



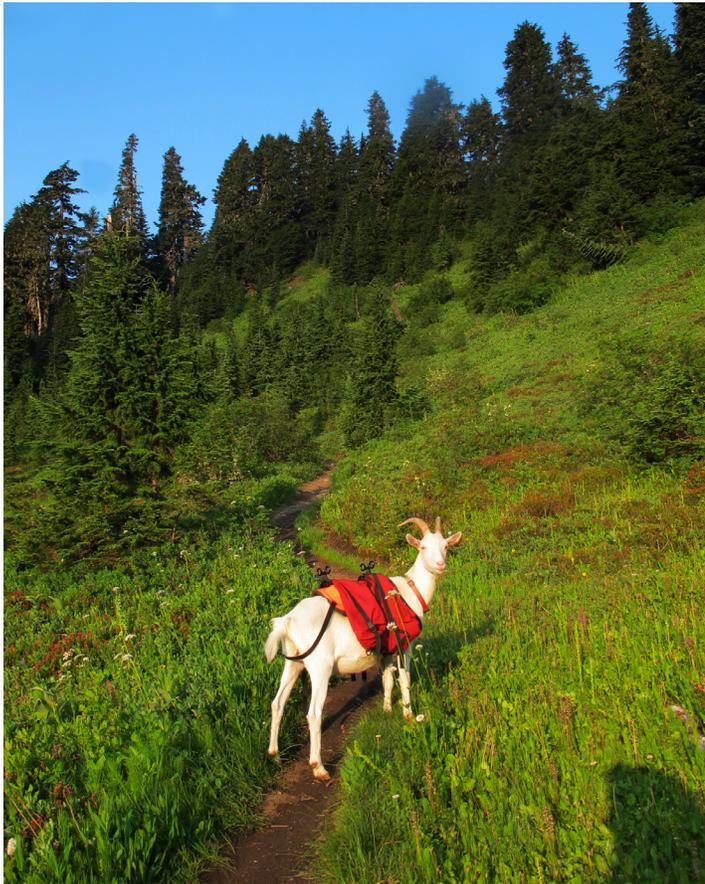
Goat Tracks



Journal of the Working Goat - Summer 2019

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

The indoor life is the next best thing to premature burial. --Edward Abbey



**A Hot Time on Church Mtn
Karen Bean**



**Llamas & Goats, Packing
Together
Alexa Metrick**

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Goat Tracks

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On Track with Goat Tracks

by Larry Robinson



When I wrote my column for the Spring issue, with snow covering everything in sight, it was inconceivable, at least to me, that warm weather, and a snow-free high country would ever appear over the hood ornament. But it is looking better and better all the time... sorta. Why I qualify that is because the high country is nowhere near being accessible at this point. And while I know it is early to be contemplating 8000' plus hiking, there is still waaaay more snow present at the lower altitudes than we usually see at this time of year.

Case in point: In the photo below, taken from the Stanley Basin webcam [<http://cam.discoverawsawtooth.org/camera/camera0-4.jpg>], in the exact center of the forested foothills below the peaks, there is an open area.



I judiciously watch this area in the Spring as when it clears of snow, then there are a couple of hiking destinations that are then available. It usually clears up mid-May or before.

If you have good eyes, or you expand the PDF, you can see that it is anything but clear. I have not ever seen it snow-covered this late, which portends a bit of a late start for high altitude hiking. I guess at this point we fall back on the old saw, 'Good things come to those who wait'.

Land Use:

As time goes on, the land use environment reminds me more and more of the field of advertising, something I frequently describe as the 'cancer of the communications world'.

As our attention continues to be riveted on land use issues, more and more areas are popping up with plans to legislate our goats out of the forest, in a way putting me in the mind of the number of unwanted things that 'pop up' on my computer screen getting in the way of actual communication. It is hard to picture the time when we will be free of these out-of-control land managers, and their stereotypical and mythological biases against our goats, at least here in the western half of this country.

But we absolutely must go on and continue to oppose these efforts, as in reality they have no scientific legs to stand on to oppose our use of the forest. And yet I realize that it is a high-burnout area, as I myself reached the 'Chief Joseph' point some time back.

The most frustrating thing is that we are not fighting against 'facts', but a 'deep-seated prejudicial bias' that cannot be confronted with logic or reason. This is the sort of thing that at the end of your presentation of facts and science, the land manager dreamily sighs, and notes, 'yes, but we don't want goats because they can kill our Bighorns.' Did he/she not listen to what you just said? Yes, but it just doesn't penetrate and cannot kill a belief that the holder of that 'belief' will not agree to question. In a way it's the Don Quixote thing all over again.



Regarding the NAPgA Website:

from Shannon Hassey:

Member Alert: You can now add a second eMail address to your profile on www.napga.org. This way two members of the same household will be able to receive eMails and vote separately in elections. If you would like to add a second eMail address, please login to www.napga.org, click on the "Membership" tab, and click "Your Profile" at the bottom of the dropdown menu. At the very bottom of your profile page, we've added a field for "eMail #2". We hope this makes things more convenient for those of your with family who share a membership but wish to receive eMails separately.

What is Dwite Sharp's current condition as he recovers from a very ugly traffic accident? (As of 6-4-19)

Dwite is still at the Morris County Hospital in Council Grove Kansas. There is some thought to discharge him this Friday, June 7. He will go to a home his family bought in Council Grove for which a wheelchair ramp is being built. He will continue to be wheel chair bound, but capable of some "ambulation" with a walker to get about the house.

He intends to downsize the goat herd significantly, keeping only a few does at this time. It remains to be determined to what extent he would be able to work at the ranch. This will not be known for at least six months and probably longer as his left leg remains in a cast and physical therapy has not even begun.

All-in-all, Dwite has made notable progress and the only issues remaining are his continued recovery from his extensive injuries, and a need to learn his ultimate limitations. That may take as long as a year and a half. As much as he would like to attend the Rendezvous this year, that cannot be, but hopes next year will be doable.

Dan Sharp



Donnie Fike shared a post. 1 hr

CHP - Stockton Yesterday at 2:22 PM

Like Page

Be aware, Stockton CHP will now be deploying a drug sniffing goat in the area. This newly deployed strategy will be very effective in the apprehension of baaaad guys...#youhavegoattobekiddingme



Jeff Ross, of Glenwood, NM, sent me this picture of his one remaining goat, Moose. At this point he is 13 or 14 years old. As a fellow 'senior citizen', I should look so good!!

When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?



"Ok, last night you washed dishes, today you are folding laundry. You bought more goats didn't you?"

Nothing Like Telling a Scary Goat Story

By Bill Kirby, Posted Mar 7, 2019, <https://www.augustachronicle.com/news/20190307/nothing-like-telling-scary-goat-story>

Why they used to call me "Billy"

Goats were in the news this week, reminding me of my youth, mostly because goats made great stories.

My father often told us about one goat they had on the farm that was a source of amusement until it ate the rubber hose off the washing machine on the back porch, earning it a trip to the stockyard.

My mother would tell about the goat she could hitch to a small wagon so it could pull her around, so much better than the bikes we relied upon.

But my great uncle Walter was the best at telling goat stories.

He had a healthy flock and sang the praises of goat milk, goat cheese, goat meat and all things goat... goat... goat.

I did not share his taste, but I did like the fact that his goats frightened my younger sisters, two brats who complicated an otherwise idyllic boyhood.

My sisters were scared of goats.

They said that goats with their horns and chin whiskers and suspicious goat eyes reminded them of more devilish endeavors.

When they admitted such fears, I reacted as you might suspect.

I climbed over the fence into the pasture and went to tell the goats.

As my sisters watched in stunned silence, I let the goats gather around while I acted like I was telling them bad things my sisters had shared about goat-hood in general.

I pointed out my sisters to the goats, nodded my head, then began to trot back toward them.

Some of the goats trotted with me and my sisters ran inside the house shrieking.

I got into trouble, but as usual, it was worth it.

The GOAT goat: Miraculous fireproof goat

DAVID WOOD, Miraculous Goat Reporter, NT News, March 4, 2019
<https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/northern-territory/the-goat-goat-miraculous-fireproof-goat/news-story/61c59dc887fc4d39b3d0b7132b3c891c>

A MIRACLE goat in the running for GOAT - greatest of all time - of goats, that was tied to a fence, survived a bushfire by wisely standing on the only patch of grass that didn't burn.

The goat was seen by Moorooduc firefighters when they were leaving a property at Tonimbuk in Victoria on Sunday, [the Weekly Times reported](#).

"He'd been surrounded by fire throughout the day, yet the one square metre patch of dirt and grass he was standing on didn't burn," volunteer firefighter Aaron Pinxt wrote on Facebook.



"Everything around this guy was burnt, yet somehow (he) survived without a scratch."

"We checked him over for injuries of which he had

none, blacked out the hot burnt grass around him, before finding a drum and filling it with fresh water from our truck for him to drink.

"Hopefully that water will keep him going until his owners are allowed back home," Mr Pinxt said.

The *Weekly Times* said the Bunyip fire was said to have burned more than 14,500ha.

Raytown woman's passion for goats helping change lives around the world

[Kelly Eckerman](#), KMBC 9 News Anchor

<https://www.kmbc.com/article/raytown-woman-s-passion-for-goats-helping-change-lives-around-the-world/27133117>

Sharon Baker says she loves goats because they can change lives, especially in poor countries



RAYTOWN, Mo. — Sharon Baker is a Sunday school teacher in Raytown. Her class was challenged to raise money to help the poor in other countries. So they did -- they bought a goat, which has led to many more goats.

"I'm Sharon Baker, the crazy goat lady. Everybody in Kansas City knows me that way," Baker said.

Baker said she loves goats because they can change lives, especially in poor countries.

She said she teaches her Sunday school students that buying a family a goat has a lasting impact.

"A goat lives about 10 years, and that goat provides about 16 cups of milk a day. That milk can be made into yogurt, butter and cheese and sold in the market," Baker said.

She heads up fundraising throughout the year, buying goats through World Vision.

The original goal was to buy one goat. Five years and 500 goats later, Baker said she is proud of her goat ministry.

"I love people calling me the crazy goat lady. It's a way they can identify who I am, it's a name they remember, and that's the main thing -- to make sure people remember who we are and what we're doing and why we're doing it," she said.

