

BERRY BOERS

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South Coast Goat Network

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Worm Signs
- Showing
- Body Terms
- Hoof Structure
- Meat Market

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Why Standards?

Ever wondered why there are breed standards? Are they just for breeders to be able to boast of the quality of their stock? Perhaps there are good reasons for the colours and qualities that are desirable in a stud animal.

Let's look at a few of the Boer goat standards and see if we can discover why that are what they are.

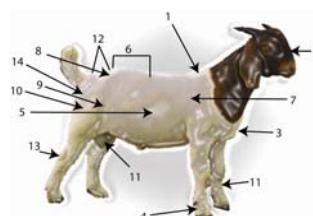
The standard states that any skin such as that under the tail must be pigmented. The reason is that exposure of non-pigmented skin to the sun can cause sunburn, cancers and skin diseases. Pigmentation prevents these from occurring.

Berry Show

If you missed Berry Show you have my sympathy because it was a great event. From bullock driving demonstrations to exquisite arrays of goats, the show was a great success.

There were over sixty goats from the Dairy, Angora and Boer breeds. The Supreme Champion Boer goat was won by a senior doe exhibited by Tracey Wood. Congratulations to Tracey.

Supple, loose skin is another breed standard. In this case it is believed that this type of skin can help the animal to adapt better to wide climatic conditions and may also pro-



vide some resistance to external parasites. In kids loose skin is an indication of a kids ability to grow.

Teat deformities (too many and ill formed) are also mentioned in the breed standard.

The major reason for such inclusion is the ability of a kid to suckle unassisted from the doe's udder. Blind teats (non-orificed nubs) do not produce milk and are useless to the kids. Clustered or misshapen teats can prevent the kid from obtaining a good grasp on the teat and so prevent the proper suction needed for milk flow.

These are just three simple examples why breed standards are important. Of course there will always be those conditions that simply make the goat look good with no benefit to its meat quality. But - we're only human after all.

Other winners were Chris Doleman, Samuel Bourke and Roslyn Gough.

For 2009 the Berry Show Goat Stewards are working on a bigger and better show for both exhibitors and spectators. If you have any thoughts about how we can achieve this please let us know. We will seriously consider any suggestions.

Non-stud breeders are also welcome at Berry show and

we will try and incorporate show sections for this purpose. Please, if you are new to the industry or to showing let me know what classes you would like to see in the show.

Berry goat show is for goat breeders, stud and commercial. Let's make it bigger and better in 2009.



Showing for the first time



Showing goats is a great opportunity to learn from other breeders and determine the good and not-so-good traits of your own stock.

When you arrive at the showground the steward will check your stock for parasites and tattoos, and then direct you to your allocated pens.

It is best to groom your goats after their travels by wiping them down with a

damp cloth, particularly around the face, legs and tail (and udder for dairy breeds). Some exhibitors trim any wayward hair and oil both the hooves and horns.

When the steward calls your class take your goats into the show ring and stand in line. The judge will inspect each goat and then ask you to release them (Boers only) to check their confirmation while moving.

This procedure may be done several times.

Finally the judge will select the 3 top animals and award ribbons.

Showing for angora and dairy goats is different but all still rely on the various breed standards. Whether it is meat, milk or mohair the winning goats will display the best production traits of all the goats shown that day.

*Do you know
the signs of
worms
infestation in
your goats?*

How Do I Know?

How do I know that my goats have worms? This is the most commonly asked question from new goat breeders.

Scouring (diarrhea) is the most common sign of worm infestation. But sometimes goats don't scour but still have a large worm burden. In these cases and when there is

scouring, you need to look at the inside of the goats mouth and eye lids. Normally the skin in these places should be pink. If the skin is white or very pale then the goat most likely has worms.

Check also under the jaw of your goat. You should easily be able to feel the jaw bone and throat. If

instead there is a soft lump under the lower jaw then your goats most likely have Barber's Pole Worm.

In either case drenching immediately is required. Recent veterinary advice says to drench goats double the recommended sheep rate for most drenches, e.g. 1ml/4kg becomes 2ml/4kg.

Definitions - Goat Parts



Here are some useful goat definitions

Heart Girth: the measurement around the body just behind the front legs.

Chest Floor: The area between the front legs.

Pastern: Area where the hoof attaches to and blends into the leg.

Dewclaw: Hard protrusion on hind leg behind the pastern.

Withers: Highest point of the back.

Barrel: Area measured around the widest part of the body.

Topline: Area from the withers to the rump.

Escutcheon: The 'n' shaped area under the tail when viewed from the rear.

Hoof: Foot area composed of the toe, heel and sole.

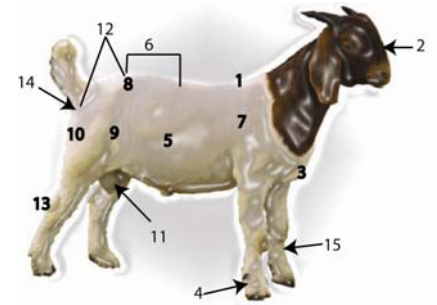
Poll: Area on top of the head between the ears.

