



GOATS

Preparing Your Goat for Calf Club Day
Kids must be born between 1st June and 16th September 2017



It is important to remember that goats are NOT sheep and need to be reared and cared for differently. Generally, a goat loves human company and makes a great animal friend.

The kid should be chosen not later than 5 days after birth. It is better to get your goat at about four days. By this time it will have received the very important 'colostrum' from its mother. Colostrum is high in both vitamins and protein and this protects it against diseases.

If you select a buck kid he will need to be wethered when he is less than four weeks old, otherwise he will become smelly and aggressive as he grows older.

Sort out with your parents whether you are going to keep the goat after Calf Club day or return it to the breeder. Do not forget to check whether returning the goat is part of the plan. It could be a big shock to the breeder finding the goat returned if he/she wasn't expecting it back.

Also find out what breed the kid is and some points of the breed. What is this goat bred to do? Get the name and phone number of the breeder so you can ring if you have any questions or problems.

FEEDING

* Check with the breeder what to get to feed the kid before you collect it. You will probably have to buy a milk substitute powder to feed it with. Ankid and Denkavit are especially designed for goats but Anlamb does very well and is more easily obtained. Be sure to follow the formula instructions as it is important to get the right balance of powder to water. Mum and Dad can be of help to you here for a start.

It is best not to feed cow's milk or calf powder substitute milk but only because it has a lower fat content. It will not kill your kid if you do feed it calf's milk.

* For the first 24 hours, feed colostrum milk from its mother if possible. Young kids need small feeds, little and often. It is important not to over feed at this stage.

How much to feed - the kid may not be used to a bottle and teat, so remember to be patient for a few days.

Approximate quantities:

1 – 2 days	150 mls 6 times per day
3 – 7 days	300 mls 4 times per day
1 – 3 weeks	350 mls 4 times per day
4 – 6 weeks	450 – 500 mls 3 times per day



If your animal is unable to have mothers milk for the first 24 hours use the following colostrum replacement recipe. This is to be fed to the animal for the first 48 hours and then transferred to whole milk or Anlamb.

800 mls of milk (blue top)	1 beaten egg
1 tsp cod liver oil	1 dsp sugar

Heat 150mls at a time and keep the rest refrigerated.



- * When you are at school perhaps a parent would feed it for you. The milk should be body temperature, that is so it feels warm on your skin or 'clean' finger when you test it. Feed 250 to 300 mls per feed.
- * *Please remember these are only approximate amounts. You may wish to feed your kid on 2 feeds earlier making sure it has 2 litres per day.*
- * 10 Kgs body weight is the recommended weaning weight or about 3 - 4 months age, although this varies with sex, age and breed. Wean your kid slowly over 4 to 6 weeks. Start by reducing one feed at a time.
- * You will notice that at about 2 weeks of age your kid will start to nibble at things. Offer small pieces of hay. This helps encourage and develop the digestive system. If the kid is outside it will nibble at grass and trees. Always make sure it has fresh water available. Some trees are poisonous to goats and can kill them or make them very ill. Plants like camellia, cestrum, oleander, rhododendron, rhubarb and potato leaves are all poisonous to goats.
- * Pellets and meal can be purchased from a farm supplies store. They are a useful addition to the kid's diet.
- * **Goats must not be coloured with food colouring of any kind.**

HOUSING

- * Your kid will need a house that is warm and dry. Goats are very clean animals and prefer to stay away from wet and damp areas. This means their house needs to be cleaned out frequently. Straw or hay are very good bedding materials.
- * Your kid may need to be tied up. You will need to buy a collar and light chain (preferably not rope) that is long enough to allow the kid to have access to its food and shelter. The chain can be attached to a runner wire or a tether tie (available from Anchor Mart.)
- * **IMPORTANT - watch out for your kid becoming tangled as it could strangle to death if tangled tightly around the throat.**
- * Make sure to shift it often when it starts to eat so it has enough food available.
- * Keep the house clean and tidy.

WARMTH: A great way to keep your goat warm is by making it a little polar fleece cover. They are very simple to make and will make your goat a lot happier also. Ideas can be found on the internet.