Baker raises money for World Vision through her church -- Spring Valley Baptist Church in Raytown. Donations should be earmarked for the goats.

Land Use Issues

It might not be a surprise to you if you have been in this Bighorn Sheep (BHS) fight very long, but the desire to run goats out of the forest continues to spread like an unrestrained cancer. The land management agencies are required to re-do their land use plans on a periodic basis. And every new land use plan that pops up on the radar can be expected to have as one of its primary new rules: NO GOATS. Horses are OK, llamas are fine, presumably a camel is just peachy. But goats? No, no, we just can't allow those 'killer' animals in 'our' forests.

By the time you read this, the comment period will have closed in the Custer-Gallatin National Forest. Naturally, the elimination of goats in part of this area is a key change, and even where they don't specifically remove goats, they have inserted weasel words into this document that would allow them to do so in the future. The frog in the pot thing. Not too much change right now so as to not upset the masses. But later...

Dina Smithson, Shannon Hassey and some others have discovered that there is a new threat surfacing in Colorado. Another land use plan being re-done, and as is normal, proposing to grab our goats and give them a toss right out of the forest.

One wag made the following observation about BHS:

If a record bighorn sheep is due to their genetic makeup, let's hang them on the wall for the money rather than letting them pass on their genes. Money wins again.

And publishing this comment had to be completely accidental. Some editor probably caught he--

"...And poachers who use illegal means to target trophy animals can weaken entire herds. "When you take the dominant males out of the population, you leave the inferior males to breed, (said this 'expert'), and that impacts the genetics of the herd and affects their vigor (And disease resistance)."

One can only wonder who writes this stuff, as well as who quotes this stuff in the beginning. These guys are supposed to be our 'college-educated experts'.

Am I the only one who can see the silliness of this conclusion? So taking the dominant males out of the population **illegally** harms the herd, but taking

the dominant males out of the herd **legally** does not have the same effect?

In reality, if you don't leave the dominant males in the herd to breed, you cannot ever expect to materially improve the herd's genetic health, and ultimately develop a resistance to those pathogens that so readily cause them harm.

And this one! Whatever happened to Journalism?

What they know: *The numbers have decreased.*

What they have extrapolated *from that one bit of factual data, is that 'its those bloody goats and sheep again, killing off our Bighorn Sheep'.*

Disease May be Killing California Desert Bighorn Sheep

By [Associated Press](#), Published Mar 16, 2019
<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Disease-Killing-California-Bighorn-Sheep-507241921.html>

A new survey has found a sharp decline in desert bighorn sheep in Southern California, and biologists suspect the cause is a disease contracted from domestic animals.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife says a survey earlier this month counted 60 bighorns in the Mount San Gorgonio region east of Los Angeles. That's down two-thirds from a survey conducted in 2016.

Biologist Jeff Villepique says in the past, such die-offs have been triggered by an outbreak of a respiratory disease spread by contact with domestic sheep or goats.

The disease killed at least 21 bighorns whose carcasses were found in the area in December.

Southern California has about 4,800 desert bighorn sheep in 64 herds. Authorities say so far, sheep in nearby herds haven't been affected.

Below is another version of this story. The headline claims an actual disease link, but the story actually says 'they suspect'.

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/03/15/california-desert-bighorn-disease/>

Zion bighorn sheep lambs showing no signs of deadly pneumonia after outbreak

Written by Mikayla Shoup, May 16, 2019

<https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2019/05/16/mks-zion-bighorn-sheep-lambs-showing-no-signs-of-deadly-pneumonia-after-outbreak/#.XN9pbS2ZPUI>

ST. GEORGE — After an outbreak of deadly pneumonia in the bighorn sheep in Zion National Park last year, wildlife biologists report that so far there have been no deaths related to the disease in the park.

Park biologists were concerned for the herd after testing

revealed that the deadly bacteria causing the pneumonia has, in other herds, wiped out anywhere from 20% to 100% of the population.

[Read more: Zion park officials concerned for bighorn sheep herd after outbreak of deadly pneumonia](#)

“We were all pretty devastated when we found it last year because it can be really destructive, it can kill a whole herd,” wildlife technician Brianna Johnson said. “But we still haven’t definitively observed any mortality from that disease.”

Park officials first observed a sheep with symptoms of the disease July 20, 2018. After testing, they discovered that the pneumonia was caused by a bacteria called *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, otherwise known as Movi, which is highly contagious and oftentimes deadly since there is no vaccine or cure for it.

[Read more: Zion biologist advises livestock owners how to keep deadly pneumonia from spreading](#)

Depending on the severity of the strain, many adult sheep can live with the bacteria with few to no complications. Lambs, however, have a harder time surviving the disease, and their deaths can cause a decline in the population.

In Zion, however, no symptoms of pneumonia have been observed in this year’s lambs, and none of the 800 bighorns in the area have been killed by the disease.

“Right now, to date, with the collared sheep that we have, we have not seen any die off as adults, and we’re currently monitoring the newborn lambs and still seeing good survival on them also,” Jason Nicholes, a wildlife biologist with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, said.

Not only have none of the sheep died from Movi, but some of them are testing negative for it altogether.

The last testing that the park performed was in January, where they tested several sheep that had died of natural causes, and none tested positive for Movi, leaving park biologists baffled.

“It was really surprising. We expected to see somewhere between 50% and 80% of them to be positive but they weren’t,” Nicholes said.

It’s possible that the Zion herds simply contracted a less aggressive strain of Movi and have been able to live



with it easily, he said. Another factor could be that they live in an area with plenty of food and water, and aren’t experiencing much stress.

The park also transported 50 sheep from the park in 2017 to reduce the herd density, which could be a contributing factor to their health as well.

“It’s hard to say anything for sure except that they’re not dying of pneumonia right now, which is awesome,” Johnson said.

Because the entire herd was showing symptoms of pneumonia last year, it’s possible that the sheep that are testing negative for Movi simply have such a low level of the bacteria that they are unable to detect it, Nicholes said.

Even though this strain of Movi appears to be mild, the park will no longer be transplanting sheep from their population to boost other herds. Many times, the reason the bacteria is deadly is because the sheep contract yet another type of bacteria in addition to Movi, which can have devastating effects. And so far, the sheep in Zion have not tested positive for any bacterias other than Movi.

“I’m glad I didn’t have to watch that happen here,” Johnson said.

Below is a hyperlink to another very interesting story relevant to Bighorn Sheep and other animals subject to the stress of capture and study, and/or relocation. Too long for this periodical, but accessible via the link.

Capturing wild animals for study can stress them to death. Is it worth it?

By Jason Bittel, March 13, 2019

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/03/13/capturing-wild-animals-study-can-stress-them-death-is-it-worth->

Goats rank number one of the least trustworthy

The Weekly Times, May 21, 2019

<https://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/country-living/back-paddock/goats-rank-number-one-of-the-least-trustworthy/news-story/08d73c39e439f771f68ad5e4deb22d28>

IF *WE* were to do a poll of which animals on the farm are the most trustworthy where do you think goats would rank?

Back Paddock has a feeling they wouldn’t be at the No. 1 spot.

Take this goat for example, which has been sprung trying to steal a shoe from an innocent civilian.

Straight to the actual back paddock for this goat.



Following is an article that was published in Goat Tracks in Fall of 2006. I felt it was an interesting time capsule of thought in the beginning days of goatpacking. Carolyn Eddy & George Bogdan are both gone now, and Charlie Goggin disappeared from our ranks for unknown reasons, at least to me. But their insight gives a peek into an earlier time.

In Search of the Perfect Packgoat

George Bogdan

Perfection is an element sought in every sport but rarely achieved. In goat packing, the perfect goat would be the largest which could carry the highest percentage of body weight for a minimum of 15 miles per day and be agile enough to walk a narrow log and climb in rugged rocky terrain. Each goat breed has its own general characteristics; saanens are more of a draft animal whereas the alpine is more of a quarter horse with more agility. Oberhaslis are generally smaller and less dominant than alpiners. Boers are heavier but shorter and in some crosses, more rotund.

Since no one breed meets all of our requirements, we choose based on our particular needs. Since few of us hike more than six hours in a day and primarily use trails rather than venturing into steep, rocky mountainous terrain, a mixture of breeds with varying traits serves us well and we find that within our herd of pack goats there are exceptions to the general traits so we tend towards a particular breed or cross that becomes our favorite.

I decided to write this article because Carolyn and Charlie have been developing a packgoat for the past eight years that appears to satisfy the large size requirement and I felt it might be of interest to recall the history of the past 15 years of prior breeding activities that I am aware of.

Dorothy and I started our pack goat adventures about 16 years ago without the guidance of any books or newsletters, unaware that goats would accept a load on their back. We babysat a lamancha doe and her newborn twin males and became their owners the following year. I made rudimentary saddles and hung tote sacks from them as an experiment. We found that they had no aversion to something on their back so we progressed to the point that we were able to pack enough gear on the three of them for an overnigher.

Now that we were convinced that this was a feasible project we bought a saanen kid and the following year, two more saanens. By this time we had heard of John M. and read his book noting his recommendation to avoid Nubians. Our next goat was an alpine that confirmed John's assessment of agility and herd dominance,

especially with horns. I was now very eager about this new hobby and in 1994, I read of a new goat breed that was in Texas being bred for the meat market. These South African boer goats were butchering out at 65% meat indicating a more muscular goat than the dairy breeds. I located a boer breeder about 200 miles away who agreed to breed to a saanen in addition to his normal Nubian does. In 1995 I picked up two saanen-boer crosses and noted their fast growth. There were three pack goat magazines started at this time and I submitted articles suggesting that others try the boer crosses in order to get a broader sampling of the boers as pack animals. Strangely enough, I found that my enthusiasm was not shared by the "experts" in the field. John M. was satisfied with his breeding stock, Claudia, the California pack goat outfitter, was of the same opinion (not broke, don't fix it), and the editor of the Snohomish magazine speculated that a boer would spend more time eating than walking. John had been selectively breeding large bucks that he was breeding to does in the NW. I declined his offer to become a breeder. I have always been a curious person so I continued my quest for size and purchased a boer cross who is now six years old and a decent packer but certainly not ideal, being short of stature and rotund.

Although a relative failure, I feel it important to have assessed these crosses as did some of my friends, even trying 7/8 boer crosses with the same results I had.

