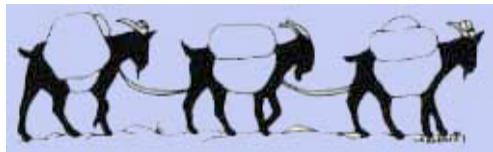


Goat Tracks



Journal of the Working Goat - Summer 2016

Until You Have Loved an Animal, Part of Your Soul Remains Unawakened.



Cove Lake

In the center of one of many breathtaking vistas in the White Cloud Mountains!

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Page 16: Seasons of Change, Richard Frates

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On Track with Goat Tracks

by Larry Robinson



Well, here we are on the brink of Summer hiking in Idaho. I am also wildly behind the power curve regarding this magazine. The magazine 'deadline due' messenger came along and kicked me solidly in the rear, and shouted, 'Get going, bucko!'

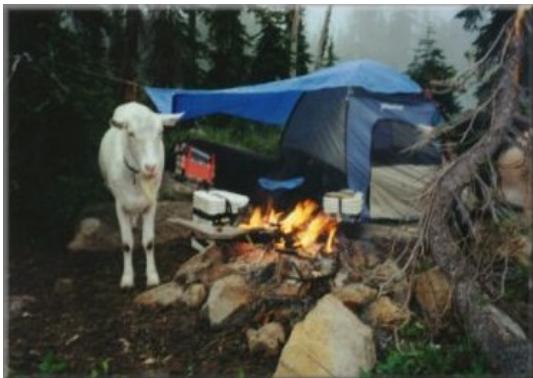
My personal road recently developed some very serious potholes. My urologist let me know that my prostate had joined the enemy, and was enthusiastically planning on sending me to join my parents. After a lot of teeth-grinding and a switch of urologists (because the first one wanted to do radiation, and I didn't want to go there), I ended up with a radical prostatectomy, and am now supposedly cancer-free (that particular operation, however, leaves one with some decidedly unpleasant side-effects, but any more explanation would be TMI, as my sister says. :-)). A very little while after that unpleasantness, my daughter who never could manage to separate herself from her 'druggie' lifestyle, succumbed to the shaky heart genes given to her by her mother's side of the family, and had a final cardiac event at 43. As my father-in-law from my previous marriage noted, 'a man's not supposed to have to bury his children'. And we're not. It was a devastating experience to say the least.

Hiking season, at least in parts of Idaho, has been open for some time, but my boat has sadly yet to leave the slip. Many reasons why, one above, but I did recently get out for a while with the goats last week, during a visit by my Tennessee resident sister.

Regarding the Shoshone NF FEIS, we received a very favorable decision from the Judge handling the case against Shoshone NF, and although the process is far from complete, the possibility of being able to get back into the Wind River range is remote indeed. More detailed information in the 'Lands Use' section of this magazine..

As it now stands: Most of the Wind River range is closed to goatpackers, as is some of the Inyo NF in CA. Also in CA, there are two other NF's re-accomplishing their land use plans, the Sierra and Sequoia (As of this date, I am not aware just what their exact plans are concerning goats). In Oregon the Wallowa-Whitman is progressing with their land use rewrite, and in that NF, their operative statement is, 'No goats in, or adjacent to Big Horn sheep habitat'. That pretty much takes in the entirety of the Eagle Cap wildness.

In Idaho, we just gained a 'Wilderness' designation for the Sawtooth, White Clouds, Boulder & Smoky Mountains. Not sure at this time where that one will go, but it is a lead-pipe cinch that goats will rise to the surface of that particular pond. It always seems to, as the nonsense myth of the danger of our goats is so firmly entrenched.



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1/2 page	3-1/2x9 or 7x4-1/2	35.00	105.00
Full page	7x9	50.00	150.00
Classified, per word, contact info counts as one word		.20	.60



I am always looking for folks to describe their goat-travels here in Goat Tracks. I have a lot of my stories on backlog, but you are going to get real tired of just reading about me! Please consider sending me a narrative of your adventures. I can edit like mad, but can't describe your travels!

Also; the mail room guy here at Goat Tracks central feels not unlike the Maytag repairman. He is dying to hear from the readers of the magazine, but as of late, the cobwebs are growing from his nose to his desk. :-)

Errata!: On the cover of the last issue, Spring 2016, is the earstwhile Uintas hiker identified as Eva Mara Bernhard. Her actual name is **Eve** Mara Bernhard. I do so love it when I am demonstrating stupid!



The rendy location, near Ukiah, OR
45.079792N, 111.893402W

Rendezvous 2016!

June 23-26

THE LATEST RENDY INFO & SCHEDULE

Things are gearing up for the NAPgA Rendezvous June 23-26 near Ukiah, OR! If you would like to attend, please [read here](#) for more information about the location. The [schedule](#) is now available, but please be aware that some things may change.

If you have good, useable items to donate to the [Country Store fundraiser](#) sale please remember to bring them! Also plan to buy! There are always some really cool things for sale that you won't find anywhere else!

Please remember that if you are bringing goats to the Rendy from another state, you must get a health certificate from your veterinarian! The destination address for the certificate is:

Umatilla National Forest
Forest Service Office
401 Main St.
Ukiah OR, 97880

The Forest Service requires certified weed free hay. If you need some, please contact [Curtis King](#) no later than June 17th so he can pick it up for you. It will cost \$13/bale.

If you can't attend the Rendezvous but still wish to help out in some way, you can mail auction items to [Curtis King](#), or drop them off with [Carolyn Eddy](#) if you live near her.

If you are interested in hosting a Rendezvous yourself, please read the [Guidelines](#) to see if this is something you could help out with.



A goat anxious to come to the Rendy!

Land Use Issues

*** Update on NAPgA Litigation Against Shoshone National Forest ***

Following Judge Winmill's February 2016 Order holding the Forest Service in contempt of court for using illegal scientific reports as the basis for eliminating packgoats on the Shoshone National Forest, NAPgA's legal counsel has been busy with additional court filings and settlement discussions with the Forest Service's legal counsel. In addition to holding the Forest Service in contempt, Judge Winmill also granted NAPgA's request for an award of attorney fees to compensate NAPgA's legal counsel for the hundreds of hours of time spent on litigation against the Forest Service. NAPgA submitted timekeeping records to the court to support an award of attorney fees, which the Forest Service would be required to pay.

Faced with the possibility of a hefty legal bill, the Forest Service finally reached out to NAPgA to discuss settlement of attorney fees and NAPgA's other requested relief—for the court to hold unlawful and set aside the Shoshone Risk Analysis of Disease Transmission (RADT) Report and related reports used by the Forest Service as the basis for eliminating packgoats on the Shoshone National Forest. Judge Winmill declined to rule on NAPgA's other requested relief in his February 2016 Order and instead deferred ruling on such relief until after the court was able to hold a status conference with the parties to discuss the issues involved. Currently, the status conference is on hold as NAPgA's legal counsel attempts to negotiate a favorable settlement with the Forest Service's counsel to decide the attorney fees the Forest Service will be required to pay as well as the fate of the Shoshone RADT Report and related reports.

In light of Judge Winmill's Order, NAPgA's legal counsel hopes that the Forest Service will agree to re-do its analysis of the risk of disease transmission between packgoats and wild bighorn sheep on the Shoshone National Forest using legitimate facts and science in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Considering the "speed of government," settlement negotiations are ongoing, but NAPgA is hopeful that the parties will be able to reach a settlement next month. Until then, stay tuned.

In Response To Those Who Would Throw Goats Out Of The Mountains...

Sent to Tucson News Now in response to their article about goats in the Catalina Mountains

As one who uses goats as a pack animal to help transport my gear in mountain explorations, the kinds articles that have been appearing in the national news outlets, implicating packgoats in the continuing die-offs that occur in Bighorn Sheep, never fail to cause me to grind my teeth. In anger? Yes, in part, but mainly because this entire house-of-cards, built on a goat's supposed risk, the supposed 'clear and present danger' that goats represent, is entirely built upon a supposition, a theory, a fear, that maybe, just possibly, goats can maybe, possibly harm Bighorn Sheep (BHS) the way that domestic sheep have. There is *NO* science to indicate that this fear-based prejudice is in actual point of fact, true. What little that does exist, is in its conclusion, classed as inconclusive. But never mind that, just in case, we are going to tell folks like me to just stay out of the forest. The *so-called* public land.

In actual point of fact #2, the packgoat cannot even be listed in the same class as a regular domestic goat that is used, for instance, to clear weeds from vacant land. The packgoat is an animal that is specifically imprinted on humans from birth, then socialized to a fault, to achieve the end result of an animal that wants to be nowhere else but with 'his human'. So there is virtually no chance that he is going to wander off and mingle with BHS. Our animals are vaccinated, health checked, blood analyzed & watched like a hawk. I look out on my goat pen 20-25 times each day, just watching, and noting behaviors. Why? Because any behavior that is not what I consider 100% normal, gets immediately investigated. We would never in any circumstances take a sick animal out in the woods... for practical reasons if none else. If one of my guys carries 30 pounds or so out into the mountains, and can't go any further while we are out there, who is going to carry it back out? In fact, if we have a goat that begins to demonstrate signs of being a 'lazy' goat, he may well never see the mountains again, either.

In point of fact #3, many of the folks that are using goats are doing so as a purely practical measure. They are old enough, or maybe even partially disabled, so that without their goats, they would not be able to access the wilderness. I am 75. I can hike a lot of miles with my goats, and do so annually, sometimes as much as 200 miles. Without my goats I probably couldn't do overnighters at all. I cannot carry a 45-50lb

pack a bunch of miles. My aged frame will not allow it.

