

## **REARING A KID GOAT**

### **DATES FOR KIDS**

Early - 1<sup>st</sup> July to 20<sup>th</sup> August  
Late - 21<sup>st</sup> August to 20<sup>th</sup> September

No entries under 3 weeks old.

### **EQUIPMENT**

- Kid and enclosure
- Anlamb, Ancalf or whole milk powder
- Bottle with teat to feed kid
- Brush
- Facecloth
- Hay
- Meal
- Practice ring
- Collar and lead
- Shelter provided with straw
- Water (drinking)

### **SELECTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION OF A SHELTER:**

Choose a doe, wether or buck kid. Construct a warm dry, draught-proof shelter with straw on the floor. Even when grown up, the goat will need a shelter as they tend to catch colds easily. Being thin-skinned they are susceptible to chills eg bronchitis and pneumonia. Give the kid a name.

### **FEEDING THE KID**

- a) A newly born kid needs its mother's milk (colostrum) for the first 4 days.
- b) Feed with Anlamb as for lambs but a larger quantity as they drink more  
OR
- c) Ancalf – ½ kg of Ancalf to 4.5 litres of water  
OR
- d) Wholemilk powder (170 grams to 1 litre of water). Milk should be blood heat – not cold.  
A new born kid needs four feeds a day. As it begins to eat grass reduce to three feeds and by 2 months old provide two feeds. Continue to feed up to 5 months for a really well grown kid. Kids eat grass, leaves and fern when still very young so make sure it has scope to run around. Have hay, meal and fresh water available at all times as a goat needs 35% roughage in its diet.
- e) A cup full of molasses in warm water every 3 or 4 days is beneficial.
- f) Kids are very noseey and will eat anything. A lot of garden plants are poisonous eg rhododendrons, rhubarb etc. Don't let them have free range around the section.

### **DAILY CARE**

- Feed milk regularly. Brush daily in the case of milking goats (not fibre goats).

- Wash around its face after each meal and use a damp cloth to clean under the front legs, on each flank and inside ears.
- Check the kid's shelter for cleanliness.
- Wash the feeding bottle and teat after each meal. Scouring and colic can be caused by dirty bottles.
- Take the kid for a walk using a collar and lead with a snap hook on one end.
- Play with the kid and caress it.
- If the kid scours, consult a vet, as there are several possible reasons.

### **WEEKLY CARE**

- Check the kids hooves and trim as they grow.
- Check for lice. Biting the skin a lot can indicate lice are present. Sprinkle louse powder on the kid and rub it over the animal. Repeat 10 days later to eliminate the infestation.
- Drench for worms – consult a vet for drench dose rates and frequency required.
- Consult a vet for selenium requirements. Do not overlook these care requirements and if the kid limps it may have footrot or scald. Obtain help to cut out the rot and contact a Vet for spray to cure it.
- Check the collar weekly and loosen as the kid grows.
- Kids may be dehorned (but this is not compulsory).

### **PREPARING THE KID FOR AGRICULTURAL DAY**

It is important to commence training the kid from an early age.

The rings are approx. 10m x 10m

#### **a) MOST OBVIOUS PET**

- To train the kid, stand some distance from it with a bottle of milk behind the back. Call it by name. When it comes give it a gentle pat and feed it.
- By the time of the school field day the kid should come when called, whether or not it is given a bottle of milk.
- Practice over and over again around the same kind of ring as will be used for the school field day.
- Have someone hold the kid. Move to the first peg and call it. When it comes give it a part.
- Walk around the peg to the next corner peg with the kid following close behind.
- Run along to the next peg with the kid running behind. Practice catching the kid quietly near the ring exit.

#### **b) LEADING (OBSTACLE COURSE)**

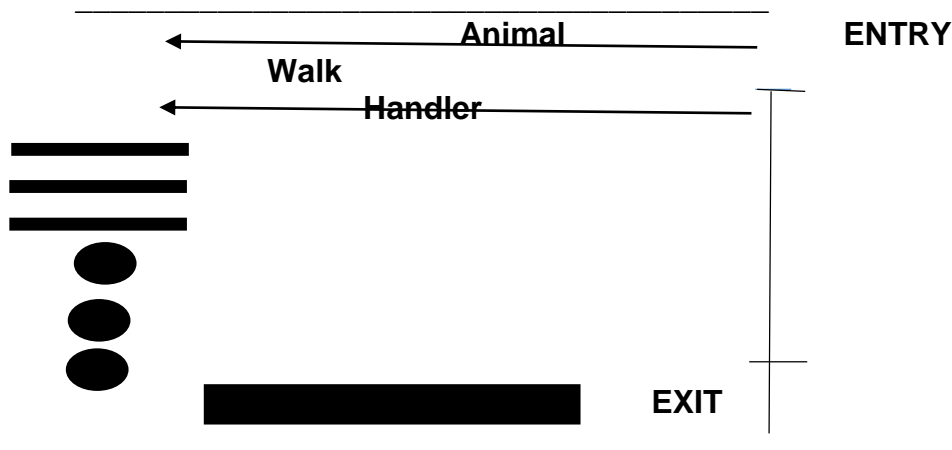
- Again spend some time each day leading the kid. Initially this would involve a short walk, then practice over an obstacle course. Lead the kid anti-clockwise round the ring.
- Steer the kid by moving the hand that is holding the lead left or right.
  - i) Free walk to first corner. Keep the same pace as the kid, walk upright and keep on a straight line. Make sure the lead from the collar around its neck is not too tight or too loose.

- ii) Jumping over 3 rails (maximum height 30cm)
  - iii) 3 stepping stones (eg tree rounds or similar). Get the kid to jump from one to the other.
  - iv) Walk along plank jump off end.
- The child works from inside the circle but does not climb any obstacles.

### DIAGRAM OF RING (LEADING)

1. Walk free
2. Jumping Rails - three (maximum height 30cm)
3. Stepping Stones – three to five cut tree rounds, or similar material, to allow kid to jump from one to another. Remove bark on tree rounds where possible to prevent nibbling).
4. Walk the Plank – End of plank fixed, other end left free.

### The Obstacle Course Ring



### GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The child is in control of the kid at all times
2. The child works from inside the circle but does not climb any obstacles
3. The Child is penalised if they assist the kid, but it is most important to complete the course even if assistance proves necessary
4. Judging will commence on entry and conclude on exit
5. Emphasis for the day should be on the child and animal having fun!

### c) REARING

This section of a kid project is usually assessed on the following aspects :

- Care
- Cleanliness
- Condition
- Knowledge
- Rapport
- Have a name for the kid and know its birthday.
- On the day, be prepared to discuss various rearing aspects eg type, breed, sex etc.

- Make sure the kid's ears, face, legs, hooves, flanks, rear end and under the stomach are clean for the field day.
- Make sure the hooves have been trimmed and clip the hair around them.
- Brush the kid well in the case of a milking breed and trim the hairs along the tail.
- When standing with the kid, hold its head upright with front and rear feet spaced evenly apart.
- If it is wet or cold on the field day, provide a cover or shelter for the kid.
- Fibre goats eg angora must not be washed or brushed.