My first awareness of Carolyn and Charlie's breeding program was last spring at Greg Locati's Idaho rendy.

Charlie had a huge yearling that piqued my interest to the point that I ordered a pair for 2006. Details of their breeding program are confidential but it appears that they are consistently producing birth weights almost double those of dairy goats. The key word is consistent. A local breeder has a 300# ober cross but has never been able to produce anything near that size again. In discussions about these goats with fiends, I noted skepticism, "Yeah but will they pack?" As with any breed of goats the ability to pack is unknown until they are actually packed.

Even then the assessment of a goat's packing abilities is of little value without the type of packing the goat was subjected to. This is not a sales pitch encouraging others to purchase these goats but it is important to get enough of these goats packing to assess their capabilities. If this program is successful and produces consistent results of 250# to 300# goats it means that two packgoats will carry as much as three average pack goats. This would make the higher cost of these two goats equal to the cost of three goats. An interesting feature of the two breeding bucks used in this program is that they have four different breeds in their genes. This program is in

Grazing Property for Lease in Sandpoint, Idaho



One of our fellow goat fanciers in Sandpoint, Idaho has a surplus of pasture that he would like to lease to another goat lover. This is 40 acres of well-fenced land in the Idaho Panhandle. This could be a good business opportunity for the experienced and productive goat herder.

Contact:

Michael L. Poe
845 Jenkins Road,
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Sincerely yours,

Michael L. Poe



Hello, fellow Goatpackers. Carolyn Eddy thought I should post something. Many of you knew, heard of or wished you knew Lazlo, a goat bred by Carolyn who partnered up with me when he was a month old. I called him Lightfoot Lazlo. He passed away May 20, much to my great sorrow. He was my steadfast, loyal friend his entire life and was with me for hundreds of trail miles. There was never a better packer than Laz, he followed me over hill over dale, through rivers, meadows, over peaks and along the beach on the Lost Coast. He never refused to go, never wasn't waiting to be saddled when camp was struck, was never unhappy on the trail. He was my younger daughter's pony on many hikes until she was 10 years old. He carried her with pride, understanding her safety was his responsibility. He was gentle to kids of all species, protective, and always dutiful. No goat will ever be able to take his place in my heart.

Charlie Goggin's Obit for Lazlo when he passed over the Rainbow Bridge

its infancy and has just produced the first four year old that weighs 300# As time passes they may find that breeding back to the large does produced may result in even larger packgoats. The important item here is that they are actively working towards an objective. An important point to keep in mind is that the acquisition of a projected large goat is just the start. Proper nutrition plus adequate exercise is necessary to achieve full potential.

The does used in this project are now between 6-8 years old and have many adult kids packing, with many repeat sales.

Experimentation is an essential ingredient in our everyday life and I see no reason not to apply the philosophy to goat packing. For those of you resistant to change, I point to the National Park Service, which continues to deny us access to the National Parks in spite of allowing the use of packhorses, (and llamas?). One of our group once stated that there is no need for goat packers in National Parks since there are plenty of places to hike.

That may be true for people like he and I who live close to areas that rival the parks in beauty but for those of you adjacent to Mt. Rainier and other parks you must feel frustrated and discriminated against. It is logical to hike the entire PCT with pack goats but you can not pass through a national park because of the restrictions.

-George Bogdan



A picture of Lazlo, the goat George was talking about above. Charlie G's daughter Marina is sitting on him. As near as I remember, he is 1 year old at this point. Incredible!

Goat pack carries the load for Afton, Minn. man

By [Alex Lehnert, FOX 9](#), POSTED: MAR 02 2019 04:53PM CST, VIDEO
 POSTED: MAR 02 2019, <http://www.fox9.com/news/goat-pack-carries-the-load-for-afton-minn-man>

AFTON, Minn. (FOX 9) - February's record-breaking snow may have been a challenge for some, but for one Afton man, it's provided the perfect training conditions for his goat pack.

You read that right. Richard Bend, former lawyer and Afton Mayor, owns eight goats.

If you've ever been backpacking, you know it's not exactly easy hiking with a 40-50-pound pack on. And you may have heard of pack mules, but what about goats?

"They are very fond of these expeditions," said Bend.

He has been training goats in Afton for almost two years now. Theirs is a journey that began when he realized his days carrying 80-pound packs on long trips were coming to an end.

"Because I'm in my 70s, the backpacking I used to do in the Alps and the Rockies with heavy packs is something I don't handle well," Bend said. "These guys take the load for me and make my life very much easier."

So, Bend enlisted the help of three goats named Thor, Badger and Fawn. When he realized how capable the goats were, he added five more to the pack. When full grown, each goat will be able to carry 30-40 pounds. They are young now, so this is when they train. Bend says winter in Minnesota is a perfect time to begin.

"My goats, when they hit snow banks in the Rockies, are already conditioned to it," he said. "The disadvantage is we don't have the rocky, steep terrain."

Two or three times a week, Bend and the goats hit the trail.

The key is to make sure they stay with Bend and stay together, which is rarely an issue.

"They're quite affectionate," he said. "They never want to be separated from me. If they see me coming, they run to wherever they think I'm going to be so they can be near me as soon as possible."

He said their desire to stay together and their ability

to handle the elements makes them the perfect hiking companions. The snowy Minnesota winters make this one of the better places to prepare the pack for their upcoming family hike and all the others they'll do as a team.

Bend said they're taking off in June for a couple of hikes, one of which includes the Rockies.



Herd of goats follow cross country skier

by [Randy Meir, Fox 9 News](#), <http://www.fox9.com/news/herd-of-goats-follow-cross-country-skier>

(FOX 9) - Looks like Minnesotans have gotten a little stir crazy this winter, so when the temperatures reached the mid-20s many headed to the outdoors.

One cross-country skier decided to hit the trails. But why do it alone when you can bring along your very own goat herd?

The skier lead the way with eight goats following along in an orderly line.

The sight stopped FOX 9's Randy Meir in his tracks in the eastern Twin Cities metro Sunday.

"I don't understand and they're not tethered, they're just following him," said Meir. "That's weird."

Hey, even goats need their exercise.



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From the Training Pen

(The Best of Rex Summerfield)

How to Pick a Packgoat!



In line with my G. Bogdan flashback on Page 8, I thought this article from Rex Summerfield would be appropriate for the Training Section this quarter. GT Ed.

We started with pack goats like most people. We heard about it from someone, did a little research and then dived in head first, learning as we went. Over more than a decade and a half of packing and breeding goats I have learned a few things I wish I had known in the beginning. Especially about what makes a good pack goat prospect.

I want to share a few of them with you in this issue.

In the early 90's Packgoat-specific breeders were virtually non-existent. Sure, there were a few dairy goat breeders selling extra kids as pack goats but not many were breeding specifically for packgoat qualities to the exclusion of all else. As pack goats became more popular, dairy breeders began to realize that selling their extra buck kids [as] pack goats had a good profit potential and began to advertise them as such. Many stated that dairy goats and goats for packing had the same qualities so it was a perfect match.

Unfortunately that was not entirely accurate. Most modern dairy goat breeders look for small feminine statured goats, often with long backs and huge udders, while pack goat owners were looking for long legged heavy boned goats with large bodies, shorter backs and muscular frames. It was only a matter of time before breeding for those qualities began to separate out the dairy breeders from the packgoat breeders. Today there are still many dairy breeders selling their excess buck kids as packgoats and many of them make excellent goats. On the flip side, there are breeders striving exclusively for the perfect packer with all the physical qualities and necessary mental desire to carry a pack. I believe we are on the cutting edge of seeing a new breed of goat emerge. And that would be, **The Packgoat!**

About now you are asking the 64 million dollar question, what should a packgoat look like and how do I recognize one when I see it? I'll assume for the sake of space that you already know about common goat diseases and what health questions to ask when you buy. If not, there are numerous resources available to help with that aspect. In this article we'll focus more on picking a specific goat. The actual physical structure of a good pack goat is also too detailed to list in this article so some general guidelines

will have to suffice. Generally a good pack goat prospect will be large but compact.

It will have long heavy legs, wide deep chest and good width in the rear pelvic region. When you look at the goat from the front and rear, the legs should be well set and not coming out of the same socket, meaning their skeletal structure is wide and sturdy. A barrel or round chested animal is much harder to fit into a saddle. Following down the front leg it should be straight and not bowed out or knock-kneed. The rear legs should have good curvature between the pelvis and hock. Goats with straight rear legs are called "posty". They usually walk with a stiffer gait and are not as agile negotiating rough terrain. It is acceptable for a goat to be "hocky" meaning that the hocks of the rear leg are angled toward each other as long as they don't touch when the goat walks. It is believed that this "hockyness gives the goat better agility and I tend to agree. Continuing on down the leg we get to the pasterns. Goats with long pasterns often break down over time when they carry heavy packs and negotiate rough terrain. Even more so if the feet are not kept trimmed in a timely manner. Therefore I always place heavy emphasis on short erect pasterns. They should have a slight angle but not much. Their feet should track straight ahead without being toe in or out and the toes should be wide and straight. Dairy breeds are known for narrow rear toes, which often curve inward. This is a common but not totally desirable trait. Its one of the many things a pack goat breeder will be looking at when selecting breeding stock.

Most packers consider the "ideal" pack goat to be one that will grow to be 36-38 inches at the withers and 200-220lbs respectively. I hesitate to quote height and weight guidelines because many smaller goats in the 175 lb. range are outstanding workers as well as a few nearing 300 lbs. I think the emphasis should be more on making sure that the height and weight are proportional. A 32-inch goat weighing 200lbs is not going to have the ideal proportions for carrying gear.

Now that you know what physical features to look for, its time to get to the important stuff -- mental attitude. In my opinion this is just as important as the physical structure. I can't tell you how many goats I have had over the years with perfect structure yet were absolutely worthless as packers. Let's face it; horses have been bred for thousands of years to be workers. Those that

didn't have the mental desire to work were bred out of the gene pool long ago. Not so with goats. Until rather recently, a goat's only function in life was to give some milk, maybe a little fiber once in a while and have babies. Other than that it was free to eat, sleep and be lazy. Then some crazy people come along who said, "Hey", "let's add a pack and take them out into the wilds!" Enter the working goat.