I went to a goat as a pack ‘friend’, as the goat is not only the most environmentally friendly animal to take into the wilderness, but they are the most fun to be out with because of their incredible personalities.

I have to tell you that I deeply resent being targeted with these closures since I believe with all my heart that this entire BHS fear is not in any way justified. In your area, at least one individual has been deprived of his income as he used to guide with goats... at least until his permits got pulled so we could ‘protect’ BHS (who were being re-introduced into this area after 20 years or so of absence). Note well, as your article notes, that they are already fighting pneumonia in this herd. Without any indication whatsoever that a goat got it started. In fact, in all the cases of herd die-offs due to pneumonia, very seldom are they able to list the original cause of the beginning of the sickness. And in the entire time that BHS die-offs have been occurring, there has never been even one instance where the onset could be traced back to a goat.

But, nonetheless the government regulatory steamroller rolls on crushing any and all who stumble into its sights.

Larry Robinson

AZGFD: No pet goats, sheep in Catalina Mountains

By Monica Grimaldo, Multimedia Journalist, Friday, March 18th 2016
<http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/31515058/>
azgfd-says-no-pet-goats-or-sheep-in-catalina-mountains



TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - The Arizona Game and Fish Department is warning hikers against bringing domestic sheep or goats into the Catalina Mountains, citing a potential spread of disease.

Volunteers installed several warning signs Friday, March 18 at three of the city’s trailheads, including Pima Canyon, Finger Rock and Ventana Canyon. The signs advise hikers to leave their pet sheep or goats at home, especially while hiking in the Pusch Ridge wilderness area.

“We’ve received a report of one or more individuals trail walking with a goat,” said AZGFD spokesman Mark Hart. “We want this person to stop, and anyone else who has a pet goat, not to walk the trails up there because it puts our bighorn sheep population at risk.”

Hart said domestic goats and sheep, even without symptoms, can transfer diseases such as pneumonia and pink eye. He said the herd is dealing with a



pneumonia outbreak that has already claimed the life of about six animals.

“We don’t further infections,” Hart said. “Pink eye in itself is not fatal, but it can cause blindness in the bighorn sheep. If they can’t see, they can’t evade predators or work that rocky terrain.”

The U.S. Forest Service is helping the AZGFD with the initiative and is trying to decide whether or not to make bringing pet sheep or goats into the Catalinas illegal.

“We don’t want to do a major intervention with the bighorn sheep population in the Catalinas to save them from something like pink eye,” Hart said. “We’d rather people respect the process we’re trying to follow and keep domestic animals out of there.”

More information on the Catalina Bighorn Sheep Restoration project is available [HERE](#).

Another mountain lion killed for preying on bighorn in Catalinas

By Doug Kreutz Arizona Daily Star Updated May 13, 2016
http://tucson.com/news/local/another-mountain-lion-killed-for-preying-on-bighorn-in-catalinas/article_a466c84c-fd63-56e9-a3d2-19dc7c5c912e.html

Another bighorn sheep has been killed by a mountain lion in the Catalina Mountains north of Tucson — and the mountain lion deemed responsible has been killed by a hunter subcontracted with by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The May 2 killing of the lion brings the total number of lions slain for preying on Catalina bighorns to seven, including four this year.

An opponent of the lion killings said that, “beautiful predatory animals are being killed just because they are following their natural instincts.”

The most recent lion killing was a response to the April 28 death of a bighorn ewe, said **Mark Hart**, spokesman for the Game and Fish Department.

“The number of GPS-collared sheep known to be alive is now 37,” Hart said. “The total population is now estimated at 82” in the Catalinas, where an effort is underway to rebuild a bighorn herd that disappeared from the range in the 1990s.

The total population estimate includes animals released without GPS tracking collars, those whose collars have dropped off, and those born in the Catalina Mountains.

LION KILLING DECRIED

Dozens of readers have contacted the Arizona Daily Star — as well as wildlife officials and elected representatives — to voice opposition to the killings of mountain lions.

“I’m shocked that this is being allowed to happen just because someone wanted to artificially play Mother Nature.” said Tucsonan **Michael Hawkins**. “Beautiful predatory animals are being killed just because they are

following their natural instincts — unforgivable!

"I have contacted (U.S. Rep) Martha McSally and the Arizona Game and Fish Department about this," Hawkins said. Tucson animal advocate **Nina Lerner** said, "The lions have to eat. Why kill them? It makes no sense what they're doing. It's murder the way I see it."

Hart, of Game and Fish, said he tells opponents of the lion killings that, "the predator management plan was designed to be a temporary means to ensure survival of the bighorn herd."

As remaining GPS collars lose power and fall off bighorns, it will no longer be possible to learn immediately about bighorn deaths and initiate a search for the responsible mountain lions, Hart said.

Contact reporter Doug Kreutz at dkreutz@tucson.com or at 573-4192. On Twitter: @DouglasKreutz

Proposal to permit goats, sheep delayed 2 years

By ELIZABETH EARL, Peninsula Clarion, Posted: April 14, 2016
<http://peninsulaclarion.com/news/2016-04-14/proposal-to-permit-goats-sheep-delayed-2-years>

A controversial proposal to require owners of domestic sheep and goats in Alaska to permit their animals has been pushed back for two years.

Proposal 90, one of the more than 100 proposals submitted to the Board of Game for its biennial statewide review of game management policies, would remove domestic sheep and goats from the "clean list" and require owners to obtain permits for each animal. It would also set more requirements for fencing and disease screening.

The proposal, submitted by the Alaska chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, sought to protect wild sheep and goats from contracting diseases carried by their domestic counterparts. Transmission of diseases has caused crashes in wild sheep and goat populations in the Lower 48 in the past. Though there have been no outbreaks of pneumonia, the disease of the most concern, in Alaska's wild sheep and goat populations, it would be better to get out ahead of the problem before an outbreak occurs, according to the proposal.

The Board of Game heard the proposal at its March 24 meeting in Fairbanks and, after many public comments and a short deliberation, decided to postpone any decision on it for two years so the interest groups could work out a solution between themselves. Board chairman Ted Spraker said at the meeting that the spread of disease was a legitimate concern and Alaska has been fortunate so far. Throughout the public testimony, he said he has heard willingness from the two parties — the Alaska agricultural industry and the Alaska Wild Sheep Federation — to try to come up with a solution.

"I think there's a willingness for these folks to get together and work out a system," Spraker said at the meeting.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommended the board take no action because the Board of Game does not have authority over domestic animals, only over wild game. Bruce Dale, the director of Fish and Game's Division of Wildlife

Conservation, said the department will facilitate conversations between the groups as well as continue its research and screening.

"The department has long been concerned about the health of wild sheep, given the situations in the Lower 48," Dale said at the meeting. "We realize it's a much different situation here, the urgency has not been there, but we have begun screening."

The game board was flooded with comments opposing Proposal 90, most from members of the agricultural community in the Mat-Su Valley and on the Kenai Peninsula. Most opposed the proposal because they felt it would infringe on the rights of animal owners and because Alaska relies so heavily on imported foods, so limiting any agricultural activity would only make the state more reliant on imports. Others opposed the proposition because they say the science behind the proposal is faulty.

The Wild Sheep Foundation submitted a position paper saying that multiple scientific papers have shown wild sheep to be susceptible to diseases carried by domestic sheep and goats, particularly an agent that causes pneumonia.

The Bighorn Sheep Disease Research Consortium, which has been studying the disease in bighorn sheep in the Lower 48 since 2009, writes that the link between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep pneumonia is well known.

Several commenters took issue with that claim, saying the infectious agent is already present in the wild sheep, but the disease comes out when their immune systems are suppressed. There have been other studies that have shown contact alone is not enough for a wild sheep to become diseased, wrote Alaska Farm Bureau Executive Director Amy Seitz in a comment to the Board of Game.

Seitz said the Alaska Farm Bureau started the communication with the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation, but that the agriculture community was taken by surprise when the proposal was put in. She said the delay is workable and that the appropriate agencies and parties will work together.

"(The proposal) is now going through the steps that it should have gone through in the beginning," Seitz said. "Hopefully we'll come up with a plan that's different than Prop 90."

Kevin Kehoe, president of the Alaska chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, could not be reached for comment. In the Wild Sheep Foundation's comments to the Board of Game, he wrote that the proposal was not intended to target sheep and goat keepers.

"This is a traditional occupation and pastime done by fine people with no intended malice," Kehoe wrote. "We are, however, also strong advocates of science-based wildlife management in general, and for Dall's sheep in particular."

Dianna Taplin, the owner of Cad-re Feeds in Soldotna, said she did not know about the proposal until someone informed her and she approached the Fish and Game Advisory Committee in the central Kenai Peninsula to ask them to oppose the proposal. She said limiting ownership could inhibit independent food production, and wild sheep do not come in contact with domestic sheep and goats in Alaska in the first place because of the remoteness of their habitats and guard dogs that chase them out of pastures.

Taplin said the delay will give the proponents time to organize their case as well and that the money behind the hunting industry gives it an edge over the agriculture industry.

Paradise Ranch

Pack Goats

COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS

Paradise Ranch Packgoats will be delivering Packgoat kids to the 2016 Rendezvous in Oregon in late June and will be dropping some off at numerous locations along the route from Kansas. We are accepting orders and still have room on our order list at this time.

