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**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Dubbo Goat Sales**
- **Coccidiosis Parasite**
- **Goat Facts**
- **Trailer's Kill**
- **Goats Wanted**
- **Goats 4 Sale**

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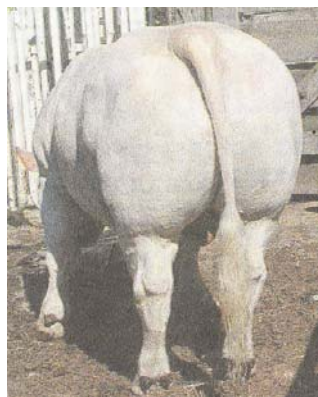
The Ideal Goat

Many people ask me what I look for in a goat. Well the picture to the right goes a long way to explain my ideal goat.

Ok, the picture isn't a goat, but that's no reason why goats should not look like this in the not too distant future.

I really don't care if a meat goat has a brown, black or white head; whether its nose is roman or flat; or whether it originated from this breed or that breed. The only thing that will count in the future is the amount of quality meat that can be harvested from the entire carcass.

We need to be breeding



The Goat of the Future

these animals right now! Let us find the right breeds to successfully cross to produce the goat we want. This has been the tried and true method in cattle and sheep breeding for hundreds of

years. Now it's the goat's turn.

Selection should be on an animal that will thrive in Australian conditions, that can produce and successfully rear multiple kids regularly and for an extended period of time, and that produces high quality abundant meat and a high quality skin.

Perhaps one of the greatest hurdles will be producing a worm resistant goat, and one which requires less hoof trimming.

If we really want this future we need to be starting now. Forget the breed - focus on the goat!

Dubbo Sales Results - Robyn's Column

A big thanks goes to Robyn Diamond for this Dubbo Goat Sales Report.

Sale week ending 22 February 2008.

This week the Boer cross wethers sold for up to \$78 and the Boer cross does sold for up to \$130 (for live export to Malaysia), there were 4,000 goats at the sale including a lot of the feral

ones. The feral bucks sold for an average \$38 each.

The next goat sale will be in May.

At these prices 500 wethers would return \$39,000 and the same number of does would return \$65,000.

Tell me, why aren't all farmers breeding goats?

Small farms with 30 breed-

ing Boer cross does producing 50 kids could return at these prices, \$5,200.00

Small farms with 30 full blood Boer does producing 50 kids could receive double the doe price giving a total of \$8,450.00 not including registered buck sales.

The market is screaming for

(Continued on page 3)

Coccidia Parasite



Kids are the major victims of coccidiosis

Commercial sales are a viable alternative to on-farm goat sales, particularly at these prices!

Sick kids can be scarred for life

Coccidia (the cause of coccidiosis) is species specific, meaning that coccidia in goats can not contaminate cattle. There may be some evidence however for some forms of goat coccidia to cross infect sheep.

There are twelve species of coccidia that live in the gut of goats. Each of these is located in a specific part of the intestines.

The oocysts (life stage of coccidia) passes into the pas-

ture with the goat's faeces, where it matures. At this stage it is resistant to climate changes and can exist in the pasture for over a year if protected from sunlight and the threat of drying out.

In sheds and yards oocysts enter cracks and crevices in floors and walls, under feeders and other areas where it remains dark and moist. Disinfectants have little effect on reducing oocyst numbers.

Millions of oocysts can be produced from just a few initial oocysts in a matter of 2 to 3 weeks.

Oocysts have the ability to stick to the hair and skin of goats, including the udder where they can be picked up by suckling kids. Feed and water containers can also be contaminated by kids standing in them or using them as beds. For this reason troughs must be cleaned thoroughly.

Dubbo Sale 2006

Here is another Dubbo sales report as found on the [NSW Commercial and Stud Boer Goat Breeders Website](#).

Dubbo Goat Sale 18th May 2006

It was a yarding of mainly good conditioned goats at the May Dubbo Goat Sale. Good prices were

obtained for the heavier, better conditioned lines, provided they were well presented. There were some very heavy fat wethers in the sale, probably 80kg -100kg, but they appeared to be a bit heavy for the buyers, so bought less money than the 50 - 70kg wethers. There were not a lot of capretto

kids yarded. As usual the feral bucks sold very well.

Top prices:

Fullblood Bucks: \$200

Feral bucks: \$53

X-Bred wethers: \$82

Feral 4-tooth wethers, excellent condition: \$50

Angora doe kids (young & shorn): \$11

Welcome to ALL our new members!
If you have any questions - Just Ask!

Ill-Thrift

Goats that have had a severe case of coccidiosis may fail to thrive and remain small and weak for the rest of their lives. This situation is caused by scarring to the cells of the intestinal wall. The damage prevents proper absorption of nutrients necessary

for the development of bones, muscle and tissue.

No matter how much feed is eaten, these goats do not grow to their optimum size. In other words they suffer ill-thrift, which makes them appear half starved or runty.