Packgoats have to have the mental toughness and desire to work. It's a much more subjective concept than looking at their physical build. Experience with a lot of goats is the best way to recognize a worker. Here are the things I look for. When I first meet the goat I judge its friendliness, the friendlier the better. If the goat runs or is very standoffish those are negative marks. If the goat comes to me and lets me pet, scratch and rub on it those are positive marks. Remember that most goats will come to see if you have a treat.

I don't start judging until they know I don't have anything and are free to leave or stay. If the goat is still beside me after it knows it isn't getting anything to eat, I look it in the eye to see if anyone is home. In other words, does it look bright and intelligent? The goat should be engaging, not standing off by itself. I try to judge the goat's energy level. It should be moving and interacting, not standing quietly looking like you just interrupted its nap. If it appears lethargic in the pen it is probably going to be that way on the trail. Move around the pen with the goat and see if it follows. I like goats that stay in my pocket and are curious about what I'm doing. Pretend you are working on the fence and see if it gets in there to see what you are doing. Those that don't display any curiosity are hardly ever good packers. Basically you are looking for a goat that is friendly, bright, energetic and curious about what is happening around him. The same type of things you would look for in an employee at your company. Goats that look like they couldn't care less that you were in the pen and even less that you might want it to do something with them are best left in the unemployment line. Again, pack goat breeders select for these qualities and learn to gauge a young goat's potential, culling non-workers from the program.

Conditioning the goat to work from a young age is also important. I know several people who bought full grown bucks and had them castrated or pet wethers from dairy herds to use as packers. In almost every case they only had about a 50% success rate. I liken it to taking a person who has spent their life lying on the couch watching movies and then telling them they have to start working construction. Many of them will simply refuse to do it. Goats that hike and spend time on the trail from a young age almost always do better

than an adult goat with no packing experience.

While there is no sure fire way of picking the best goat from the herd, following these simple tips will give you a much better chance of picking a willing hiking partner for years to come.

Rex Summerfield
NW Pack Goats & Supplies



Well, here's at least one hazard of goat-rearing I don't believe that any of us have to worry about in this country. But just in case, keep the fences in good shape. 😊

Youth Bludgeoned After His Goat Enters Field

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/69489018.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cpps

TNN, May 25, 2019

Bareilly [*Located in the extreme north of India, near the border with Nepal*]: One Gajendra Sagar, 34, was allegedly beaten by farm owner Virendra Yadav and his two sons after the former's goat entered into their field and grazed on [the] standing crop. After the incident, when Sagar reached home, Yadav arrived there with his sons and roughed up Sagar and his family. The victims informed the police on Dia1100, following which police response vehicle (PRV) reached the spot.

Sagar, resident of Sinhavali village, under jurisdiction of Hayatnagar police station, is a labourer. He is the sole bread winner of his family. In the afternoon, he moved towards the fields to make his goats feed on grassland.

In his complaint to the police, he said, "Virendre Yadav saw one of my goats entering his field. He got furious and started battering the animal with a wooden stick. As I started opposing, he along with his two sons, attacked me and beat me up till I collapsed. He didn't stop there. He reached my house and beat my wife and two children up. We approached the police but no action was taken against them," the victim added.

Station house officer, inspector Ravindra Pratap Singh, told TOI, "The matter has come to my knowledge now. As I was busy in election duty, I couldn't look into it before. Strict action will be taken against the accused for sure."



Hot Times On Church Mountain

I live in the northern foothills of Mt. Baker in Washington State. My four pack goats and I can access high alpine trails in the high Cascades in a 40-minute drive from my farm.

In summer of 2018 we walked many of these trails, including Church Mountain. This peak and the meadows below it are a great payoff for a long uphill slog. There is no other way to say it. The way up to the glorious meadows and peaks of Church Mountain is long, steep, and boring. The result is magnificent.

The uphill trudge was made more challenging due to the unusually high temperatures and the sheen of smoke that filled our area. The smoke was from a massive fire on the other side of the Cascades in Washington, as well as from the multitude of fires burning in British Columbia, Canada.

For these reasons, I scheduled a day up and two nights in the meadows with a trip to the peak on day two.



The Trudge Up

I have four pack goats – really three and a half: Tiberius (7 year old Oberhasli), Remington (5 year old Saanen), Balder (2 ½ year old Saanen), and The Professor (5-year-old smallest-Cashmere-that-ever-lived). The Professor is an example of how genetics works: large doe, large buck, but each must have had a recessive gene for tiny. They threw the smallest Cashmere I have ever bred, but I love him, and he's Balder's best friend, so he comes with us.

We're always late in leaving. I want my breakfast. They want their breakfast. They want to be lead to the truck one at a time. They want their treats for getting in the truck. I forget something and go back in the house. Then we finally get on the road. Then we have to off-load and get the packs on. Time just flies.

But off we went up the Church Mountain Trail. Switchbacks, then more switchbacks, one thinks "almost there", but then more switchbacks start. One is basically walking up the near vertical side of a mountain, nearly 3,800 feet in 4 miles from the bottom to its 6,100 foot summit.

The beginning is all tall firs and hemlocks. There are no views but the occasional pretty little stream that crosses the path. Periodic excitement is to be had with massive trees blocking the trail or stepping aside for enthusiastic, incredibly fit, trail runners. Have I dissuaded you? Probably. But the pay-off is worth the trudge.

Suddenly the deep shade of the tall trees opens into one of the most beautiful sloping meadows in the high country. Tall waving stands of bright pink fireweed welcome you to a land of copious wildflowers in amazing colors, each alive with pollinating bees, beetles, and flies. The hum of these industrious workers fills the air. Rolling hills of red and white blooming heather are punctuated with running brooks, white boulders, and blueberry bushes.

A few areas suitable for camping can be found along the trail, but the goats and I prefer solitude, so we rambled up the side of a meadow to where we found a flat enough place for my tent. No shelter was needed for the goats. It would have been a miracle if we had any rain.

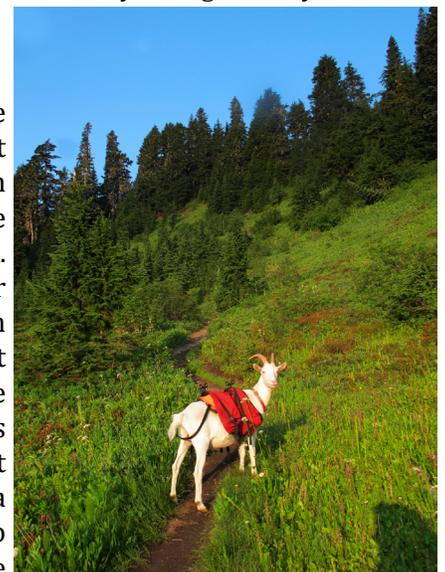
I do not tie up my goats at night, unless they might cause damage to the area. I do not think it's safe. They come when I call or whistle.

However, I always set a "low line" in alpine areas; two ground screws with a line between them with separate spaces for each goat along the line. This serves two purposes. 1) Should one, or more, of the goats decide that they should start peeling trees, they are put on the line to save the trees. 2) I really prefer to cook and eat without having to fight the goats for my food.

Once camp was set, there was still ample time to have a nice wander around to take in the views of Mt. Baker and a waterfall fed by the multitude of streams pouring from the mountain ridge above. It is steep in the Cascades, so streams do not meander. They charge wildly downhill though the meadows.

On To The Top

In the morning we set off early to beat the heat. Remington got to wear the one goat pack we took. The youngest packer always gets stuck with this job, unless a goat has been naughty. The naughty one then gets the burden. Sadly at this point my camera decided to die, so no photographs from the top.



Going Up to the Top

The trail rises steadily though open areas dotted with ever-smaller firs. Wide expanses of the surrounding ridges and glimpses into the valley far below contrast the flowers growing trailside. The trail makes a long loop as it climbs around a bowl near the peak and the soft greens of the foliage are accented by the brilliant white of small snow banks that still drape low-lying areas.

At the end of this section, a small trail extends to the east, where one could easily pitch a tent. But we followed the trail, around a switchback, and climbed further up the bowl towards the peak.

The trail turns to a rocky scramble and the top is achieved. The area is narrow and rocky, with a precipitous cliff dropping off to the northern side. The boys loved this part. They take great joy in playing "Look Karen, I can stand on two-inch ledge, with a 1000 foot drop to the scree below".

That drop ends, finally, in a small lake. Beyond it, to the north, stretch east-west, tree-covered ridges and Canada. To the east, the narrow, rocky, serrated ridge that includes Church Mountain stretches into the distance. We had it all to ourselves.

One of the nice things about camping high is that one can achieve lovely vistas before other people arrive. In general, people treat Church Mountain as a day hike.

I turned it into a one-nighter. It was just too hot. We returned to the campsite just after noon. The temperature continued to climb. Instead of having a nice wander-round the area, we all crawled into the minimal shade of a fir gnarled by wind, rain, and snow. I read; the goats slept. The biting flies visited and did some light dining. Never come to the high Cascades without bug juice.

A few hours later I decided that was enough. The temperatures had dropped a bit, so I packed up camp. We loaded up, and pounded our way back down the trail. It was a lovely trip, and I recommend it, but hopefully not in the blazing temperatures of 2018.



The meadow below Church Mountain

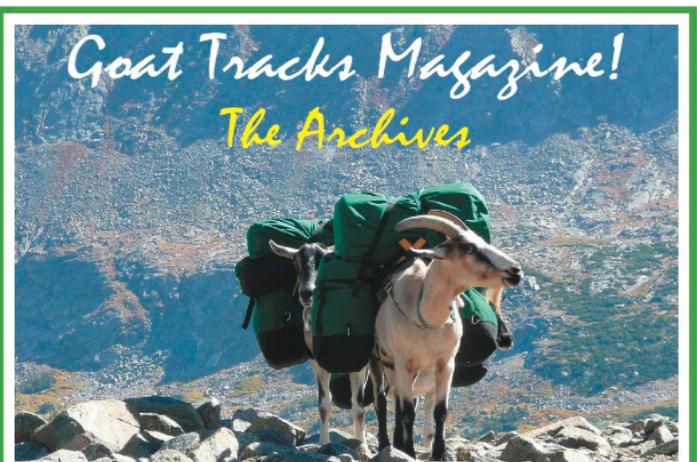


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In my frequent forays into the files that make up the GT Archives, I have come to the conclusion that the only reason that everyone doesn't have a copy of this information is that they just don't realize how completely entertaining lots of this stuff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

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Bells and Whistles

By Nan Hassey

In the last issue of GT, Matt Lyons asked the question, “In addition to the BMP’s what can we do about this [lost goat] problem?”