We have been breeding specifically bred Packgoats for over 18 years and offer 7 full blood breed, Alpines, Oberhasli, Saanen, Boer, Nubian, Toggenburg, LaMancha and a number of Hybrid lines like our 300 lb. Sabors.

We offer Saanens that will get near 300 lbs, 41". Our ever-improving genetics is second to none. We breed for Packgoat conformation and temperament and the results speak for themselves. Have we hit the mark? Are our Packgoats any good? Don't take our word for it, ask the ones who have purchased them, Larry Robinson, Charlie Jennings, Carolyn Eddy, Clay Zimmerman, Kent Daniels, Dave Suisse, Nancy & John Clough, Matt Lyons, Stephen Barnhill, Joe Delong, John Bamberg, Marc Warnke, Dean Kroon and many others.

Our specifically bred Packgoat kids sell for \$250 each and come with all vaccinations, coccidia treatment, wormings and a life time of support. All kids are hand raised, individually, no lamb bar, with many hours of hands on personal training when you receive them. A percentage of the proceeds from our sales will be donated to NAPgA's legal fund.

The "Best is Yet to Come"! Phone: (620)767-7888 or eMail: paradise27@tcelco.net.



Mudslide & Louis, Bridger-Teton NP, WY



Jethro
5 Days
old



Konza
29 Days



Marci & Olivia

From the Training Pen

(The Best of Rex Summerfield)

Positive training using a clicker



So far we have mostly touched on negative reinforcement when training your goat and for many things in the early stages of the goats training I think it is probably the quickest way to teach your goat some of the basics. The problem with negative training is that it only teaches the goat what "not" to do. To train the goat to respond to commands and perform a task we need to move on to a more "positive reward" method. Usually it is as simple as giving the goat a treat when it does what you are asking. An example would be giving the goat a treat when it loads in the trailer. Repeated load and treat exercises teach the goat that if it loads on command, it gets a reward which encourages the goat to do what you ask.

Recently a discussion started on the "Packgoat Forum" about clicker training. Clicker training is a system of teaching that uses positive reinforcement in combination with an event marker such as a "click" from a clicker. This was of particular interest because it is a proven way to train almost any type of animal to perform an innumerable number of tasks. The basics are that every time the goat does something you want it to do you make a "click" with the clicker and give the goat a treat. The goat quickly associates the click with the treat and eventually puts two and two together to figure out the click follows some desirable action it just performed. Timing is essential to this type of training and the trainer must be very careful to time the click so it immediately follows the desired behavior. Clicking several seconds afterward is old news to the goat and it will not associate the click or reward to the behavior. Just as important as timing is using a desirable treat. Ours are very partial to salted peanuts in the shell. Treating them with their favorite treat ensures the goats full attention to the training session.

To begin, all you need is a clicker. They are available online and at most pet stores. You don't necessarily have to use a commercially available clicker. You can use anything that makes a consistent sharp sound such as snapping your fingers or a whistle. Next decide on what the reward is going to be. If you are graining the goat then it is acceptable to use part of their daily ration as a treat if you want. Obviously the goat will respond better if it wasn't just fed, so

timing your training sessions for when the goat is a little hungry will help. Many goats will be very intense during the training and may not respond well to pets and scratches. Their focus will be on the reward and trying to figure out how to get it.

If your goat seems to be losing interest in the training then you may need to make the sessions shorter or find a more desirable reward for the goat. Clicker training is about building a relationship with your goat. You are teaching it what you want and in return it learns that following your commands is actually stimulating and rewarding. If the goat is not in the mood for training, then it is better to wait and try later than to try and push it and create a negative problem.

I think the most useful thing to teach first is Target Training. Basically you are teaching the goat to move to and touch a target. Most people us a red ball or some other obvious object. For the purposes of this article we are going to assume that the target is a ball. Start by touching the ball to the goat's nose. As soon as the ball makes contact with the goat's nose, give a click on the clicker followed by an immediate treat. Take your time and repeat this step over and over. Depending on the goat, the association that touching the ball results in a treat should not take too long. When you notice the goat reaching toward the ball as you move it in, hesitate and let the goat complete the final few inches to the ball. As soon as it touches give an immediate click followed by a treat. Repetition is the key. When the goat touches the target, cue the goat with the click and give it the treat. Soon the goat will begin walking forward to touch the ball. Then it will follow you to touch the ball. Building on this you can easily see how getting the goat to come when called, walk beside you, load into a truck or trailer and many other things can easily be accomplished with positive training. You will eventually leave the ball out of the session and reward the goat for coming and touching your hand for example. Clicker training is a great way to teach the goat to do anything it is physically capable of doing. Break the behavior into baby steps an teach the goat one step at a time building on the steps before it. SeaWorld doesn't train a dolphin to jump in the air and do a twisting back flip in the beginning. They start by teaching it to lift its head out of the

water to touch a ball on a stick. Then it has to lift it higher and higher to receive the reward until it is jumping completely out of the water to hit the ball. The whistle is the cue and the fish is the reward.

I think it is desirable to add voice commands as well. For example if you are teaching the goat to come to the ball, then tell it "come". When it responds, click and reward. If you want it to jump up on the milk stand then tell it "up" before moving the ball into position on the stand. Do these over and over until they are ingrained in the goats mind. "Come" means go to the person who said come. Click and treat. It is as simple as that. If the goat relapses then take a couple of steps back and start again. After many repetitions, you can gradually reduce the frequency of the click/treat when the pet comes on cue. Instead, gradually start rewarding the goat with something else the pet likes, a scratch in a favorite spot or a rub down. Never call the goat and then do something unpleasant. Eventually the need for the clicker will diminish and the goat will respond to the command because it has been trained to do so.

There are as many methods to clicker training as there are trainers. Read as much as you can and see what works for you.

See you on the trail!

Rex Summerfield

No kidding! Meet the black and white British goats rarer than pandas

BY Jim Hardy, 19 APR 2016,

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/no-kidding-meet-black-white-7786646>
Although they are yet to be named, these little ones are an important addition to a dwindling breed of British goats



The black and white Bagot goats are an exciting birth for rare animal supporters

These adorable kids aren't just the cutest goats around, but they're also rarer than PANDAS.

The Bagot goats, born on a Lincolnshire farm, are an endangered

species, so a double birth is a cause for celebration.

The Rare Breed Survival Trust estimate that there are only between 100 and 200 breeding Bagot females left on the planet.

M • News • UK News • Rare animals

In comparison, it's thought there are 250 pandas in zoos and collections with another 1,800 to 3,000 surviving in the

wild, says at Rand Farm Park, near Wragby, Lincolnshire.

Read more: [Meet Hobo the Goat who think he's a dog](#)

But staff are having to do rather less to rear these kids as they simply settle in quietly with their mum.

The first account of the breed is of a herd at the

Blithfield Estate in Staffordshire owned by Sir John Bagot in 1389 but the exact origin is unknown.

One theory for the arrival of the breed in Britain was that in 1380 King Richard II gave the herd to John Bagot.

An alternative theory, using DNA profiling, suggests that the breed originated from Portugal and travelled by boat with the

Bagot goats are dwindling, John of Gaunt army when they were returning from battle in the Castile region of Portugal.

14 Goats In 1 Taxi Land 5 Men In Trouble

By: KARISHMA DIPA, 19 May 2016

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/14-goats-in1-taxi-land-5-men-in-trouble-2023479>

Johannesburg - Police officers patrolling a quiet street in Meyerton, Midvaal, thought their eyes were kidding them when they found 14 goats packed into a minibus taxi.

The bizarre discovery, made at around 1.40am on Tuesday in Pierneef Street, landed five men behind bars.

Images of the stolen goats, which have since surfaced on social media, show some of the animals standing backwards in the front seat of the taxi. The rest were packed into the back of the vehicle as the seats had been removed.

Police spokeswoman Constable Maria Letsele told The Star that officers were doing a routine patrol when they stopped three vehicles travelling together: a white Hilux bakkie, a black Volkswagen Jetta and the taxi.

While questioning the group, the officers quickly discovered the livestock inside the taxi.

Letsele said the driver and others with him in the vehicle could not justify why the animals were inside the vehicle.

The five men, who are from Soweto and Kliprivier, have been arrested and charged with stock theft.

Those inside the Jetta and the bakkie fled the scene.

The taxi has since been seized, but Letsele said the owner of the vehicle was unknown and it had not been reported as missing.

Meanwhile, the 14 goats have since been returned to their owner, who is from Sherman Park in Meyerton.

An Ekurhuleni man was last year sentenced to 80 years in prison for stealing about R2 million worth of cattle and goats in Limpopo and North West in July and August 2013.

The Vet's Corner

Separating The Sheep From The Goats Dr. Lauren Hall Ruddell

Ever pick up a mineral block or supplement that said 'for sheep and goats'? Well, just the fact that sheep come first annoys me. Never mind, that's just me. When tired, dusty, and fairly odiferous from a 2 week goat packing expedition, I can be petulant. Especially when traveling with a bunch of pack goats and thinking I had enough minerals for the whole trip, only to find that on the way home from an out of state journey I actually don't and what little I have left they are eating like candy. I then end up stopping at places like Murdoch's and other farm/ranch feed store joints looking for free choice minerals formulated for goats. Just enough to make the next 2 days of travel cheerier for everyone is the goal.

