

HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO
YOU
ALL



FOR
2016

CLOVEN HOOF
WINTER 2015



CORNWALL GOATKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Cornwall Goatkeepers Association

(Affiliated to the British Goat Society and member of Pygmy Goat Club)

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Goats for sale or wanted Contact Hazel Badger or Julia Clark

Hon. vice presidents (past presidents)

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Mrs N Robathan | (1992/1993) |
| Mrs C Robinson | (1995/1998) |
| Mr & Mrs D Harris | (1999/2001) |
| Mr & Mrs Chris Leggatt | (2002/2005) |
| Mr & Mrs W Richardson | (2005/2009) |
| Mr N Julian | (2009/2014) |

Hon. Life memberships Mr & Mrs R Whitty

Hon. Auditor Mr P Margetts (St Austell)

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Advertising is available within the magazine, and rates for members is Full page £5.00, Half page £2.50 and Quarter page £ 1.25. Advertisements from non members are accepted please contact the editor for rates. Payment is required with advertisement copy .

Views expressed in this magazine are those of the various articles and not necessarily the authors of the editors, officers or committee of the Cornwall Goatkeepers Association

REMINDER FOR YOUR DIARY

WINTER MEAL

16th Jan 2016

@

**THE VICTORIA INN
THREEMILESTONE**

TRURO

7-30 For 8pm

Goat's cheese chocolate truffles



Makes: 18 truffles

- 150g plain chocolate 🍫, at least 70% cacao, chopped
- 150g fresh goat's cheese, room temperature
- 3 tablespoons icing sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 pinch salt
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon (optional)
- 4 tablespoons cocoa powder for dusting

Method

Prep:30min › Cook:5min › Extra time:1hr30min chilling › Ready in:2hr5min

1. Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or bain marie. Stir until smooth, take off the heat and set aside to cool slightly.
2. Beat together the goat cheese, sugar, vanilla, salt and cinnamon until fluffy. Slowly beat in the melted chocolate. Tip mixture into a shallow dish and chill for about an hour until firm.
3. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper. Shape chilled truffle mixture by rounded teaspoons into small balls (a melon baller also works well for this part). Roll the truffles in the cocoa powder, then place on the tray. Chill until firm, about 30 minutes.

Tip

Use the softest, freshest goat's cheese you can find. The spreadable kind works a treat. Also ensure your cocoa powder is unsweetened, 100% cocoa.

Get creative

Instead of cocoa, you can roll the truffles in ground nuts, desiccated coconut or a mixture of cinnamon and icing 🍫 sugar.

We're now coming to the end of another year, to reflect back over the year, we now have a beautiful tumbler designed by a local Cornish lady, that will be given to all judges to the club run shows. All shows have had rather good attendances, all hitches ironed out smartly and exhibitors and visitors left with good results and good memories. Our aim for all our shows is to break even, to make a profit no matter how small is always beneficial to the club for future years with the cost of the judges, as we are needing to invite judges from future afield.

As we do not sell many items on the club stall profits have fallen, as it is increasingly more difficult to obtain items relating to goats, to be affordable to the public. If anybody has ideas please forward to me and I will be only too happy to let the committee know.

We would like to receive any photos you may have of your goats, that would match up with the forthcoming Calendar for 2017. They need to connect with the seasons, events of the year.

The new year, Christmas etc.

Worming the females before they are served —types of wormers, when and how much.

How do we find out the weight of our goats, conversion charts.

Feeding care of the goat during pregnancy.

Delivery of kids during and immediately after delivery, from Dairy goats and Pygmy goats.

Feeding of our kids by bottle how much how often.

Care of the feet how and when to trim their hooves oiling etc.

Grooming our goats when is the best time.

It is your magazine please put some of your views forward we all would love to hear from you from time to time PLEASE.

DON'T FORGET THE NEW YEAR DINNER.

REGARDS Hazel/Dennis.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

My first report as Chairman of Cornwall Goatkeepers Association must start by thanking those who had the confidence in me to nominate then vote me into the post. I promise to work hard to prove them right and to promote and steer the CGA through the coming year.

The committee and members have worked hard throughout the year, both exhibiting at shows and running them. It was only a few years ago that I would just turn up, unload the goats, show them, load up and go home – not giving a thought to the work that has gone on before I arrived or after I left. Boy oh boy do I know different now. Work has already started for the Royal Cornwall show 2016!

We moved our own two shows – Spring and Male & Youngstock/Autumn Pygmy show to Mays Country store this year. This is a good venue with easy access, plenty of hard-standing for parking and showing, the opportunity to show inside if the weather demanded, also as they do not have any other “cloven hoof” events there is no problem getting the licence to run shows there.

Every venue needs to be able to keep all cloven hoof animals off of the show site (both inside and outside) for 6 weeks before and 6 weeks after the event which is a lot to ask of some land owners. Unfortunately Mays are not open on Sundays so the show have moved to Saturdays.

We came across a problem with the Male & Youngstock show as exhibitors were concerned with travelling during August. The committee will be looking at this problem when they meet in November – if anyone has any suggestions for venue and date please let us know.

Some members have experienced problems obtaining enough copies of the AML1 forms – I have received a large supply on behalf of the CGA so if you need some please let me know and I will post them to you.