Well, there are several things not covered in our Best Management Practices which could go a long way toward helping us keep track of our goats on the trail. We lose very few goats as it is, so adding some extra precautions could take our losses down to near zero. Not all of these ideas will be practical for every situation, but think about which ones might work for the type of goat packing you do and consider adding them to your own personal list of “BMPs”.

The first suggestion is to use bells. Bells have been used by goat herders for thousands of years to keep track of large numbers of goats browsing in the wilderness. Many of us like to complain that bells are noisy and distracting and may keep us from fully enjoying our wilderness experience, but let’s not too quickly dismiss the wisdom of the past. It’s important to weigh the distraction of bells against the headache of losing a goat. In goat herds, the lead goat is usually equipped with a bell, not only so the goatherd can find it, but also to help the other goats in the herd stay close to their leader.

On the trail, we have fewer goats and they must stay closer together, so equipping each with his own bell is not a bad idea. If your goats start to lag, you’ll hear the bells becoming fainter. If your goats wander into the brush, you can follow their sound. If one goat gets startled, you’ll hear it immediately and have more time to react (and catch him if he’s running the wrong way). If you count heads and realize a goat is missing, you will have a better chance of finding him if he’s wearing a bell. If you have a goat that insists on lagging behind, give him an extra-loud bell with a distinctive sound so you can hear when he starts to drop back. Bells have the added advantage of warning hikers, horseback riders, and predators that you are approaching. The best predator is the one you never encounter, so giving the wildlife a heads-up on your approach may prevent a goat-loss incident from occurring in the first place.

Another good practice is to use bright colors so you can more easily spot a goat that wanders off-trail. I know a lot of folks prefer to use natural, muted colors for their packs so they can blend in with the wilderness, and I appreciate the aesthetics of this idea. However, if your goat strays into bushes or a boulder field he may be impossible to spot without a bit of bright color. It’s amazing how even the flashiest goat can blend into the landscape. Take a look at the photo of Sputnik standing less than ten feet away in the trees. Were it not for the blaze orange pack you would never spot him. Some

people use wide, orange neck collars or tie brightly colored pieces of fabric to their earth tone packs. When hiking in the wilderness, it’s better for your goats to be distractingly bright than to disappear into the landscape.



Another practice my husband and I have been working on is training our goats to come to a whistle. Our voices do not carry far and they are easily confused by wind and terrain. If you cannot make a loud, piercing whistle with your lips, buy one and train your goats regularly with it at home. If you give your goats a treat when they come to the whistle, they will learn to race toward the sound every time. In the event that one of your goats gets separated from you on the trail, he will appreciate having a loud, clear signal to follow back to you. Often when a goat gets separated he panics and runs the wrong way because he doesn’t know where you are. The whistle will be a familiar, comforting sound that snaps his brain out of panic mode so he can stop running and find you. The piercing sound is less likely to be confused by echoes or wind so he’ll have a good idea what direction to go.

It’s important not to take more goats than you can reasonably keep track of and manage. I tend to think that three goats is about as many as I could control, while my husband doesn’t like to control more than one. Be realistic about your personal limit and stick to it. If one person takes six goats on the trail, there’s a much higher chance of one being overlooked. If you have a lot of goats with several hikers, appoint certain individuals responsible for specific goats so that one person doesn’t have to do all the head counting and controlling. As you are hiking, look behind you periodically to count heads. If you have one goat that insists on lagging, you will have to look behind more frequently. You may even need to tie the lollygagger to one of his mates. Don’t take for granted that the lagging goat will eventually get lonely and catch up. He might not, so if you see a potential problem, be proactive.

Always be ready to deal with dogs. Domestic dogs are probably the most common cause of packgoat incidents. Always be on the lookout for dogs wandering off-leash. Most dog owners are ignorant about packgoats and may not be aware that their pet could frighten or even kill your goats. If you see a dog, immediately call your goats and physically take control of each of them. Never assume your goats are tough enough to tackle a dog. Hang onto your goats and ask the owner to please leash their dog. Be ready to defend your goats with pepper spray, a Dog Dazer (available from www.northwestpackgoats.com), or a stout stick. Train your goats to run behind you at the first sign of danger, and expose them to large dogs in a controlled environment so they are less likely to panic and bolt if they encounter one on the trail.



Finally, check your goats' health and equipment regularly. A goat in poor condition or one with a pinching saddle, girth gall, or bruised hoof is more likely to lag on the trail or even turn back. Making sure your goats are happy, healthy, and comfortable will go a long way toward ensuring that they enjoy being with you on the trail and are physically capable of keeping up. If your goats love their job you'll find that it's much harder to leave them than to lose them. Keep your friends close and your goats closer!

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Goats return to SC's "Goat Island"

By: Heather Olinger, NBC, Posted: Apr 16, 2019

<https://www.counton2.com/news/local-news/goats-return-to-sc-s-goat-island-/1930912583>

MURRELLS INLET, S.C. - Take a look at these amazing goats. They are back on Goat Island, but where else would they be?

Actually, the goats have summer place! They're taken off the island for the winter each year, then in the spring, they're brought back to Goat Island in Murrells Inlet.

This year, it only took about 15 minutes to get the nine goats back onto the island. That's a lot quicker and easier than it was to round them up and remove back them in November.

Apparently, that is the most goats they've ever had on Goat Island, and hundreds of people watched them return.

They'll only be there for seven months before they leave again for the winter, but they'll be back!



Carolyn Eddy

Carolyn Eddy? Since we have had fairly rapid growth in the last few years, there may be some that might reply that way. For the newcomers, I have to say that, 'Carolyn was NAPgA' and one of the primary reasons that NAPgA exists as it is today. Carolyn, along with George Bogdan and Mike Silverman were the founders of NAPgA, the reason for it's need-to-be was the same as it is right now, threats to the goatpacking community. This was true even then, as small as it was at that time. The 756,000acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA), was reacting to a media scare story about a feral goat that was running with Bighorn Sheep (BHS) in Hells Canyon, and as a result BHS were dying of pneumonia... pneumonia ostensibly spread by this goat. We now know that the strain of pneumonia that the goat was carrying was not even the same as the one that the BHS were dying of, but it made good press at the time, and the land managers were running scared.

So Carolyn and the two others joined forces, put NAPgA together more or less as it exists today, and responded to the SNRA ban as the 'NAPgA' Organization. The SNRA then quickly rescinded their ban, possibly at least in part due to the fact that there are no BHS in the Sawtooths to be threatened by our goats or anything else. The closest Bighorns being many miles away in one small part of the White Clouds.

But who was Carolyn?

That will have to remain a bit murky, as Carolyn was a very private person and was not wont to share the details of her early life with others. In chatting with Alice Beberness, her companion and trail buddy for many years, it appears that the home in which she shared her early years was significantly dysfunctional, and as a result, she largely was called upon to raise her three brothers as well as herself.

Carolyn came into being on the 9th of September, 1953. After her somewhat turbulent home years, she entered adult years having developed a strong sense of survival and getting things done under her own power. At some point she established a 'significant other' relationship with Stan Venable that lasted approximately 30 years, until sometime around 2010 (an approximate date), when Stan had a stroke while Carolyn & Alice were out on a trip. He fell and remained in the front yard overnight, barely survived, and as a result ended up in a nursing facility. At some point George Trager came into her life as a helper with her home and animals, and eventually they married shortly before she passed away in 2018.

Carolyn began her animal husbandry efforts with horses, which she raised and trained for many years, apparently living in the area of Bend, Oregon.

Alice noted that she even trained folks to ride, with some of her trainees going on to make a significant impact on the equine world. It is not clear when or why she made the transition to goats, but change was pretty much absolute, and she bred and used goats for many years.

Cont. Pg19, Col 1



In memorium

CAROLYN EDDY

"sweetgoatmama"

15 April 2018

- **Founding member of Cascade Pack Goat Club 1995**
- **Founding member of NAPGA 1999**
- **Remained on the NAPGA board serving the pack community for 20 years**
- **Author of several essential guides to the pack goat community**
- **Breeder, educator, friend**

Carolyn, upon her passing, left a vacancy in the goatpacking world that you could fit a 747 into. Carolyn wrote 3 books, the first of which was *Practical Goatpacking*, which is still the definitive book on the 'How-to-Do-It' nuts and bolts of goatpacking. She went on to write *Diet for Wethers*, and *Goat First Aid*, a book that she jointly penned with Alice Beberness. All of Carolyn's books were aimed at serving the burgeoning population of folks interested in using goats as pack animals.

Carolyn and Alice never missed a Rendezvous, and Carolyn was a frequent seminar instructor at many of those events.

Carolyn was a commanding presence, doing things, and getting things done. She is sorely missed.

1789-Vermont town elects 3-year-old goat to serve as honorary mayor

By [Nicole Darrah, Fox News](#)

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/vermont-town-elects-3-year-old-goat-to-serve-as-honorary-mayor>



Lincoln is set to become Fair Haven, Vermont's first honorary pet mayor. (Robert Layman/The Rutland Herald via AP)

A 3-year-old [goat in Vermont](#) beat out more than a dozen other [pets](#) for the title of honorary [mayor](#).

Lincoln, a Nubian goat, was chosen by residents in [Fair Haven](#), a town of roughly 2,500 people that sits along the border of Upstate [New York](#), to serve as mayor for one year.

The goat was among 15 other animals on the ballot in the running for the honorary position. Lincoln beat out several other animals, including cat Sassy Towle, a dog named Stella Heibler and a gerbil named Crystal, for the job.

Lincoln took 13 of the 53 votes cast, just surpassing a dog named Sammie Viger who took home 11.

As mayor, Lincoln will be expected to attend local and major events, including the Memorial Day parade, for which he'll wear a custom sash.

Fair Haven doesn't have a human mayor. Town Manager Joe Gunter told the [Rutland Herald](#) he got the "great idea" to elect an animal to office from a small town in Michigan.