Sadly, at the big chains the options available will usually be minerals/supplements/blocks labeled 'formulated for sheep and goats'. This is baloney because you can't have it both ways, it's either one or the other. Now, on a pack trip it is a minor inconvenience, so I just get the stuff and call it good. There is nothing in these offerings that will hurt your goat short term. It's more an error of omission than an error of commission. But for the long term husbandry of your precious pack goats, this sheep/goat nutritional twinship thing can be more than just a big ag industry annoyance. These 'similar' species are very much not the same. So why does the feed industry do this silly thing so often? Well frankly, it's because more people in the US buy sheep supplements than goat supplements. Therefore, in the interest of increased sales (just add goats to the label and voila! get more buyers than for sheep alone). However, this means copper must be left out of these products or is present in quantities greatly inadequate for goats. While copper is essential for both goats and sheep, it can be also be easily poisonous to sheep.

Copper is required for normal iron metabolism for both species, and for the integrity of the central nervous system in both. It is necessary for good coats in both. However, sheep (especially wool sheep) tend to sequester copper in liver, resulting in toxicity from fairly low levels of ingestion. Goat livers just don't behave this way. They do, however, have specific metabolic requirements to prevent deficiencies or toxicity.

Goats require almost as much copper as cattle and



horses. Nevertheless, feeding a steady supply of minerals formulated for those species may result in copper toxicity in goats. Yikes! So you vow to stay away from those too. You, the earnest pack goat mom/dad are now determined to provide only the highest quality, goat specific, free choice mineral blend with just the right amount of copper. This will insure great coats, good immune systems, great nerves, and strong bones, right?

Probably, unless you live in an area where you are pasturing or feeding purchased hay high in copper antagonists (minerals which can substantially negate the beneficial effects of copper supplements administered in 'normal' amounts). Uptake and absorption of copper can be hindered by the presence of minerals such as molybdenum, iron, manganese, cadmium, lead and sulfates. For instance, if a chronic copper deficiency is triggered by an abundance of molybdenum in pasture or hay, you may notice your goat/goats with a very bleached out look to their coats in some places or a burnt umber color where the hair should be black. A 'fish tail' look (hair missing at the very tip of the tail) will usually occur. This can sometimes happen despite your regular offering of good quality, free choice, copper enriched, goat formulated minerals. For some goats this can eventually become life-threatening. Supplementing additional min-



erals or even straight copper boluses orally may not save its life. Just as with selenium, in order to raise the level quickly, injections may be necessary.

Photo of a doe with copper deficiency courtesy of the farmers at Noodleville. Note the coarse coat and fish tail.

Well...kinda depends on where you live. For instance, in the western US, soils tend to be generally adequate in copper, but many places are also quite high in iron (much more so than say, the Midwest). And as for molybdenum, well there are parts of California, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and particularly Nevada where the levels in your hay or pasture could routinely cause recurring copper deficiencies in your goats. A pretty good site to visit to get a general idea of the mac-

ro and micro mineral levels for wherever you live in the US is http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/1270/pdf/PP1270_508.pdf.

Does feeding a formulated goat ration solve the problem? Maybe. Check the labels and consider your packer's dietary habits and your feeding regimen. If they will be eating this ration 7 days a week long term, then absolutely check the label. If your goat's have no dietary choice in the matter, to prevent copper toxicity be sure that a "full feed" does not more than 15-20 ppm of copper. Free-choice loose minerals might be as high as 1500 ppm in copper, but since they will help themselves to it when they feel the need, the potential toxicity chances are greatly reduced. Conversely, if you do find that you do live in an area where copper antagonists of one kind or another are present in abundance in the soil, consider a slow release product like Copasure (tiny copper rods in a bolus form).

So the moral of this story is to stay away from anything labeled for 'sheep and goats' (or cattle and horses, except temporarily), know the trace mineral properties of your local feeds, and seek out the mineral blends or nutritional drenches that are specific to Caprines, not Bovines, Equines, or Ovines.

How Goats' Milk Is Changing The Lives Of HIV Positive Children

Nobhongo Gxolo, 04 FEBRUARY 2016

<http://www.health24.com/Medical/HIV-AIDS/Nutrition-and-HIV/how-goats-milk-is-changing-the-lives-of-hiv-positive-children-20160204>

A food security and nutrition programme is making use of a herd of goats to improve the health of most HIV positive children at a school

health24 HIV/Aids

A herd of goats has helped to improve the health of children at Vhutshilo Mountain School in Tshikombani village in Vhembe in Limpopo.

The goats were introduced by the school after staff from a local organisation, the Centre for Positive Care (CPC), saw that children at the school, many of whom are HIV positive, were not getting enough nutrition at home. In addition, local HIV positive mothers were not breastfeeding their babies because they were afraid of infecting their babies.

"The goats' project is about food security and nutrition. Women living with HIV were struggling with breastfeeding their children because they were afraid of infecting them since the virus can be passed on in the milk," says Khathu Nemafhohoni, the school's outreach co-ordinator.

"We learnt that goat's milk was more nutritious than formula, which is not always available at the clinics

and is expensive to buy. So we did some research and spoke to farmers to find out more about goat's milk.

"We then got a goat so that the milk it produced could be used to feed the children as well as to sell for an income. Good nutrition is especially important for children especially those living with HIV. Goat's milk is far superior in this regard to cow's milk."

CPC co-founder Susie Cooke says that caregivers of HIV positive children were given a mother goat with the understanding that its first kid had to be given to another caregiver. A small herd of goats stays at the school, and the school children love the milk on their morning porridge.

But the project has been more difficult than the team anticipated. The team had to learn a lot about breeding and taking care of goats, which was completely new territory.

"The initial goats were bought from another area and it was difficult for them to acclimatise," said Cooke. "They ate the bark off trees and subsequently died, and often got into the vegetable garden."

A good Samaritan donated money for fencing and to help with the running of the project, which helped a lot.

Another insight the Vhutshilo team learnt was that a Swiss Alpine ram for breeding would lead to the production of good quality milk.

"Initially we were worried about inter-breeding but we learned that you can use a ram for breeding for at least four years before you need to bring another one in," said Cooke.

Besides the goat project, every year Vhutshilo holds workshops on how to make food gardens for caregivers and their children. To date, the children work on 30 home gardens with the assistance of their caregivers when necessary. Seedlings from the school nursery generate an income for the school and the gardens also help to put food on the table.

Food security threatens numerous households in the area but Vhutshilo found a solution in their own backyard. The goat's milk project, together with community gardens have started to shift the food security balance and made for healthier eating, which is especially important for people living with HIV. - Health-e News.

**This article was produced in collaboration with Oxfam Australia and its partners.*

NAPgA Members, Making a Difference

Cascade Packgoat Club Community Affairs

The Cascade Packgoat Club participated in OSU (Oregon State University) Pet Day again this year.

Pet Day is organized by the veterinary students at OSU and is a very popular event. This year the weather was wonderful; in the 80's and the turnout was huge. We always get a lot of attention and questions. Also get to hear a lot of reminiscing from people about when they were young and had goats.

My favorite this year was a Grammama who sat a bit in one of our chairs and told a story involving her Dad's milk goat and her straw hat! I believe she said she was 6 years old at the time!

There also were some soccer play off's happening yesterday so there were lots of teams of teenage girls and they all loved our new kids Harley and Hershey. My favorite comment I overheard from them in passing was "I love goats, they are so chill". I guess chill is a saying with the young people?

The very best laugh of the day was a boy about 3 who called the baby goats, goats, and then went on to call Little Joe a cow (Joe is black and white) and Oliver a horse (Oliver is colored like an oberhasli). His day said "city boy"!

Michael and Stephie Powell brought their big Saanen boys Sam and Hawkeye, and gave cart rides. That is always a big hit with the kids. It was a busy day, but we did get to enjoy some visiting as a club and we always get to see lots of pets. And for sure every breed of dog there is. :-)



Soccer girls lovin on Hershey and Harley

Curtis King., NAPgA Member, is out and about, and promoting Goat Packing!



Curtis King

Promoting goat packing today at the REI store in Kennewick WA.

" Long Live The Pack Goat "

Curtis King



Curtis King

Sasquatch my five year old Alpine was a big hit at the Pack Goats 101 seminar- REI in Kennewick WA last night. Special Thank You to [Taffy Mercer](#) Columbia Basin Pack Goat Club for orchestrating and organizing the event. Thank you Debbi and Eldon Otta and [Lori Woodside](#). Education and awareness is key to the future of goat packing.



Special set of wheels sends injured Spring Grove goat on road to recovery

By WLWT Digital Staff



<http://www.wlwt.com/news/special-set-of-wheels-sends-injured-spring-grove-goat-on-road-to-recovery/39943164>

1 of several goats attacked by a dog is taken in by animal sanctuary

Several goats were attacked by a dog at Spring Grove Cemetery in March. One goat died.

The goats were part of a program to clear underbrush in parts of the cemetery.



A dog was caught on surveillance video breaching the electric fence around the goats, allowing for access to the animals.

One of the injured goats, 5-month-old Curley, was sent to a farm animal sanctuary in hopes of a recovery.

Curley got entangled in the 7,000-volt electric fence the night of the attack and suffered a broken spine and damaged hips. The farm said her legs were basically non-functioning.

Sunrise Sanctuary shared video of Curley in the wheelchair being used to help her heal. The sanctuary said Curley will soon need a wheelchair with four wheels.

Curley is also receiving therapy at Ohio State University. Her journey can be followed on the [Sunrise Sanctuary Facebook page](#).

WLWT has not received word on the status of the other goats. Curley was the only one taken in by the sanctuary.