HEALTH ROUTINE

1. Check the kid's hair for lice weekly. There are treatments in the form of sprays or powders available from vet clinics or stock agents. Bedding and surroundings may have to be changed and sprayed.
2. Sterilise feeding equipment daily, making sure containers are kept away from kids, as faeces could contaminate them. Goats have a habit of chewing everything in sight.
3. Check the hooves, with your parents. Trim if necessary to keep them flat. Also keep mud and dirt out of them, as they may get sore. Scours can be caused by irregular feeding times, worms or a disease. Feed more regularly and give a worm drench. Get this from your Vet and check the amount carefully. If scours continue get help from the breeder or the Vet quickly as young animals can die from dehydration (lack of body fluids.)
4. Injuries - cuts can be bathed with diluted Detol but larger wounds need a Vet's attention. Goats can easily break their legs falling off high things they have jumped onto. Broken bones need a Vet's attention.
5. **COLIC** ~ Goats can develop colic just like humans. This is very painful for them. They will throw themselves around, their legs will buckle from under them and they will squeal like crazy. It is very frightening for them and you so please get them to a VET IMMEDIATELY as it can also kill them.

PREPARATION FOR CALF CLUB DAY

CALLING:

- * Always practise Calling your kid before feeding it. Get someone to hold it while you move away. Then call LOUDLY to it, when it is ready. Move further away as the kid gets used to coming to you. Now walk along with the kid beside you, perhaps holding it by the collar without strangling it. Later you can try to walk with it at your heels.
- * **Don't forget to reward the kid for its efforts with a huge cuddle not food.**
- * **Use a collar to lead your animal NOT a halter.**

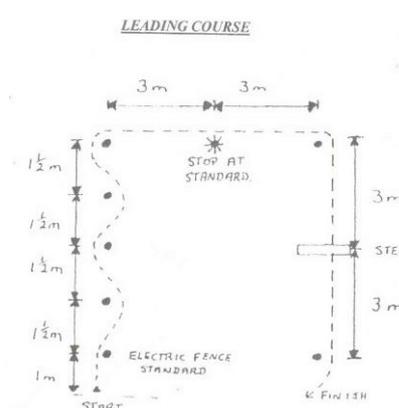


LEADING:

- * Use a collar to lead your animal, not a halter.
- * Leading should start at an early age (approximately 3 – 4 weeks), but only when your animal has confidence in you. Use a collar with a lead clipped to it. Do not drag your animal. Your lamb must walk on your right side, in line with your leg.
- * Walk at your animal's pace, but not too fast. Do NOT touch, slap or push your animal while leading.
- * When your lamb or goat will walk beside you at a good pace in a straight line, it is time to try leading it around obstacles and over posts or timber. Be patient, your animal will learn quickly.

You could be penalised for the following actions:

- Releasing the grip with the right hand
- Touching the animal during leading
- Slapping the animal
- Slapping the animal with the back of the lead
- Jerking the lead
- Pushing the animal with the child's leg.



Hints to be observed:

- * See that the lead is not too tight
- * Keep the animal moving at a reasonable pace, but walk at the same pace as the animal
- * Stand beside the shoulder of the animal at all times.
- * If you are able to set up a replica course to practise on, it should make leading in the competition easier.

CHILD EFFORT:

- * Groom your kid regularly. Fibre goats have a lot of wool so brush it often to keep it tangle free. Dairy goats have short hair but brush it often to keep it shiny and healthy. Don't bath your goat unless it is absolutely necessary and then dry it thoroughly.
- * Hooves need trimming regularly, but let your parents do this, or help you as it is not easy. Trim the hard part of the hoof even with the central softer part, making it flat.
- * Find out about your breed of goat, its breed, its purpose and origin. The judges are now asking more questions to test your knowledge of your chosen breed.

Conclusion:

Calf Club Day at school. Don't forget your kid's food, milk and water. Perhaps a coat to keep him warm and dry, and the collar and lead.

Best of luck.

HINTS FOR CALF CLUB DAY:

- * **Main fleece MUST NOT be washed**
- * **Face, ears, feet and bottom may be cleaned**
- * **Goats must lead freely and not be dragged.**
- * **Lead your goat from the left side (your right side).**
- * **Goats must NOT be brushed unless necessary to remove dirt.**

After Calf Club:

Try to represent your school at Agricultural Group Day with your animal, if you wish. This is usually held on the Wednesday after our Calf Club day. The winning school receives a trophy and you have the chance to win more ribbons. **This year animals have to be entered for Group Day before our Calf Club Day so if interested please make sure you get your entries in early as they will NOT be accepting late entries** If you are keeping your goat at home for a pet, don't forget it still likes the care and attention you have already been giving it.

Male goats can be dangerous when older and should be rung when they are about 1–2 weeks old. It is a lot more painful if they are older than this, and the animal is also harder to control.