He said he figured the election would be a good way to raise money to create a local playground. It only raised about \$100 through a \$5 entry fee, but it reportedly provided other benefits.

"It turned into a good civics lesson," he told the news outlet. "Get the kids involved in town government. (I) thought this was a great way to break the ice with the kids."

Lincoln is set to take office on Tuesday.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Fearless goat fights to walk again

[Matt Preis, USA TODAY](#) Published 9:50 a.m. ET March 15, 2019

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/animalkind/2019/03/15/hopie-fearless-goat-fights-walk-again/3160648002/>

A miracle goat named Hopie now has an amazing rescue story to share with the world. Hopie was found by Lawson's Heart, a goat rescue group that helps special needs goats and other farm animals find their forever homes. Hopie was attacked by another animal and sustained internal injuries. Her veterinarian wasn't sure Hopie would survive.

Susan, owner and operator of [Little Buckets Farm Sanctuary](#), saw a post about Hopie and knew she had to help. Despite just relocating the farm, Susan drove hundreds of miles to pick up Hopie and give her a forever home. The road to recovery was extremely difficult. Susan had to give Hopie medicine through a syringe around the clock for several weeks.

The determined goat wouldn't give up and continued to get stronger. Thanks to a donation, Hopie was given a harness and was able to be upright. Then something amazing happened: she started to walk on her own, and eventually started to run. Now nothing slows Hopie down.





[Cargo panniers]



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Buttheadpackgoats.com

LLAMAS AND GOATS, PACKING TOGETHER

BY ALEXA METRICK, EDITOR OF PACK ANIMAL MAGAZINE

I assumed the trail on the north side of the pass would match that of the south side of the pass.

I was wrong.

A ghost of a trail appeared and disappeared through the scree and boulder field that fell off the north side of the saddle, but it completely disappeared once we made our way out of the rocks. Little trickles of water wandered down the sides of the surrounding mountains. In our search for the path we knew must be there, we mistook most of the trickles for trails until we splashed into them. Then it started to drizzle, and we gave up on finding a trail and simply picked our way between the spots of marshy, spongy ground and the dense thickets of willows.

We were heading for the Fryingpan Lakes, which were reportedly chock-full of trout. We almost made it. Almost.



Before the trail petered out

corners of Colorado with five animals between us, we were on the trail only four hours later than we had planned. Not bad, considering all the trip's variables.

Fortunately, the goats and llamas took to each other without any problem, we figured out a trail order that made everyone happy, and we hiked an easy couple of miles to the base of the pass and set up camp well before dusk.

Nan Hassey, a 39-year-old pack goat breeder from Rye, Colorado brought three goats: two packers and a milk goat. Gayle Woodsum, a 62-year-old writer and community organizer from North Fork, Colorado who has been packing with llamas since 1998, brought two llamas: one was an 18-year-old semi-retired pack llama and the other a rescue llama that had spent four months running wild in the mountains above Fort Collins before being rescued and had never been on an overnight pack trip before.

As the editor of *Pack Animal*, I had instigated the trip but brought no animals. I did bring the kitchen, however, and tried to make myself useful in other ways. I was also the planner of, and navigator for, the trip. A few years back, I

had hiked to the unnamed lake at the top of Fryingpan Pass and knew the trail was pack-animal-friendly up to that point. I could see the Fryingpan Lakes off in the distance and I assumed that the trail would continue on the other side in the same manner that it had delivered us to the top of the pass. My Navigation columnist, Dr. Phil Romig Jr., never would have made that mistake. But then again, I tend to take after my father, Charlie Hackbarth, and follow my gut when I'm out on the trail.

If we had started earlier and had a b a n d o n e d the search for a trail sooner, we would have made it to the lakes. But our green llama had been signalling



A trail? Or just a creek? :-)

her scepticism of our leadership since the boulder field and Gayle had been using too much energy trying to convince her that we knew where we were going, so the final push to the lakes was abandoned late on the second day.

I'm just guessing, but I think we camped less than a mile from the upper Fryingpan Lake. But since I was the only angler in the group, I was unable to get the votes needed for an early morning start to the lakes for a bit of fishing before we turned around to head back up and over the mountain. I will admit, however, that I may not have campaigned as enthusiastically as I could have. Hiking without a trail is always more exhausting than I think it will be.

The next day, the animals, sensing a return to the barn, never complained about the pace and we were at the edge of the lake that sat in the saddle of Fryingpan Pass in time for lunch. We arrived in the midst of a huge hatch and, after scarfing down a PBJ, I caught a pretty cutthroat on my second cast. Nan and her goats and Gayle and her llamas headed down the switchbacks toward our first night's



Nan & her 'charges'

campsite while I stayed behind and fished a while longer. Before the hatch ended I got a few more bites and one on the line that took my fly. Fishing alone at a high

mountain lake is a rare treat, and the solitude is both peaceful and unnerving, especially as you watch storm clouds pile up on one side of the pass and then break apart as they cross over. There's electricity in the air even if no storms materialize.

On the way down from the pass, I thought about how well the animals worked together on the trail. Goats and llamas have a lot in common as far as trail companions go: neither of them make much noise, and they both go at a human's pace. The milk goat that provided fresh milk for my morning coffee, the scrambled eggs, the French toast, and the Alfredo sauce was unfamiliar with the concept of staying on the trail, but everyone else hiked in line at a steady pace. The animals are quiet, but you feel their presence. Nan and Gayle both speak to their animals as if they expect a response, leaving me as the fifth wheel, talking to myself.

The other benefit of both llamas and goats is their size: horses and mules have been the traditional pack stock in the U.S., but demographics have changed drastically in the last one hundred years. There are fewer people who grew up around horses and fewer still who can, in the face of high land prices, afford to keep horses for recreational packing. But both llamas and goats require less: less space, less upkeep, less husbandry knowledge. They are easier to manage on the trail, exponentially safer around children and folks who have little experience around large animals. They can't carry nearly the same weight as a horse (generally speaking, a llama can carry twice as much as a goat and a horse can carry twice as much as a llama) and you can't ride them, but they'll get you deep into the backcountry and leave little to no impact on the land as they do it. And due to the ever-increasing number of people who are enjoying our public lands, minimal impact is going to be an essential component of preserving that land.

We hiked out to the trailhead the next morning in a constant but light drizzle, and were back at the cars before we realized the trip was over. Fortunately, it took us a long time to get Gayle's fifty-foot rig back out onto the highway, so we didn't get on the road home at too early an hour.

After an hour on the road, cell phones suddenly find service and messages and voicemails start rolling in and you fight the urge to turn around and head back in, deep into the mountains and away from the responsibilities of daily life, back to where three strangers, three very different women, enjoyed a dozen miles on the trail together with little in common but the love of the backcountry and the pack animals who make it possible.

Gilbert goat may have set new world record for most kids

Jason Barry, Posted Feb 20, 2019

https://www.azfamily.com/news/pets/gilbert-goat-may-have-set-new-world-record-for-most/article_cdcccd34-356b-11e9-a411-c3a9d13153dc.html

GILBERT (3TV/CBS 5) - Arizona has a number of entries in the [Guinness Book of World Records](#).

The [longest wall of fire](#). (16,046.5 feet at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in March 2017.)

The largest shaving cream fight.

The [most selfies taken in one hour](#). (1,449 at Deer Valley High School, Glendale in January 2015.)

Last weekend, another record may have been set.

Angelica the goat just delivered seven babies at the Fairywood Farm in Gilbert.

"We were just so ecstatic," said Beth Miller, Angelica's owner. "Just an amazing thing to have these seven, live healthy babies. Nobody was weak. Nobody needed help nursing. They were all up on their feet in just a few minutes."

The Miller family knew something special was going on when their mamma goat kept having more and more kids.

"At first I was like five, maybe six, but then once the seventh came out I was like, 'Wow this is amazing,'" said Elsa Miller. "I looked up and the [world record was actually six](#)."

That was in March 2006 in Julian, PA, but one of the kids didn't make it.

The seven babies the Valley goat delivered appears to be a new world record.

The family has already gone online to fill out an application with Guinness World Records, and must now wait 12 weeks to see if their special delivery has a chance to go in the record book.

The Millers will need to submit photos, video and DNA samples from all the kids before the world record is confirmed.

So what would Angelica say about all this?

Not baaad. Not baaad at all.

"To us, it would just be a fun thing to be able to say we have the world record amount of baby goats," said Beth Miller.

"I always knew we had something special about our farm, but I never imagined it would have a world record," said Elsa Miller.

"Angelica and all seven babies are doing great! Four days old"



North American Packgoat Association A Message from The President

June 5th, 2019

The snow is melting in the high country and in short order goat packing season will be in full swing. For some of you this has already started. Calendars are filling up with pack trips and plans are being made to seek out new adventures. With so many folks headed into the backcountry this spring, summer and fall, I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to everyone and reflect on NAPgA's mission and vision statements as a reference guide to "our responsibility" of being responsible and ethical goat packers.

Almost every year we (NAPgA) get a dreaded phone call or email that another goat packer has lost a packgoat or pack goats have been found by another hiker, hunter, Wildlife Agency or Forest Service staff. We all know too well that accidents can and do happen when you're dealing with Raw-mother nature and the human element. Things can and will go wrong. As with any outdoor recreational activity, using good common sense and having a "Safety First" mentality will pave the way to success.

This last year NAPgA has worked hard to sharpen and refine our Best Management Practices or BMP's. This is a living document that has been whittled down to five practices that we all need to follow to make goat packing absolutely "Bullet Proof". We also worked on putting together an informational training video of our BMP's to be used as a training tool for continued education and awareness. If you have not seen our Best Management Practices or are not familiar with them I would like to encourage you visit our website at www.napga.org, click on RESOURCES, then scroll down to our BMP's.

I would also like to encourage "everyone" to view our NAPgA-BMP's education and awareness video. You can see the video at our website at www.napga.org or Packgoats.com, or on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTVEz04Hd14>. I would like to personally thank Marc Warnke at Packgoats.com and his videographer Shea Rodgers, both of Boise, Idaho, for hosting and filming this project with us. We sincerely hope that you will find it educational and useful.

