



The Goat Source

The Goat Source Newsletter *Volume 4 Number 5 May 2007*

Here is your May issue of The Goat Source Newsletter. Well, kidding has started in my herd. Most every one else I know is already done! I am experimenting with raising kids on the moms this year, something I have not done for many years! I bred some of my does to a Boer buck and have some very nice kids on the ground. It is interesting how similar they are to the Nubian babies and yet are very different! Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to your friends.

What's New This Month?

- Do You Have A Good Relationship With Your Vet?
- This Month's Quiz...
- I am updating the Digital Beginners Manual.
- Classified Ads
- Answer to the May Quiz
- Helpful Hints

Do You Have a Good Relationship With Your Vet?

Most of the time, herd health ticks along on an even keel. You feed properly, vaccinate and worm on schedule. You goats are happy, healthy and well cared for. But what happens when you have a problem? Do you feel comfortable calling your veterinarian? If you have a good relationship with her, you should be able to discuss herd health issues with no problem. It is essential for your goat's health that you have a vet who is willing

to listen to your concerns, explain the answers to your questions and is knowledgeable about goats. On your part, you need to be willing to listen to her advice, implement it, and ask if you don't understand something. Write things down, so you are clear on dosages, and proper administration.

Part of a good relationship, is listening to the advice you are given. If you are asking a professional's opinion, then you had better be willing to follow their advice. Another part of a good relationship, is using your vet BEFORE you have a crash, rush, middle of the night emergency. If you use your vet's professional services for run of the mill things AND PAY PROMPTLY, the middle of the night thing won't be such a big deal.

Note that I emphasize **PAY PROMPTLY**. Your vet is running a business. Remember that and be willing to honor your commitment.

Knowing when to call the vet is a large part of a good relationship. As an example, don't have everyone and their brother examine your doe in labor, before you give up and call the vet. And, if the goat dies in the middle of the night, don't call and wake your vet up to report it. Believe me, she can't fix it (I won't do that one again!) When you call, be sure you have the pertinent information at hand. Your vet cannot make a diagnosis or help you without it. Be able to give the doe's temperature and a general description of her behavior – is she depressed, breathing hard, in pain, etc.

Call well in advance to schedule routine procedures, such as blood draws for CAE testing. When you have her out, have your work area organized and efficient. This means good lighting, clean work area, proper information and the ability to present the animals to be worked on in a timely manner. When you schedule work, don't add tasks as an afterthought when the vet arrives. Your house call is probably not the only one on the schedule!

If you are willing to do these things, it will make keeping your goats happy and healthy a much easier task!

This Month's Quiz..

What is the difference between disbudding and dehorning? What does "polled" mean?.

I am updating the Digital Beginners Manual.

I am updating my [Resource Manual](#) which is part of my Digital Beginners Guide that I offer for sale. If you would like for your website to be included in my guide, please let me know. Include the following items:

Website Name

Website Owner

Type of site (info/articles/ or farm site etc.)

Brief description of site and it's contents

Website Address

Contact information

I would be happy to review your site for inclusion in my Resource Manual update.

The deadline to be included in the manual is the end of May (I might extend it if I can't get it all done in time). This is at no cost to you, just another way to get traffic to your site and information to fellow goat raisers! Inclusion in the Resource Manual is solely at my discretion, and not guaranteed.

Classified Ads...



The Goat Source now has a custom shirt shop!
Custom t-shirts, mugs and tote bags. Contact me for details.
Great gifts for the goat person or buy in quantity and use for prizes at your local show! I can use your design, or mine and will put your herd name or club name on the back at no extra charge.
A satisfied customer says “We just picked the shirts up, and we are delighted...they are fantastic.” Find out more:

<http://www.cafepress.com/goatsource>

Learn about raising animals, gardening and making your own bread!!

<http://applegoat9.bread.hop.clickbank.net/> Homesteading books to help you say “Good bye” to City Life.

Computerized recordkeeping for your goats –

<http://www.goatsoftware.com/affiliates/idevaffiliate.php?id=127> Easy to use and affordable for the small herd.

Mother’s day is coming up...Get your Mom a great goat gift! Check them Out Here –
<http://www.cafepress.com/getyergoat?pid=598960> Fun T-shirts, tote bags, coffee mugs and more!!

Answer to the May Quiz:

Disbudding and dehorning both mean removing the horns on a naturally horned goat. Disbudding is done at a very young age, usually with a hot iron. Under a week of age, depending on the kid, is usually the best. When kids are very young, their pain receptors are not as fully developed as in older kids and disbudding is less traumatic. The older the kids get, the bigger the horns get and the more painful it becomes. Also, as the horn buds develop, the less successful disbudding is, as it doesn’t get all of the horn cells. Improperly disbudded kids may grow “scurs” which can range from a few hard bumps on their head to large deformed horns.

Dehorning means surgically removing the horns from a kid who has too much horn to disbud or an adult with fully developed horns. This is a very serious operation, and should be done only by a veterinarian under general anesthesia. **DO NOT attempt to do this yourself!!** The horns of a goat are part of the goat’s skull and removing them opens up the sinus cavity. There are large blood vessels running up in the horns and a goat can easily bleed to death when they are cut. Dehorning an adult goat is a messy, bloody, and very painful operation, that should only be performed by a licensed veterinarian who practices on goats on a regular basis. Avoid this if at all possible, by disbudding your kids at the proper age!

Check out this web page for a more thorough discussion of disbudding/dehorning.

<http://fiascofarm.com/goats/disbudding.htm>

A polled goat is a naturally hornless goat. You will be able to tell at a very young age if your kid is polled. The horn buds will be absent and the hair will lay differently than a horned kid. If one parent is polled, check carefully so that you don't disbudded a polled kid! If both parents are polled, the kid will be polled, as it is a dominant trait. It is also sex-linked to the gene for hermaphroditism, so the kids may also be sterile.

Quote from the Merck Veterinary Manual "The genetically homozygous polled doe usually is anatomically an intersex and, therefore, infertile. Aberrations vary from a slightly enlarged clitoris visible only after puberty, to a buck-like conformation with a scrotum, penis (often shortened), and ovo-testes. Some phenotypically male pseudohermaphrodites show male libido with breeding activity. Because these animals are infertile, early recognition and culling is advisable."

Helpful hints:

Six foot chain link gates make good gates for "lambing/kidding jugs" turned sideways. I remove the decoration on the top and use hose clamps for hinges. I can step over them (just barely) to get in the pen without opening the gate, and can easily bend over them to put feed in the pen. I use two milk crates per pen, placing one upside down to put the water bucket on and the other one for a flake of hay. The upside down crate gets the water up high enough so the kids can't drown themselves in the water and the other one holds the hay so the doe doesn't waste so much of it. Grain is fed in a separate pan and removed after the doe finishes it. Be sure and wire or clip the water bucket to the fence so it won't tip over. I don't put the crates in the pen until after the doe has kidded. When she is in labor, she will not be interested in food or water anyway! After kidding, I clean the pen, make sure the new family is happy, and then place the milk crates in the pen.

That's all for this month,...

See you next month!!

Leslie, The Goat Source

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