camping facilities for Exhibitors travelling long distances to the show is available on the showgrounds Please contact Rick Howard regarding this on 0419 564 701

**THIS IS A CAE/JD TESTED SHOW – EVIDENCE OF TESTING
WITHIN LAST 12 MONTHS MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRES**



Goat Health Corner

While most breeders are not Veterinarians, there are a multitude of minor and regular ailments and conditions in our goats that are treated safely and effectively either without, or before vet advice. This depth of information is often shared at shows and during visits, but rarely elsewhere except in fleeting social media comments. My hope is to give an avenue for this goaty knowledge to be shared, and encourage breeders to assist others. There will be a scenario of a goat health problem and the situation (loosely based on common issues), for your feedback and ideas as to the problem and solutions!

Please also send in any particular interesting scenarios you may have experienced if you would like thoughts.

Please note:

This is not professional medical advice except where stated. This is simply a sharing of knowledge, and should be treated as such. If you have a current situation beyond your knowledge, please consult professional advice.

Goat Health Scenario

Last edition: A maiden 2yo doe has kidded with twins this week. She seemed fine for the first few days, but her production has now dropped, her stomach is quite hard and almost a play-dough consistency, eyes are sunken and appetite has nearly disappeared. Gums and eyelids are normal colour, recently wormed, not scouring, not bloated. What could be wrong, and what should be done?

Problem? Quite possibly compaction and mild acidosis.

Solution? Olive oil to move the blockage, bicarb soda to neutralise excess acid, vitamin B complex to increase the appetite, and supportive nursing of decreased grain, access to warm water with molasses, and fresh leaves, fruit or vegetables with grass hay to support sufficient intake.

New scenario:

A 4 month old kid comes in with brown scours down her back legs, and mildly decreased appetite. Her temperature is normal, stomach is soft, eyelids are just a touch pale.

What could this be?



Junior Goat Detective

Hi Junior Members, and welcome to your section! If you have photos of your goats, stories about them, or questions to ask, send them in to appear here.

We would love to see your show experiences, new babies, and any tricks you may be teaching them.

My first goat when I was a Junior member was a complete scoundrel. To make matters worse, she had kidding troubles, and after a cesarean, her first doe kid was still born! I was not impressed. Two years later, my naughty Megs got in with the bucks - and she ended up having quads, one Anglo Nubian baby and three Toggenburg babies! She went on to have normal kiddings after that, but I'll never forget the lesson I learned - breed small or difficult kidding goats in really good condition so they have multiple kids, and feed mainly hay with very little grain the months before kidding so the babies aren't too big and chubby when they are born :)

We'll also be following a story, and you get to send in the answers!
If you remember from last edition.....

Billy Bloggs told his parents that the little boy goat kept bullying the little girl, and both of them kept scratching all the time. Mary got on the internet and found a local breeder. If you were the breeder she contacted, what would you have told her was wrong with the baby goats?

Answer: the baby boy goat needs to be desexed, and given a squirt with water from a spray gun if he keeps harassing his sister. Both baby goats should be treated for lice with Pestene or atomic (yellow dusting) sulphur.

It is mid summer now, and both baby goats are getting very big and energetic. Billy is still bottle feeding them, but they are getting pretty rough. His mum decides to call their breeder friend to see if there is anything they can do. What do you tell her?