On another note, NAPgA is also looking for volunteers within our Packgoat community to help us with our never-ending battle to secure and protect your right to use Packgoats on public lands. We are looking for volunteers from every state to help us with keeping up-to-date with National Forest Draft Land Use Plans and Public Land Use notifications as they relate to Packgoat use. We have responded to every forest plan that has proposed language to remove "Packgoats" from the forest. If we did not respond it was because we were not notified or

it slipped under the radar because no one had knowledge of it. We do not want this to happen anywhere. If you are aware of any potential changes in forest plans in your area we must identify them and respond to them during the "comments period". If we are not made aware of the potential change in the forest plan in your area or if we do not respond during the open comments period we have no legal standing in the objection process or potential litigation. This is a daunting task that requires boots on the ground monitoring of the public land issues in your area. Anyone and everyone can help with this issue. Please contact www.napga.org in our contact link if you have any information about potential changes in the forest plans or other public lands in your area such as State or BLM land. Our very talented attorney Andrew Irvine has been extremely instrumental with helping us respond to these unwarranted and proposed closures. Your memberships, monies and donations are used to help with this cause and we are making progress. Please reach out to us if you would be willing to serve as a researcher or scout to help us keep up with these land use issues.

THE RENDEZVOUS!!

Final Thoughts. Our 2019 annual Rendezvous will be held near Buffalo WY, in the Bighorn Mountains June 20th-23rd. We look forward to another great event and we have a handful of seasoned veteran instructors on board to pass on years of knowledge and experience. If you are new to goat packing or just want to get the latest tips on training, packing, hunting with Packgoats and equipment, you don't want to miss this valuable two-day seminar. If you're in the area, or just want to come out and camp with us to learn more about Packgoats, all are welcome. Please visit our website for directions to the Rendy and some basic friendly rules to help everyone enjoy the experience.

If you're not able to attend the Rendezvous but would like to help us with our cause, please feel free to mail any items you would be willing to donate for our fundraising auction and country store. It's not too late to donate and all proceeds go directly to NAPgA. Items can be mailed to attention of:

NAPgA-Desarae Stark
121 Rustic Hills Rd. West
Rozet WY, 82727

My wonderful wife Miss Lori and I are looking forward to meeting all of you and thank you all for your continued support.

"Long Live The Packgoat"
Curtis King
President, North American Packgoat Association

Hiking Idaho's Copper Basin

An area of difficult work, with tremendous rewards

As part of my hiking itinerary for 2018, following in Irene Saphra and Carl Damman's footsteps, I chose the Copper Basin in Idaho as one of my 'must do's'.

Copper Basin is located in south central Idaho, 'up' and to the north of the Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve. Copper Basin is undoubtedly one of the highest large basin areas in Idaho especially since it contains the highest airport in Idaho, one of the 10 highest airports in the United States.

As one might guess, since you are starting high at the trailhead (TH), it stands to reason that your destinations will be in the low oxygen zone as well. And they are. The highest lake we accessed on this venture was Goat Lake at 10,464'... with Standhope Peak standing behind it at 11,878'.

We began at the Bellas Lakes drainage. Bellas Lakes are in the drainage just to the east of the Broad Canyon drainage where Goat Lake resides, and the TH for this one begins at 7800'. We got to the TH at 2pm or so, as this area is quite a trek from Boise with a lot of mountain driving. So naturally we arrived at the largest Bellas Lake sometime between 5 or 6pm. Already at the lake on a fishing day-hike were a couple of gentlemen that blessed me with the information that the Broad Canyon lakes were in a closed area due to the ongoing Sparks fire. This information was *NOT* well-received, as it is a long and expensive journey from Boise to this area, and I certainly did NOT want to hike into this one small group of lakes and then go home.

Since it was late we got with the business of setting up tents, cooking dinners, and relaxing prior to bedtime,



Bellas Lake #2

and the setting sun provided a glorious show on the steep peaks that were all around us. Morning provided a beautiful panorama of early morning mountain sun, loads of fish churning the lake's surface to a froth, and cool breezes which were a far cry from the warm hike we had experienced the previous afternoon.

After breakfast we hung the food back up, and proceeded to explore the rest of the lakes in this basin. Bellas Lake #2, as it is called locally, and the largest

of the other lakes in this basin, is almost 500' above our campsite, so was quite a grunt to access. But the lake was its own reward, pretty, isolated and peaceful.



A creekside floral display

Pictures taken, we began the trek back down to the campsite and the packing up for the trip to the next drainage.

The trip out was uneventful, if not quite warm, and we arrived at the TH mid-afternoon.

So on to the next TH, at Broad Canyon Campground (a horse CG), which was about a mile and a half down Copper Basin Loop Road.

Since we arrived at this TH too late to attempt the hike to Betty-Baptie-Goat lakes, we made the decision to camp overnight, then start out in the morning, hopefully in cooler temperatures.

After we got our camp going, one of my first jobs was to investigate this 'closure' thing. Advancing on the information board, it was certainly clear from the large sign, '**Area Ahead Closed Due to Fire**'. After grinding down my teeth a quarter-inch or so, I got up close and personal with the map, and lo and behold, in spite of the clearly deceptive signage, the lakes we wanted to access were just as clearly *OUTSIDE* the boundaries of the fire closure area. Was this intentionally deceptive in hopes that we would just get discouraged and leave the area? My inherent distrust of the same government that is attempting to throw me and my goats out of the wilderness certainly gives me cause to think so.

While I know that I clearly stand the chance of getting the snot beat outta me for saying this, this horse campground clearly evidenced what I have already experienced and seen so often before, and that is that horse packers come in to an area, camp, make a gigantic mess with their animals, and then leave it all for someone else to clean up. It certainly gives me pause as to the concern I have for the little bit of disruption my goats create where I have them highlined.

One of the other issues of concern surrounded which TH to use. There were clearly two of them, one of which traveled down the south side of the river, and the other which crossed a large meadow, directly to the north of the CG, crossed the river on a small one-log footbridge, and then traveled down the north side of the river.

Margaret Fuller, my ultimate guru & guide for all things hiking in Idaho, noted that the trails joined together about a mile down the river.

They did not.

What we were to eventually learn is that the trail setup that Margaret Fuller described had been reconfigured, and the one that did the meadow crossing directly across from the CG, was now referred to as the Jarvis trail. It crossed the meadow, traveled about a mile or so down the north side of the river, then began climbing like there was no tomorrow. It eventually journeyed past Clear Lake, one of the smaller (but astoundingly clear) lakes in this basin, and eventually emerged right at Betty Lake at the top of the cirque. The other trail, which we used to return to the TH, followed the drainage past an intersection where the trail to Baptie & Goat lakes departed, and on down to where it crossed the river about a mile west of the CG. It should be clear from all of this that these two trails *DID NOT* join together, and followed decidedly different routes up to these lakes.

In any case, we started out the next AM, hiked for a while in cooler temperatures, climbed like mad, transited some very beautiful areas (much more so than the trail back down), and emerged at Clear Lake, where it finally became 'clear' that the trail on the Topo, and the trail that we were on were two decidedly different entities.



Hiking partner George

After taking the requisite pictures at Clear Lake, we motored on, noting that our energy level meter was bouncing off the 'E' peg, and there was not a filling station in sight. The pace became slower as time passed, and when we finally crossed the brow of the hill below Betty Lake we immediately noted three things: 1) there was only a small grassy area for tents; 2) there were already three tents filling said grassy area; & 3) there was not a tree in sight as this area is clearly at or beyond the timberline.

Standing there in awe of the beauty of this particular body of water, but also slowly being burned to a crisp by over 10,000' sun, the question immediately becomes, how in the heck are we going to get into some shade?

The answer was down the side of the hill about 150' below Betty, where there were small copses of stunted juniper trees, only one of which had even a remote possibility of being a campsite. But since it was the

only possibility, it clearly became the answer to the 'where to camp' question. Down we went and set up a camp... *sorta*. There really was only one place barely suitable for a tent, hiking partner grabbed



Betty Lake

that, so I am left with? I ended up doing something I have only done on very infrequent occasions, I put down the ground cloth, lay the sleeping pad and sleeping bag on top of that. In the thru-hiker vernacular, this is called 'Cowboy Camping'. Sleeping under the stars as it were. Not an ideal scenario as it gives the incessant bugs free access to a lot of available blood sources. Which they are more than willing to take advantage of (*And yes, I know you're not supposed to end a sentence with a preposition. My mother would have a cow! But she isn't here to read this*).

Everything was difficult at this campsite, finding trees suitable for highlining is difficult enough at many campsites, but this area was basically in an option-free zone. I did manage to cobble together a sort of a highline, which was necessary as none of the 'Orange Screws' would maintain any hold whatsoever in this rock filled terrain.

Well, ya does what ya hasta does when ya hasta does it, and so we got through the night. I do have to note that there was a rock that I overlooked when I set my sleeping apparatus in place, and this rock signified its significant displeasure at me lying on top by continually poking me in the back. Where's my Serta when I need it?

Morning in these environs is its own reward, and so it was. There is just something about sitting in one's camp chair, sipping the morning's coffee and drinking in the incredible surroundings. Ya just can't duplicate that at home even with a 4K-55" screen. ☺

After packing up, then traveling up to Betty Lake for last-minute pictures, we set off down the trail. Arriving

at the intersection for Baptie-Goat lakes, we dropped the gear off the goats, and began the climb back up to these two lakes, lakes which I will call the 'gems' of the Broad Canyon drainage.



Another creekside floral display

Baptie Lake was a real grunt, on a trail of dubious traction, but the scenic beauty of this lake and its environs quickly displaced any grumbling about the trail or difficulty in getting to it. The fish in this lake were churning up this lake as well, attempting to reduce the population of the local blood suckers... clearly a good thing! And beckoning any local fisher-person to try their luck.

On up to Goat Lake, another 300' of climbing. Another lake above the timberline, and just one more body of mountain water whose breathtaking beauty threatens to take away what little breath you have left.



Goat Lake

We lunched by the shores of Goat Lake, lost in admiration of the work at the hands of the creator, and only very reluctantly made the decision to return to where we dropped the gear and continue the trek to the TH.

The trail back down, as mentioned before, descended with the drainage, and that drainage descended quite steeply at times. Footing was unsure in many places, so the descent went a bit on the slow side.