Mobile Goat Movie Here: <http://www.boiselarry.com/goatracks/downloads/wheeledgoat.mov>

Lonesome lamb finds new best friend in baby goat

By Kristen Hampton, Reporter , Monday, April 11th 2016

<http://www.cleveland19.com/story/31694187/lonesome-lamb-finds-new-best-friend-in-baby-goat>



INDIAN TRAIL, NC (WBTV) - Most people can relate to being pretty lonely at some point in their lives - a time when a good friend is really all you need to make your life a little better.

Patches the lamb isn't a person, but he found himself in the same predicament after coming to Carolina Waterfowl Rescue (CWR), a local animal sanctuary and rescue in Indian Trail.

"He had digestive issues and we had to take him to the vet right away," said Jodi Jackson, a volunteer for the rescue.

Patches was quickly on the mend after getting much needed medical care, but he found himself a lonely lamb.



"He didn't have anyone here his own size to play with," Jackson said.

Carolina Waterfowl Rescue put out a call "for friends" on their Facebook page and soon found a great candidate from another animal sanctuary.

The Triangle Friends for All sanctuary got in touch and had two goats - a mother and son - who needed a forever home. The goats quickly made their way to CWR.

The younger of the goats was just a kid named Lil' Joe. As soon as he was introduced to Patches, a lonely lamb there was no more.

CWR recorded their first meeting and the video is something that is sure to make you smile.

"They don't go anywhere without each other now," Jackson said.

They spend their days eating, sleeping, and mostly, playing with each other. Between gentle head-butts and chasing around the sanctuary, it's clear to see these two were meant to be besties.

A baby goat and a lamb have found their forever homes, and their forever friends.



The rescue is looking to build a separate shelter and play area for the new friends to have plenty of room to run around in. If you'd like to help with donations, you can visit the [CWR Facebook page](#).

Fun video here: <http://www.boiselarry.com/goatracks/downloads/patches-littlejoe.mp4>



Speaking of 'Best Buds'

Blind Goat Forms Unbreakable Bond With Fellow Farm Animal

abc NEWS

By STEVIE BORRELLO Mar 2, 2016

<http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/blind-goat-forms-unbreakable-bond-fellow-farm-animal/story?id=37344985>

Marcia the goat is blind. Her fellow goat companion, Maurice, is not only a great friend but a great help.



"It was actually perfect," Susie Coston, national shelter director at Farm Sanctuary, told ABC News about the special friendship. "They both wanted somebody and they were crying and crying to get to each other."

Marcia was born blind and was rescued by Farm Sanctuary in Orland, California, on May 3, 2015, when she was about eight weeks old. "She was constantly wanting somebody and crying a lot," Coston said.

Farm Sanctuary has been rescuing abused and unwanted farm animals since 1986.

Goats are herd animals, Coston explained. They panic when they are away from their herd and Marcia was never with anybody, "so I knew she needed somebody," Coston said.

A couple months later Maurice came along.

He was only six weeks old when the sanctuary rescued him on July 21, 2015. Coston explained how Maurice was "perfect for Marcia" because he was still young and wouldn't dominate her and he did not have horns. "Goats play really rough, but they can be bullied if they don't know each other," she added.

But the two meshed together right away and have been inseparable ever since.

Maurice will guide Marcia, who leans on him every step of the way whenever they go into a new area. Coston explained how the two goats "talk back and forth a lot."

"Marcia will follow Maurice wherever he goes," Coston said. And "he just loves her," she added.



Maurice

The two goats are not the only companions at the sanctuary. Coston said it is very normal to find animals becoming buddies with the other rescued animals. One case is with a female goat that always hangs out with a herd of sheep, and is "obsessed with them," Coston said.

"They don't have a rhyme or reason," for choosing these companionships, Coston explained. "They're kind of like us. They pick out who they want to hang out with."

As for the two goats, they "live around 10 to 15 years, so they can live a nice long life together," Coston said. "It will be nice to see how their relationship grows."



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In my frequent forays into the files that make up the GT Archives, I have come to the conclusion that the only reason that everyone doesn't have a copy of this information is that they just don't realize how completely entertaining lots of this stuff is. There have been some great writers for GT over the years!

Seasons of Change

Richard Kaylena Frates

Spring has sprung and the goats have spring in their step -- well, not all of them. Some of them are clunking around on overgrown hooves neglected due to the frigid Idaho winter. Getting out into the sunshine, I realized that the time had come for the semi-annual trimming of the hooves, or as my children refer to it: wrestling season!

Not one of our goats enjoys getting its hooves trimmed. Oh, I do have one that lays still after I drop her on her side, but that's mostly because she's obese and can't get up without assistance. I used to try to trim their feet while they stood, but they usually managed to pull away from me after I had trimmed just one side, so then they ended up running in wide circles, as if they had oversized tires on one side. Though amusing, dizzy goats make bad companions, so taking them down to do a thorough trim job becomes necessary.

Once a goat is seized, it makes a horrible racket! You would think that I was using the hoof shears to skin them, not trim them! This fuss causes the other goats to seek their own exits and head for the thickest briar patch they can find. Numerous holes have appeared in my fences due to these sudden herd migrations.

To prevent further fence perforations, I have now begun to involve my children in the chore. Their job description is to keep all the goats in one place, and to help me catch them when necessary, which is almost all the time! What they actually do is reluctantly stand around and offer words of advice and encouragement. Two of my sons, wrestlers in school, consider themselves experts in wrangling goats.

"Hey, Dad," Qaden offered. "Grab both far legs and pull. That goat will go down easy."

"I already know that!" I hollered back. I executed the takedown, but as soon as I reached for my shears, the dang thing scrambled back up again!

"Put 'er in a headlock," Dennis said. "But watch out for the horns!"

I threw my arm around her neck, and using her horns for leverage, slowly twisted her front end to the ground. I went right along with her. Her back end stubbornly refused to follow, and in fact it actually wiggled around toward my head.

"Grab its legs!" Dale shouted.

"I would if I could see!" I returned. "She's sitting on my glasses!"

Dale exclaimed, "I thought that you had them on!"

"I do have them on!" I called back. "That's why I can't see!"

"That's a reversal," Dennis said. "You're losing a wrestling match to a goat!"

I had to let go of her so she could get off of me. Then I dove after her and seized a leg. She managed to pull free of my grasp, and then unexpectedly turned and head-butted me in the chest. I flopped over on my back and the goat ran and hid among the other goats, who were exhibiting concern with my actions.

"All right!" I called. "One of you boys come help me with these goats."

Dennis walked over and grabbed a goat by a horn. "This is how you should do it, Dad." He reached down and grabbed a hind leg and pulled. The goat hopped around until Dennis went to complete the takedown. He flipped her over, but her momentum took Dennis with her, and the two stopped with the goat laying on Dennis' chest. "Oh ho!" I exclaimed. "Looks like she pinned you! Is that how it should be done? Figure Four! Put 'er in a Figure Four!"

Dennis looked at me and said, "I don't think you realize what that would do to me!" He pushed the goat off and then rolled her onto her side, keeping her there with a headlock. I jumped in to trim her feet. At the first cut, she squirmed and kicked. I took one in the stomach!

"Dennis," I moaned, "Why don't you straddle her and (pant, pant), then she won't be able to kick me!"

We managed to get through a number of the goats in this fashion. Dennis grabbed Ghost, the alpha pack goat, and went to put him on the ground. The strength which made Ghost good for packing, made him bad for wrestling. He was mighty strong. He looked at Dennis to say, "What are you pulling on my legs for?" Seeing that Ghost wasn't about to be laid down without assistance, I came over and pushed on Ghost while Dennis held his legs still. FLOP! I grabbed a foot and inspected it. It hardly needed any trimming at all! All the trail work had kept his feet worn down. I snipped a little here and there, and was about to tell Dennis to release the goat, but Dennis began to howl, "Aghhhh! He bit me!" Sure enough, Dennis underestimated the pack goat's tenacity, and had not secured his head. Dennis got up in a real hurry, with Ghost egging him on.

"Why are we doing this now?" Dennis asked, rubbing his backside.

"The goat buyer is coming by this afternoon to buy a few of our extra mouths-to-feed," I said, "and I figured that these goats might bring a better price if their feet are in good shape. Now grab that saw over there. The feet on this last goat are really overgrown!"

By the time the goat buyer showed up, we were pretty busy counting our injuries. We had an assortment of bruises, scratches, scrapes and nicks on various parts of

our anatomy. The buyer stared at us and said, "You look like a desperate bunch! What happened?"

I replied, "Well, I wanted these goats to have good footwear for their next phase in life, so we dragged them down and trimmed up their feet!"

The buyer just shook his head. "Well, I'm sure that the butcher will be real grateful for that, 'cuz the next phase of their lives will be the last one. I'm haulin' them right to slaughter!"

After we saying goodbye to the unfortunates, I turned to Dennis and asked, "Do you think they deserve to go to slaughter so soon?"

Rubbing his still tender hindquarter, Dennis replied, "Definitely. Before they forget what they did to us!"

=====

One of the goats that we sold was Ghost's best buddy. This buddy was half-blind and as stubborn as the proverbial mule, so I rid myself of his poor habit of balking at fictitious trail monsters. I'm sure he will serve well as a walking weedeater, or a companion to some potatoes and gravy!

The next day, I entered the goat pen to feed the goats, but on the way out, I couldn't fit through the gate. I panicked! I had heard of sudden weight gains, but this was ridiculous! Then I realized that I wasn't alone under my coat! I opened my unzipped coat to find Ghost clinging to me like lint on a wool suit!