Fore Udder: Where the front of the udder attaches to the body.

Goat Parts

When describing your goat it is always good to know the name of each part. Here are just a few (see diagram)

- 1. Withers
 - 2. Nose
 - 3. Brisket
 - 4. Pastern
 - 5. Barrel
 - 6. Loin
 - 7. Shoulder
 - 8. Hip
 - 9. Flank
 - 10. Thigh
 - 11. Scrotum / testicles
 - 12. Rump
 - 13. Hock
 - 14. Pin bone
 - 15. Cannon
- Other areas are:
- Twist: the area from the hairless area around the tail and



extending to the point at which the legs split apart.

Eye Muscle: the muscle running along either side of the spinal chord.

Being able to correctly identify a location makes it easier to describe to a veterinarian any problems you may have with your goats.

Knowing your stock is the greatest tool a farmer can possess in the prevention of stock illness and death.

Does Scouring Always Mean Worms?

In most cases scouring in goats is caused from a worm burden. However, in the case of kids scouring can be a sign of something sinister.

In kids (4 weeks - 6 months), scouring (particularly if it is bloodstained) may be a sign of coccidiosis. A problem affecting mainly kids, coccidiosis is the result of the buildup of coccidia in the goat's gut. Although a normal inclusion in the gut, coccidia can escalate due to overcrowding, sudden

change in diet such as lush feed, or stress such as drought.

Apart from scouring the other major symptoms are severe weight loss and lethargy (unthriftiness or fail-to-thrive). Scouring may be seen and then stop. Death can be sudden or occur 4 or 5 days after symptoms are first noticed.

Maintaining good nutrition, and regular paddock rotation will help to reduce the problem.

Also, if possible, ensure that animals of the same age bracket (kids, young goats and adults) are kept in different paddocks to prevent cross-contamination. The major management tool is to always introduce new feeds slowly, in small quantities, over a number of days.

Chemical treatments usually involve drenching with sulphur based drugs over a three day period. Overdosing can however disturb the natural coccidia balance.

Hoof - Toe to Heel

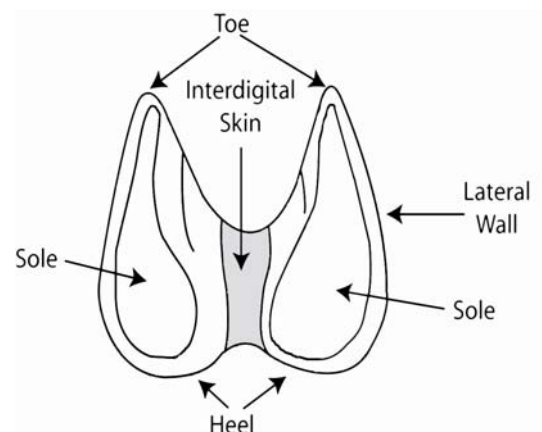
Hoof trimming is vital for healthy goats. Just like human fingernails the lateral wall of the hoof continuously grows and needs trimming.

Trimming involves the cutting away of the lateral wall and sole in some cases so that the hoof returns to its original (ideal) shape. When trimmed properly the hoof sits square to the ground allowing the entire foot structure to support

the goat's weight.

Attention must also be paid to the interdigital skin. It is here that hoof scalding and hoof rot occurs. Normally this area should be skin coloured and dry. Scalding or rot causes this area to become white and moist, often with a bad smell.

Note: The lateral wall should not detach from the sole (delamination).



The Meat Market Needs YOUR Goats



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CONTINUOUS MEAT MARKET

There is at present a local butcher interested in purchasing Boer goats for the local market. The success of this venture will rely on breeders being able to supply quality animals throughout the year.

It is very important for the goat meat industry that butchers who are willing to sell goat meat have access to quality stock. This does not mean that all meat goats must be fullblood Boer goats. In reality, butchers are looking for goats that have a high bone-out value (good meat cover), that are young and tender.

The ideal meat goat for the market has the following characteristic:

- Aged between 4 and 6 months
- Weigh around 20 kg or more
- A high meat score - well covered over hind quarters and shoulders.

Breed is not an issue if all the above criteria are met.

It is good practice to wether all unwanted bucks and prepare them for market while they are young.

Goat's R Great
No Kidding!

Goats For Sale / Goats Wanted

There are a number of goats either wanted or for sale around the region.

Goats For Sale

John from Gosford has several goats for sale.

Contact: ph: 02 4376 1381

jdmansfield@activ8.net.au

- X-bred Boer bucks: born 2006
- Commercial Fullblood Boer bucks: x5; born 2006; registered \$300.00 each
- Boer does: x6; registered fullblood; born 2006
- Boer doe kids: weaned (4-5 months) registered.

Robyn from Dubbo has wethers for sale.

Contact: ph: 02 6887 2883

Robyn.diamond3@bigpond.com

- Wethers: x4; born August and October 2007.

Goats Wanted

Julie from Moruya Heads needs the following.

Contact: ph 02 4474 0355

gordontyack@bigpond.com

- Boer Buck: fullblood, registered, good quality.