Naturally, as we descended, the temperature rose into the 'uncomfortably warm' area, so the hiking didn't get any easier as time went on. And as we got within a couple or three miles of the TH, my feet began to give me serious trouble in terms of pure, unadulterated pain. I have struggled with this since I have been hiking, the result of an unusually high arch. When you have this condition, if the arch isn't adequately supported, undue pressure is put on the ball and heel of the foot, and the arch is stressed.

So it took me a bit of time, and a couple or three shoes-off rest stops to actually make it back to the TH.

At that point, since it had already become obvious that my original plan to see at least one more drainage was unrealistic, due to our presence back at the TH late Friday afternoon, and still facing a long drive back to Boise. So, we began began the trek for home.

Lacking any interest in driving all the way home that late in the afternoon, we found a place beside Wildhorse River, and made that our bedroom for the night.

In the end, all hiking is good, and it is always rewarding to be out with the goats. Add the spectacular scenery of the Copper Basin, and you have a week very well spent.

The Great Palace Of The Goats

[Forest Hartley](#), Jun 2, 2019

https://poststar.com/lifestyles/column-the-great-palace-of-the-goats/article_c5fa4512-b27d-5543-b52c-09e5cefc0fbb.html

The goat palace, an 8-by-12 board-and-batten building, is working out well.

It fits a whole lot of goats comfortably. They lounge around in it through another slogging rainstorm, staying dry and warm.

When I'm hoeing nearby in the afternoon while it's not raining, eight or nine goats stand staring at me from just inside one of its open double doors.

Other goats are pegged out in the lawn, grazing, or just walking around the goat yard munching hay and drinking water.

When it starts raining again, I flip over a big feed bucket, put it inside the palace and sit with all the goats as we wait out the latest cold slog.

Little Nosy, who had to spend his first weeks in the house this winter, usually sits on my lap while my best little milk goat, the black-and-white Moon, chews on my shirt and demands her pats.

I haven't put any furniture into the new goat palace — no benches, no raised platforms, nothing to interfere with cleaning. If the goats want to play, they have plenty to jump on outside.

I'm also not feeding them, or watering them, in there. I put sawdust on the floor. Then, every few days I sweep it out and put down some more. It has a finished plywood floor and a steel threshold that is level with the floor, so there is no obstacle to sweeping.

Live and learn.

I have spent a large part of my life shoveling heavy litter out of chicken coops and stables, fighting my way around corners, nesting boxes, benches, over gutters and thresholds, and through doors that aren't really big enough.

The new goat palace keeps it simple. It follows Genghis Khan's passion for simplicity, but on a much modified level: If you come upon a town or village, burn it, smash it, and finally have the livestock trample the remains back into the steppes, so it doesn't interfere with grazing.

I'm also not feeding them, or watering them, in there. I put sawdust on the floor. Then, every few days I sweep it out and put down some more. It has a finished plywood floor and a steel threshold that is level with the floor, so there is no obstacle to sweeping. In these days, everything interferes with grazing, so we have to make liberal allowances.

In these days, everything interferes with grazing, so we have to make liberal allowances.

Cont. Pg29, Col 2

Learning the Hard Way

Reader Contribution By [Carrie Miller, Miller Micro Farm](#),
3/20/2019

Source: Mother Earth News, <https://www.motherearthnews.com/homesteading-and-livestock/learning-the-hard-way-zbcz1903>

How It All Began

While goats can suffer from many different mineral and vitamin deficiencies, Zinc is the one that we have been dealing with here on our



farm. Can you love your goats too much? Can you feed them so well you are hurting them? The answer is yes! This is exactly what we found out we were doing. While loose mineral is always available to our goats it was not enough to stop a Zinc deficiency storm from running through our herd. It all started when we got our first boys last fall. The buck, Harry, looked a bit rough and his coat was dull, straggly, and even appeared bleached out. After doing some research and with the advice of our vet we treated him with a copper bolus. After a few months, we noticed his coat began to soften and appeared darker in color so with thought we had the problem licked. Then the second boy, Mikey, began to look "off", diarrhea shortly followed. Weeks of diarrhea! We treated for everything under the sun and little to no improvement was seen. I contacted his original owner and she said to give him a quarter cup of black oiled sunflower seeds a day. Ok? Desperate to help I followed her plan of action. He began to slowly get better, thank god! But why did sunflower seeds help?

The Girls

Then suddenly two of our dry girls, Ginger and Zoey, began losing their fur by the handful and had horrible dandruff. The older of the two seemed depressed and tired, she had recently suffered a miscarriage as well. Her joints were stiff and sore throughout the winter but we thought arthritis due to her age. The young doeling



seemed perfectly fine, except her fur and flaky skin looked awful. Then Harry began to lose the hair on his scrotum? What is

going on over here? Feeling defeated I began to research possible causes and solutions. When I ran into a few articles that hit on all the problems we were having.

The Fix

In these articles, I began to read how dry does and males who eat too much alfalfa can become zinc deficient. The high levels of calcium in alfalfa can deplete zinc from their systems. Rutro.....we not only feed hay that was high in alfalfa we added alfalfa pellets to their grain rations. The milk-producing goats were having none of the same problems with good reason, their bodies use the extra calcium to produce milk. Two separate diets for milking and non-milking does is needed...oops. So, we quickly made the needed feed adjustments as well as adding kelp, black oil sunflower seeds (see why Mikey got better first?), and Manna Pro Goat Balancer to their diets for added zinc while they heal. For the extremely deficient goats, we added five days of zinc supplement as well.

Healing

Only a few weeks out from this catastrophe, it is a little early to say what the long-term effects will be. However, Ginger's coat appears a bit better, her joints no longer stiff, and her mood seems joyful. Zoey's little baby hairs are all filling in and her happy bouncy self seems all but perfect. Mikey's diarrhea has improved and Harry seems more active and his coat looks amazing!



What have we learned? Goat's dietary needs are extremely complicated and many things need to be taken into consideration. We now have three different diets; one for the males, one for the dry girls, and one for those in milk. Commercial goat feeds and goat minerals all have adequate amounts of zinc in them, so most goats consume enough. However, most zinc deficiency is secondary caused by excess calcium in the diet. Milking and pregnant does have a high need for calcium to grow babies and make milk, that is why they are unaffected.

You can follow me on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Website](#), and [Twitter](#). [Grit Magazine](#), [Mother Earth News Magazine](#), [Community Chickens Blog](#), [Homestead Hustle Blog](#), [Chickens Magazine](#), [Hobby Farms Magazine](#), and [The New Pioneer Magazine](#).



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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.)

“CAE NEGATIVE TESTED HERD” (Use this only if your does are tested yearly or have tested negative in the current year.)

“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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Please include your contact information in case we have questions or need your data in a different format.

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Our insane method of travel, on asphalt scars called roads, constructed of crushed stone and imported oil tars at phenomenal expense, traveled on by hurtling metal shells whose drivers often have little regard for life forms that walk onto those roads, means we don't just have to fence in our gardens from grazing, we also have to fence in our livestock from speeding vehicles.

Anyway, Genghis, I'm thinking of you. I'm milking goats and gathering wild pot herbs just as you and your mother and your siblings did when you were a poor young boy who no one could imagine might just become the great Khan.

These days, we must accept our attempts to simplify in very small doses, and take them as very small victories, such as the new open floor-plan goat palace.

In any case, goats really don't like standing or lying around in the rain. So, my goats are lucky we live in modern times, because they have a new comfortable place to come in to during the slogging rain.



Not much of a 'palace' as palaces go, but ya takes what ya can get if you're a goat

Victorian farmer targeted by 'vegan activists'

<https://www.news.com.au/video/id-5348771529001-6006225813001/victorian-farmer-targeted-by-vegan-activists>

A Victorian (Australia) farmer has described the torment he has endured at the hands of vegan activists after 70 protestors ambushed his property and stole livestock. Gippy Goat Cafe owner John Gommans has told Sky News host Jane Marwick that his property was targeted by protestors who stole goats and lambs from the tourist cafe in December and January. While some animals were recovered and found in a 'bad way', Mr Gommans says his goat Angel is still missing. Ms Marwick has described the targeted attack as 'out-of-control vegan activism'.



Why Join NAPgA? NAPgA is the only organization that exclusively represents goatpackers, and works tirelessly to open areas for camping and hiking with your goats that are closed right now, or have come under fire for the supposed danger of goats to Bighorn Sheep. The NAPgA governing board holds regular quarterly meetings, which are open to the entire membership (Meetings are conducted via computer and Internet-base meeting software).

Where do Your Dues Go? Since this is an all-volunteer organization, there is very little 'manpower overhead' and so your dues are exclusively used for issues directly connected to goatpacker concerns. As of late, we have spent a lot of money for our legal representation, but that has been well-rewarded in our successes with our fight to keep goatpacking open in the Shoshone and other unfriendly locations. Goat packers, due to our limited time as a recognized pack entity, have our work cut out for us in order to gain recognition as a viable part of the overall 'packer' spectrum. NAPgA is the only means to get that done, and those that are a part of the current BOD are working daily to make that happen.

Please join with us NOW and help us to encourage and develop packgoating nationwide. Dues may be paid with PayPal or with a check to:

Membership Classes:

- Bronze, \$20
- Silver, \$50
- Gold, \$100
- Youth, \$10

By becoming a member, you help NAPgA work to keep the wilderness open to Packgoats

NAPgA Mail Application

Date: _____ Date Received: _____

Member Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ eMail: _____

Brief Description of Packgoat Experience and/or Interest:

Contact: napga.org@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.napga.org>

WORKING GOAT DIRECTORY

For only \$10 per year, (That's \$2.50 an issue), advertise your name, address, and goat related items that you offer, such as equipment, pack or breeding animals, stud service, outfitting services, artwork, ANYTHING relating to working goats. Even if you don't have anything to sell, this is a great way to just let other working goat enthusiasts know that you are out there. There is a 15 word limit (address and phone count as one word). Underline key words and they will be highlighted. Listings will be organized by state.

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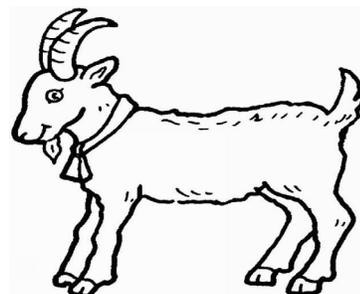
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A child and her goats