He looked up to ask, "You're not leaving me out here alone are you?"

"Now Ghost," I began, "life is full of changes, and --"

"Spare me the birds and the bees, Buster!" Ghost butted in. "Besides, I'm the one that taught you all that stuff anyway. I just don't want to be left out here all alone!"

"Alone!" I retorted. "There's thirteen other goats in here!"

"Yeah, but none of them are packers," Ghost said dejectedly. "I mean, what are we going to talk about?" 'Boy this grain sure is good! How's the salt block today?' Please! It's been one day and I'm already losing it!"

"Come on, Ghost," I said encouragingly. "There are two pack-goats-in-training here, and one that will start training as soon as he's weaned!"

"That's the problem!" Ghost whined. "They're just kids! Paco is so fat that he probably rolls better than he walks!"

"I loooove grain!" Paco groaned, his head in the feeding trough. Ghost rolled his eyes.

"These kids may not make the best packers," I continued. "But like you, they will follow me anywhere. They need you to be their leader. Velcro and Paco are orphans and will adopt you as family. Now stay in here and be a good

mentor."

I was washing dishes, when Kitty did exclaimed, "I think I hear something on the roof!"

Thinking that she was kidding, I said, "It's Easter, not Christmas! Is the Easter Bunny on the roof?"

"Very funny," she said. "Now go check!"

I opened the back door, leaned out, and looked up. Looking down at me was Ghost. "What the heck are you doing up there?"

"I got lonely," Ghost said. "So I decided to come say 'Hi.' Hi!"

"Remember that little talk we had?" I asked. "You are supposed to be mentoring the little packers!"

"Oh, they're up here too!" Ghost exclaimed.

"What!" I gasped. "You are all supposed to be in the pen! What if they fall off?"

"Well, pack goats need to climb," Ghost declared. "Only hill here is this one!"

"Get off my roof!" I hollered. I moved out to where I could see better, and indeed, the kids were up there too. One was standing on the chimney, and the other one was trying to get up and push him off! I moved towards the grain bin and the goats met me there. I rewarded them for coming with a handful of grain and then they followed me back to the pen. Ghost paused as I opened the gate. "You aren't thinking of selling me, are you?"

"Only the next time you get out of your pen." I said through gritted teeth.

Ghost scooted through the gate. "Please, please, don't sell me! I won't get out again! I promise!"

"Relax," I said. "If I was going to sell you, I would have sold you along with your buddy."

"Why didn't you?" Ghost asked. "Best buddies shouldn't be separated!"

"Guess I could have," I said. "Then you guys could be on the same plate together!"

Ghost looked like he was going to cry. "Look, I'm sorry that I didn't realize you two were so close. I will try to be a better friend to you. Now come here you rascal!" I scratched behind Ghost's ears and he let out a sigh, then belched in my face.



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From Larry's Desk

My attempt this month to engender some support for the magazine, without success, has left me with no option but to foist upon my reading public some of my own past articles. That would not be my first choice, but at the present time, it seems like the only one available.

A Goat is a Packgoat is a Goat.

Right?

Certainly. And if you believe that...

A recent experience led me to write this, as it was just another learning experience about goats and the difference between the goats we use as Packgoats, and the 'goats of the field'.

What difference? A goat is a goat! Come on!

As it turns out, not really. And it seems that there is as much misinformation out there regarding 'The Goat' as there are accurate ideas, and so this is possibly an attempt to clear at least some of the fog.

My observations after a recent attempt to move two of my guys who are not working out as packgoats to a place where they could be cared for, and weed-eat, has led me to write this article as I have perceived that there are some profound differences in what goats become, due to their original programming when they are in their formative stage.

So what am I talking about, really?

Well, **Carolyn Eddy**, the foremost of our western United States Packgoat gurus, has made the statement, repeated in **Charlie Goggin's** article on the NAPGA ([North American PackGoat Association](#)) website, that if you are going to use a goat as a packgoat, he/it needs to be 'imprinted' on humans within 48 hours of birth. Knowledgeable packgoat breeders faithfully do that and I believe that it is an essential part of grooming an obedient and functional packgoat. Also, socialization of the animal until the owner takes him over is also absolutely necessary. Carolyn also states: "Goats who are bottle raised have no adult goats around to teach them the ropes of being a goat. Which is why the bottle raised kids look more solidly toward humans. Goats who are raised on bottle but spend herd time with adults learn how to "be a goat" Those are more likely to get the pecking order issues right and to be able to deal with stranger goats."

Goats can make the transition from human to another human relatively easily. And even a well-socialized

can revert back to unsocialized if separated and left to himself (I have read that the two animals that turn feral the quickest are goats and cats). But to ask a goat to transition from being an originally unsocialized animal to a human oriented one is a stretch indeed, and from my experience, not generally considered possible. I had a personal encounter with this one as I took on a goat that had been 5 months in the field with other animals, and tried to make a packgoat out of him, and it was 9 years of pure, unadulterated pain. He is gone now, but he NEVER did accept me as the leader, and getting your hands on him if you wanted something out of the panniers was ALWAYS a very 'wild card'.

A while back, I tried to move two socialized, but non-working animals into a pen with 4 horned Boer goats that were definitely **not** socialized. It was an unmitigated disaster. After 3 weeks of being together, they had still not worked out any sort of 'pecking order', and the unsocialized guys were still chasing and beating up on my guys. To the point that I was concerned about vet bills if I let this arrangement continue.

Casting aside the 'horns vs. no horns' issue for a moment, this has been my conclusion, generally based on experience:

Goats that have been let determine their own fate in the field, will have determined the ultimate leader of their group, and he will generally be the strongest (not necessarily only physically, but also emotionally) goat.

Goats that have been imprinted, or imprinted/socialized, will always look to a human to be the ultimate team leader.

Therefore, when you introduce socialized goats into an unsocialized group, you have a basic disconnect. Because the socialized guys are looking for a human to lead, the unsocialized guys are looking to each other and whomever they have determined is the 'chief', and they cannot resolve these basic differences in philosophy.

When you add horns to the mix, horns are a basic advantage to the 'I am the greatest' mix, and almost without question, the horned guys will come out on top in the pecking order jousting.

However, when you have horned, unsocialized guys ruling the pen, and two socialized animals are suddenly introduced and looking for a human to help them sort it all out, the outcome cannot be good.

I have to tell you that when I came over to check up on things a couple of weeks later after introducing my guys into the pen with the unsocialized boys, Shadow my Alpine guy, who has always been very subject to my leading, was bleating like mad. In other words,

'get me the he— out of here!' Sassy-Brown, who has always been my 'goat with attitude', was not making it quite as clear, but he was running like mad from these horned guys, and looking to me for protection. Which he got as long as I was there, as the horned guys definitely wanted to keep their distance from this human 'intruder'.

So I immediately brought them home, and for them, all was again wonderful in their world. They were eventually be moved on to a another, better home. But I am a sadder but wiser goat herder, and I will be much more careful about where I leave my guys in the future. But moved on, they were, because they were not adequate for packing and will be much better off living in a field where they could weed eat, and live a life of leisure.

Larry Robinson
Goat Packer/Learner
Idaho City, ID

Goatpacking in Hikers Heaven!

Everybody loves a goatpacker, right?

This one has been circling-to-land* in the airspace of my brain for some time, but I wasn't sure how to present it without being too negative. But since I haven't gotten any lightning strokes of brilliance to illumine the way, I guess I'll just plunge right into it.

I first have to say that in the beginning when these events transpired, I was not Mr. goatpacking Experience, having only dragged these wonderful little animals out into the woods, at the time, for about 5 years. There are certainly others that have been at it a lot longer. John Mionczynski from Wyoming, considered the originator of goatpacking in North America, George Bogdan, the one who more or less brought goatpacking to Idaho, and Carolyn Eddy, Estacada, Oregon who is our guru and expert on all affairs 'goat'.

That having been said, I have tried to keep these guys (the goats) busy since they have become useful and until this year have managed to put in about 100+ miles each year exploring the mountains of Idaho. And the places we go do seem to be as close to heaven as we will experience here on earth, do they not?

The core question then, becomes, will everybody you run into be as wildly enthusiastic as you are about your goats? Well, most are, or at least do their best to be accommodating. **But not all.** And therein lies the rub. There are a few out there that will be openly hostile to you for bringing your guys into the wilderness. The reasons vary, but the experience is never pleasant.

One lady posted to the group that a 'horse person' had told her that 'she had no right to bring those animals



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into the woods and she needed to get them the he— out of there', which, sadly, she did. Truly, horses were the first pack animals, but I'm not convinced that our goats don't have a place, just because they are the 'Johnny-come-lately's. (I gotta say, for the record, that I would *NOT* have taken my guys the he— out of there as the arrogant horse-person directed!)

And so we get to my personal experiences, or should I say 'encounters of the unpleasant kind':

A couple or three years ago, I was dragging 2 of my guys along on a trip to Red Mountain here in Idaho. I had not been there before, but venturing off-trail, on one of Larry's infamous 'shortcuts', I somehow, magically managed to come out more or less right where I wanted to, and that was at the middle lake in this group. Unfortunately there was another gentleman already camped there... with his wife and two dogs. As I sidled up with my 2 goats, the wife was in the tent holding onto one dog, which was barking his fool head off, and the gentleman was holding onto another dog who, likewise, was barking – max volume. He only had one thing to say to me, and that was, "Oh, packgoats." The condescension fairly dripped off his voice and I could perceive that this was definitely *NOT* a goat supporter. Interestingly, my goats were not barking, nor were they making any disruption of any kind... truly the dogs were making enough for everyone.