Ill-thrift can also be caused by heavy worm burdens that also damage the intestinal lining in a similar fashion to that of coccidiosis.



Transporting Stock



Closed trailers can kill

One health problem often overlooked is that of transporting stock. Gases released from the car exhaust can cause serious damage to stock if it is allowed to enter a closed trailer.

Such fumes severely distress the stock with carbon monoxide reducing the carrying capacity of their blood streams. The reduced oxygen causes the goat to develop blue skin around the eyes and mouth which may result in collapse or death of the goats.

Solid transport such as the back of panel vans or station wagons also poses the risk of

heat stress. Temperatures of 54 degrees C can be reached in such a van.

Therefore, when traveling stock ensure that there is adequate fresh air circulating around the goats without producing a draft. If possible stop every 2-3 hours, uncover the stock and allow fresh air to remove any buildup of undesirable gases. You may also remove some animals from the confines and lead them around.

Fact:

Strongyloides worms enter the goat by piercing the skin, usually the legs, while it is grazing or lying down

Interesting Facts

Here are some interesting facts for you to consider:

- An adult Barber's Pole worm can lay 5000 eggs every 24 hours.
- Larvae of the Barber's Pole worm can burrow under the stomach wall and remain there, unaffected by drenches, for months.
- Mature tapeworms can reach lengths over a metre long.
- Heavy infestations of tapeworms in young kids can lead to enterotoxaemia.
- Goats forced to graze on very low sandy soil can consume sand with their feed and become impacted. One report is of a goat with over 9kg of sand in its

lower gut.

- Snail and rat baits are very attractive to goats which will eat it with lethal effect.
- The salmonella germ can live in the soil for over 200 days, and in water troughs for over 119 days.

Dubbo Sale Report

(Continued from page 1)

stock, let's breed them now!

Next you will find another report for the same sale.

Dubbo Goat Sale 21st February 2006

There was a good quality yarding of mainly Boer cross goats at the last Dubbo Goat

Sale. Good prices were obtained for the heavier, better conditioned lines.

Sample Prices:

(FB=Fullblood stock unregistered)

FB Boer Buck kids: \$42-\$185

FB adult does: \$60

4th X Boer Does: \$66

X-bred wethers: \$71

Very Large x bred wethers: \$129

Angora wethers shorn good condition: \$33

Feral black does: \$29.50

Feral kids: \$18



FB Bucks and wethers in good condition.



Berry Boers

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References for this Issue

NSW Commercial and Stud Boer Goat Website

<http://www.boersnsw.com/index.html>

Baldock, C. (1980). Helminthiasis in Goats in *Refresher Course for Veterinarians - Proceedings No.73*, Sydney: University of Sydney.

Hungerford, T.G. (1975). *Diseases of Livestock* (8th edn.). Sydney: McGraw-Hill

GOATS 4 SALE

Kim - FB does x 5; 2nd cross does x 5
3rd cross doe weaners x 6,
home@containeroptions.com.au

Colleen - FB Boer bucks \$220.00 each,
jolleens@bigpond.net.au

Jacky - FB bucks x4, registered, 7mths, @\$300
hiccuplane@activ8.net.au

STOCK WANTED

- Baby Goats - Ph: 0402 470 110
- Bruce - Wethers x 2, ph: 02 4885-1553
editor@scotsheritage.net
- C. Parker - Boer Buck x 1, Boer does x 4
Ph 02 4237-8377
parker@flxemail.com.au
- Maurice - Boer buck x 1, ph 0402 145 111
- David - FB Boer buck x 1,
dgazard@yless4u.com.au
- Penny - Wethers x 4, ph 0417 270 105
- Alison - Milking doe, ph 02 4267-5269
A.n.tomlin@bigpond.com
- Michael - young goats for farm yard
Ph 02 4885-1265
ohalloranm@missionaustralia.com.au
- John - buying stock in Marulan region and looking for breeders.

What Does Your Goat Weigh?

Drenching is an important process when farming goats. To ensure that your stock receive the correct amount of drench it is important to match the drench to the body weight of the goat. Without a set of electronic scales it can be difficult to judge the exact weight.

All is not lost. With a simple sewing tape measure and the following chart you too can know the weigh of your goats. Remember however that these are average weights and may vary depending on the individual goat.

When taking the measurement place the tape measure around the goat just behind the front legs (elbows). Record the value in cm. Find the equivalent measurement on the chart and read off the goats weight.



Remember also that these weights do not take into account excess weight during pregnancy.

Some commercial goat weight tapes are available, but the chart opposite should work just as well. Nothing of course takes the place of a good set of scales.

Girth Circumference (cm)	Weight (kg)
38	5
40	6
42	7
43	8
44	9
46	10
48	12
53	15
56	17
59	20
63	25
68	30
73	35
78	40
81	45
85	50
88	55
90	60
96	70
101	80