However this experience led me to take on the hike to the upper lake, which I was not wildly enthusiastic about since I had set my heart on camping at the middle lake, but off we all went. And to be quite honest, it was definitely for the better, as the upper lake was much prettier, and I and my guys were the only ones there that night. It doesn't get any better than that, does it?

Fast forward to a year or so ago, and I was hiking into my favorite hot springs, which I described in my August 09 article. ***I love that place!*** I could build a cabin here and be happy for the rest of the time that God gives me. But since that is not possible, I do my best to hike in when I hopefully will not have a lot of company. Sadly, this particular year, it was not to be. There was quite a gaggle there, all from one group, but enough to cause *waaaay* more activity at this hot springs than I was comfortable with. I tried to maintain a low profile, didn't go near the HS where they were, and generally tried to keep out of the way. But that was not good enough for this group, and eventually I heard one gentleman (probably the primary one in this group with an axe to grind) make a very unpleasant comment about the goats.

I kept my peace until he came through where I was camped on his way fishing. I let him know that I had heard what he had to say, and noted thusly;

"You know, I am 68 years old (75 now). I have carried thousands of pounds on my back over time. I ***DO NOT***

have to apologize for using a pack animal at this point in my life. In reality, I am using the most environmentally friendly animal that it is possible to pack with, and I am still doing the hiking myself in spite of my age!"

He practically did a 'wheelie' backpedaling, which was fun, but I doubt seriously that I changed his mind in the long-term.

Fast forward again to a couple of years back. I was in the Eagle Cap wilderness. After the interminable long grind up to the pass north of Glacier Lake, we were just about to arrive at the north side of the lake, when out of the trees thundered, "GET THOSE F----- GOATS OUT OF HERE!!!" I was unable at the time to see the source of this vitrol, but it was indelibly clear that this was *NOT* a goat supporter (*I do get some perverse pleasure out of these sort of encounters, however, as I am more or less a happy guy, and I know that I would hate to live in that individuals 'shoes', as he has to live with his anger and unpleasantness 24/7/365. A sad thought*).

This one worked out well again, as this unfriendly individual caused us to motor around the lake to the south side, and then up to the pothole lake above Glacier, where I, my hiking partner, and the goats had nobody else telling us what to do with our companions. ☺

The bottom line? Not everyone will appreciate your animals. If you do everything that you can to minimize the impact, you have done your part. *NEVER*, like the lady I described above, let anyone, because they are overqualified in 'attitude', convince you to leave the woods. You have every right to be there and your goats have the right to be there with you. And I am convinced that the goats enjoy it way more than the horses! Have fun!

* *Aviation terminology. Although this pilot was forced out of the cockpit some years back due to economics, he just can't seem to give it all up and still hopes. He spent a lot of time flying the Idaho backcountry.*



Our home away from home above Glacier Lake

The Kids Were All Right In Southborough's Inaugural Goat Run

By Brittney McNamara, Posted May.

21, 2016, MetroWest Daily News,

Framingham

<http://southborough.wickedlocal.com/article/20160521/NEWS/160528944>

SOUTHBOROUGH – The kids had a grand time on Saturday, and we're not just talking about the human kind.



At Chestnut Hill Farm's inaugural running of the goats, kids both human and horned sprinted across the lush green fields on Saturday morning yelling and bleating as their feet and hooves pounded the grass. The run was a more gentle and fun version of Spain's running of the bulls, farm manager Desiree Robertson Dubois said, marking a great way to get kids out and active at the farm.

After a 5K run around some of the farm's 131 acres that was just for humans, goats Fenway, Ash, Marilyn, Monroe, Beauty and others got in on the fun. Robertson Dubois and her crew led ten goats and a herd of kids up a hill and let them loose to stampede back down, marking the first running of the goats.

"It's mostly for the cuteness factor," Robertson Dubois said. "We can't have a running of the bulls. People love the goats so much."

The run was also a good way to get these people out to the farmland to enjoy the rolling hills and acres of green, Robertson Dubois said. In addition, the goats were a way to add in some fun for children and get them to interact with the nature around them, she said.

"I love the idea of getting people out on the farm," she said. "Mostly we have a 200-member CSA (Community Supported Agriculture program). The goats are here for engagement."

The children at the run were certainly engaged by the goats. As they waited for the big run, the children milled around the goat pen feeding babies that were born just over a month ago. Fenway wowed the crowd

with its outgoing and affectionate manner, while Ash chomped on any metal it could get his teeth around.

"I liked the goat run because it was easy and the goats were fun to pet," Sheila Purcell, 10, of Southborough said. She also completed the farm's 5K race on Saturday.

Petting the goats was the highlight of the day for Lena Pierson, 7, of Southborough. Her favorite goat, she said, was Fenway, the small, gray, brown and black kid that roamed outside the pen for most of the morning.

While in the end the goats all ran along the set path, following the children and the adults with grain buckets, Robertson Dubois wasn't so sure the goats would know how to race.



"Hopefully it will not turn into chaos," she said before the race.

So you think that you got troubles where you live?

3 Goats Killed In Leopard Attack In Satara Village

TNN | May 17, 2016, 08.06 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/3-goats-killed-in-leopard-attack-in-Satara-village/articleshow/52302680.cms>

Kolhapur: A day after eight goats were killed in leopard attacks in Bhudargad tehsil, three more goats of a farmer fell prey to the animal in Satara's Patan tehsil. The incident took place at Jaichiwadi, located close to the Koyna forest area.

Forest guard Jayawant Kavar said he has completed the post-mortem report and submitted it to the deputy conservator of forests.

Nanda Shankar Mohite, a resident of Jaichiwadi village, had taken her herd of goats for grazing on Sunday. Around 1.30pm, she noticed goats getting uneasy and staring in a particular direction. Before she could realise, a leopard rushed from the bushes and attacked the goats. While three goats were killed in the attack, Mohite's shouting and hurling stones on the leopard saved other goats, forest officials said.

Officials admitted that as the village is very close to forest the area, it leads to such attacks. The farmers have been demanding strict action against such attacks as their losses are higher than the compensation amount.



Hiking Idaho's White Cloud Mountains

(2016-Now a designated Wilderness along with the Sawtooths, Boulder & Smoky Mountains. One can only guess where that will go regarding goats, considering our experience with other Land Use plans.)



Déjà vu all over again!

Maybe some will remember my original article about hiking Idaho's White Cloud mountains that was published Goat Tracks, Summer 2011. In it, I noted that while hiking the north end of the White Clouds, we missed seeing most all of the lakes in the Big Boulder basin. This was due largely to goat 'troubles'. I had mentioned in this article that Sassy-Brown (SB), my smaller-than-he-should-be Oberhasli, had much earlier stopped 'carrying' anything other than himself. Evidenced during the trek to the upper lakes from Walker Lake, our basecamp in this area, he, SB, got to a point where he lay down. Little Brother, an inveterate follower, then followed SB and lay down himself. Blackjack, who detests climbing in the first place saw an opportunity to join in the trend, and with three out of four already down, what's a lone goat to do? So down Cocoa-Brownie went. About this time, as I see my carefully laid plans flitting away like a lonely sparrow. I am thinking, "So whoever wanted these bloody goats anyway???" Then I remembered. It was me. Like the great philosopher Pogo in the comic strip of yesteryear said, "We have found the enemy, and they is us!" I did, however get a little satisfaction out of putting my fat finger in Sassy-Brown's face and told him, "Well, buddy, you will never see the mountains again!" And he didn't.

But I digress...

This time, I loaded up Little Brother and my two LaManchas, Blackjack & Cocoa-Brownie, and joined

by a church companion (my normal hiking companion had other 'obligations') we set off on the 20th of July for this area again in hopes of completing what I had started last year. This time we elected to head in from a trail on the NE side of the White Clouds at a trailhead called Livingston Mill. I guess this place had once been a thriving silver-mining community, but at this point is only a landmark and some empty buildings. (*And a likely superfund cleanup site*).

The trail in from this TH is about 2 miles of anybody-can-use-it trail (definitely not my favorite variety of trail). At the 2 mile point, it joins the trail that we came in on last year. From this point on, it is a hiker-packstock kind of trail and you are able to leave the motorcycles behind. Interestingly, at this junction the trail crosses a very enthusiastic stream on a bridge fashioned out of a couple of large logs placed side by side, and flattened to make a good walking



The log bridge

surface. This arrangement occurs once again further up the trail at another stream crossing.

Remember that this is the same bridge that all three of these goats crossed last year with only a minimum of encouragement. But this year, all 3 balked, possibly because the stream was going full tilt, and making a lot of noise. I finally got Cocoa-Brownie (CB) across the bridge, but had to remove pants and shoes and 'encourage' the other two through the water. At the next one of these log bridges, here we go again.

By this time, considering that I was 1) tired; and 2) Not a man heavily endowed with patience, I was not ready for any more shenanigans. So off came the pants and shoes, and Blackjack was unceremoniously grabbed and dragged, unwillingly, through the water. The other two, observing Blackjack's trek through this stream up to his stomach apparently said to themselves, "Uh oh, I doan wanna do that..." and they jumped up onto the log bridge and pranced across like it was the easiest thing in the world. Uh huh. Something here about single-minded creatures.

The rest of the way to our basecamp location was pretty much textbook, if not a little strenuous since there was still a lot of 'up' to be done. This particular trail has a total of 2000' feet of altitude gain.

Tuesday morning we explored the middle and south basins and 10 or so regular lakes and numerous other 'pothole' lakes. On the way up to this basin we passed some other folks and asked them about routes, and



Sapphire Lake



Sapphire Lake2



Sapphire Lake Outflow



Cove Lake

such. Later in the day we passed them in the upper basin and one of their company remarked, "Well, I see you got off trying to find this basin!" And I replied, "Um, no, not really. We decided to do the middle basin first, then we came over that 10,400 foot pass into this basin. Quite an adventure!" And it was... the view from the top of the pass was heavenly. Talk about your catbird seat!

Wednesday was the morning to try to get to the north basin. We had discussed this with yesterday's folks, and they were unsure about how to go about this one since it is beyond challenging, but we did agree on the way to try.

And this way was to climb straight up about 700' to the top of the ridge directly behind our campsite, descend about 300' into a marshy meadow, then climb back up and around the end of a ridge ending up at the first lake at the 10000' level. I will have to say that after doing an end run around the ridge, you came into a



Tin Cup Lake

breathtakingly pretty meadow that extended up this drainage to the lakes. It was lush and green, and had a picture-perfect stream right down the middle. The lakes were their own reward,

and breathtaking as well. We had lunch and explored this complete cirque and its many lakes. On the way back we decided to circumvent the 700' ridge that we had climbed over that morning. Using the GPS, I tried to remain at about the 9400' level, and do an end run around the ridge back to the basecamp. It added a mile or so, but we were so tired at this point that neither one of us wanted to summit this ridge again!

Thursday was 'out' day, and going out was pretty much routine except that the goats apparently decided that opposing me regarding the bridges wasn't worth it, and I didn't have to disrobe again!

The last two miles was crowded with motorcycles, but as much as I don't like running into them at all on the trail, every one was beyond courteous and most shut off their engines completely. Just couldn't complain about that!

A beautiful day... a wonderful hike... and a location that I will undoubtedly see again some future date.

Larry Robinson
Idaho City, ID

Website Pictures: [http://www.boiselarry.com/
recents/2009/wc2009/wc2009.html](http://www.boiselarry.com/recents/2009/wc2009/wc2009.html)

THE HARNESS GOAT PAGE

With Carole Contreras



Dear Carole,

I am well along in training my doe to harness. I have the full deluxe harness from Hoegger's and I converted a large wagon with a shaft, also bought from them. It's the U-shaped, one-piece type. I have hooked up my goat and had her pull a little but I know I am not attaching the harness to the shaft correctly. I have looked and looked and can't find clear, step-by-step instructions for all those straps and attachments, etc. When I do find something, the picture or drawing is fuzzy and unclear. Can you help? I already own your manual. I see on the cover that Brawny isn't outfitted with all the harness.

Mary in North Michigan

Mary, Halfway down both shafts there will be a metal ring or some sort of fixture that you will use to wrap your hold down straps from your harness. Hold down straps are critical on both sides as they hold the shafts in place, preventing the cart from flipping over backwards. You will find these hold down straps attached by buckle to the lower girth area of your harness on both sides.

Further back on your harness you will find the breeching. It snaps (or buckles) to the top of your harness by a big metal ring and runs along the back of your goat and down over his rump. Two spiders (one on each side), run down the haunches and hold the breeching strap up and can be adjusted so the breeching fits comfortably close to the rump about four inches above the hocks.

You are right about Brawney's incomplete harness in the "Training Harness Goats for Fun" manual -- I don't have a breast strap on him. I had a friend over snapping pictures of different goats in training and she was in a hurry. I asked her to stay till I got Brawney the Great hitched and some photos taken. You guessed it -- I left the breast strap off, my friend took the pictures, and Brawney pulled fine without it. (Don't try this on your own goat, however). Your breast strap is a critical piece of your harness. This is what the goat uses to pull his load.

Carole,

Do you know anything about training wethers to drive in tandem? Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Katherine, Santa Fe, New Mexico

There have been several questions about tandem driving so I will tell you what I know:

Everyone has heard of tandem axle trucks and trailers, but few realize the term originated with horses.

On the British Isles it was common to see two horses working in line rather than side-by-side. Such a hitch configuration is called "tandem." In situations where the going was narrow, but required an additional horse (or goat) power, this hitch was needed. It is rarely seen outside of the show ring in North America. Perhaps one reason is that it is one of the most difficult hitches to drive. Normally, when using a wheeled vehicle, the wheel goat (or the animal nearest the vehicle) is between shafts and easily accessible, but the lead goat is way ahead and free of the shafts. The lead animal must be well-schooled, quick to start, a straight mover, quick to stop and all the while, easy to control. Caution: It is **EXTREMELY** easy to jackknife this hitch!

The wheel goat is hitched in normal fashion, with the leader's tugs hooking into the wheeler's harness. Ample room must be allowed so that physical contact isn't made between the leader and wheeler.

The driving lines for the tandem hitch consist of two pair of single lines. One set is of ordinary length (6' to 8') and the other set is 14' or so, depending on the size of goats' and vehicle.

Your lead goat must be willing to move out on verbal command as he is so far ahead a whip cue can not be given. Your wheel goat must not be allowed to slack off and let the leader do all the work.

Dancing Bear of Hamilton, Montana, sent me a picture of his tandem hitch. He extended his shafts to include the lead goat. It is cheating but a great idea and probably what I would do given the difficulty of the hitch.

Happy driving everyone!

Carole Contreras



How Can You Tell If Your Goat Is Happy? Now We Know!

npr

Marc Silver, December 14, 2014



Farmers raise millions of goats, but little has been known about whether their ruminants are happy. Now we know better.

Goats are having a moment, and we're not just saying that because our blog is called Goats and Soda.

There are nearly 900 million goats in the world today, up from 600 million in 1990. The reason for this goat spurt is the growing popularity of goat cheese, goat milk and goat meat.

For goat farmers to do a good job, they need to understand their goats. And that's where [Alan McElligott](#) comes in. He's a senior lecturer in animal behavior at the Queen Mary University of London. And he says that goats are "underrepresented" in animal welfare studies.

That's bad for goat farmers. They need to know whether their herd is in a "positive" or "negative" frame of mind, he says: "If animals have chronic stress, they're far more likely to get ill. That costs money in terms of medicine and vet bills."

And it's not enough to know when your goat's mad. "Keeping animals is not just preventing them from being in negative states," McElligott explains. "You would want to have animals in positive states. But it is more difficult to identify those positive states."

So McElligott and several colleagues ran a [study](#) to see if they could find helpful clues for farmers. The research was conducted over summer months because "goats hate cold weather and particularly hate rain," so they're more cooperative subjects in warm weather.

We were definitely curious: What does a happy goat look like? We spoke to McElligott to find out.

Can you describe the experiments?

The key aspect is putting goats into what we consider mildly positive or negative situations.

To create a positive state, we use what we call food

anticipation. We shake some food in a bucket a few seconds before we walk toward the goat and feed it. The animal feels a bit like how you feel when somebody is bringing you your dinner. You sort of perk up, creating a mildly positive state.

For the negative states, the experiments are really short. In one of the negative conditions, we put two goats in adjacent pens. Then we bring food to one of them, but not the other. The goat next door just watches the other goat eating for five minutes. During these experiments, we filmed the goats to see what their behavior was and had a microphone record them.

What are the signs of a gleeful goat?

A key parameter was the way the goats point their ears. They're more likely to point forward in a positive state rather than negative state. And the pitch in their call was more stable in the positive state; it didn't go up and down as much as in the negative states.

Were the goats fun to work with?

It's great to be around them. They're very curious. They're always investigating anything new in their environment by smelling and looking.

And they're very sociable. If you sit and watch a group of goats interacting, there's always lots of stuff going on, calling to one another, sniffing each other, laying down and touching one another. They also fight.

How does that compare to, say, sheep?

Many people assume goats are just the same as sheep. But people who've carried out research on sheep and goats say that goats are always exploring and going off on their own. Sheep behave like the [stereotypical view of sheep](#).

The other thing I know from farmers who farm goats is that they need special, extra-robust fencing because goats are very good at getting out. They seem to be quite clever overall. And they've got long-term memory as well. [Research](#) two years ago showed that mother goats remember the calls of their kids for at least a year after those kids had been separated from the mothers. The mothers reacted more strongly to the recorded calls of their own kids than to calls from other kids.





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"CAE PREVENTION PROGRAM" (May be modified by the words "strict, continuous, etc. Assumes a history of testing of does yearly, and pasteurization of all milk products.)

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"GUARANTEED CAE FREE OR RETURN" (This means that you will replace the kid if he is found to be CAE positive at the earliest age of reliable testing, which is considered by WSU to be 12 months. This is the only context in which "CAE free" will be accepted. This does not guarantee a CAE free kid, just replacement.) Remember that you will have a year of work into a kid by the time it is testable.

Any of these choices will more clearly define a herd's status to buyers and should be welcomed as a step forward in controlling a disease that is potentially crippling to packgoats.

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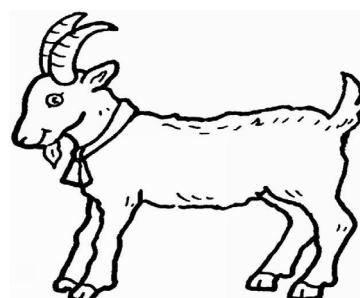
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