Julia Clarke
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0777 388 6992

Drought is a major, recurring problem in many parts of Africa. People have large herds of cattle, camels and sheep. When crops and grazing fail, these animals cannot survive. Neither do the farming families nor the nomads have anything to eat. The only chance is the little goat who, in good times, crops the grass in exactly the same way as sheep, nibbling the tops. In hard times they survive on twigs and leaves. Often people see goats on scrub land and say “look what the goats have done”. Sadly it is often the vast herds of cows and sheep which have over grazed the land and the only creature with a chance of surviving is then the humble goat. In Darfur what we see every time we go is that every single goat is watched all the time it is out foraging – by mothers whilst children are at school, and by the children later in the day. No goat is allowed to destroy crops or valuable vegetation. In the height of summer, goats are often taken to wadi (dry river bed) areas where trees and shrubs grow and they can find something on which to survive. KIDS FOR KIDS Animal Husbandry Training – a first for Darfur! We were told that everyone knew how to rear their animals – but research showed us that many goats were dying because of eating poisonous plants, or catching diseases which are curable if treated in time. Our Animal Husbandry Courses not only benefit the recipients of our Animal Loan schemes, but whole communities. Our first course was in the shade of a tamarind tree! At the first KIDS FOR KIDS Workshop in El Fasher we asked the leaders of 17 communities who came to see us if they had any worries about the goats destroying the landscape and causing desertification – their answer was unanimous – “We do not allow them to damage anything. Any animal left to roam freely would cause damage, particularly in large numbers, but no one wants huge herds of goats. We use them for their milk and to help us provide the very basics of life.”

These are people who spend hours collecting every drop of water their families need, yet who also lovingly water tree seedlings because they know how important they are in protecting the environment.

Why Goats?



KIDS FOR KIDS lends 6 goats to a family for 2 years – providing milk for the children, and forming the nucleus of a little flock. They agree not to sell the KIDS FOR KIDS goats and they sign an undertaking to care for them in trust – but the kids are theirs. After 2 years they pass on 6 first born offspring to another family in need. And so on. Donating even one little goat makes an enormous difference because its offspring will go to another family, and another.

You can Give a Goat and get a Certificate for that special person, or for a special occasion. See how [here!](#)

Goats have a bad name in the West for causing desertification. Why then do the very people who suffer the consequences of such destruction of their own environment beg us for them? Before launching our Goat Loan scheme – the KIDS FOR KIDS loans that make such a difference to children in Darfur – Patricia Parker did a great deal of research, which continues!

“It is arrogant of the West to dictate whether or not these poor farming families should own goats or not” says Patricia. ” They know how best to care for their land and they work incredibly hard to do so – and they beg KIDS FOR KIDS for goats to help their children.”

Secretary's Notes

I expect you knew that 2015 has been the Chinese Year of the Goat.

Recently the profile of goat meat in Britain has been raised by Matt Gillan winning the Great British Menu competition with his goat meat main course. The meal was served at a banquet celebrating 100years of the WI.

In the spirit of the Women's Institute ethos of waste not, want not, he used goat as the central element in his main course. He knew that with the soaring popularity of goat's cheese and milk from females, the male kids are often slaughtered shortly after birth and discarded. To him, with his St Helena heritage, it made no sense ecologically, economically or gastronomically. He sources kid meat for his own restaurant from Cabrito in Devon, who now supply many London restaurants.

Matt's winning dish consisted of
a slice of tender steamed shoulder,
a stuffed roll of leg,
a juicy piece of fillet
and a mini herders pie, which was a sort of ragu with a creamy mash topping
.....All this scattered with dehydrated goat's cheese rind.
(Not exactly “meat and two veg” as we know it!)



His dish was accompanied by a Brothers Grimm style story book, beautifully illustrated, detailing the plight of the nation's billy goats.

The Great British Menu is a very popular television series, watched by over two million viewers so maybe goat's meat will find its way on many more British meal tables in the future.

P.S. Years ago, I gave my Mother some local kid meat for the first time. She loved it! (I must admit that I told her it was Cornish lamb because she, like many others, would have been prejudiced against goat meat.)
Let's hope the prejudice is now breaking down

June.

President's Thoughts.

Firstly thanks to all who came to our AGM. Our new Chairperson is Julia Clarke and I wish her the very best in this important role on the committee.

I would like to invite any new people from our club to think about joining our committee. It is not an onerous commitment, only meeting four times per year plus attendance preferred at our two shows. Most on the committee are now of 'advancing' years and new or younger blood is needed or else I am not sure of the future of CGA. Some existing members will retire from the committee in the next five years. We have existed longer than most goat clubs and after all the good work done in the past, it would be a shame to see us close down..... please do think whether you can help in any way. If you want to talk about it contact any committee member, or email me. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.....

Some of you will know that I am married to a Gambian Policeman which means that I spend half my year in each country. Currently I am in a lovely warm climate though facilities can be primitive, my choice I guess!

I have seen only two baby goats here that I would love to buy and rear on but, I said primitive, so goat owners here allow their goats to roam free! I ask myself....."how can I breed that out?" Especially as I'm not here all year..... Finding a male would be no trouble- they roam free!!! But of course one needs to think of heritage and breeding. On that score some of you will be thinking of a male to use if you have not already mated your female(s). Think carefully if you wish to keep the offspring as they may bear the faults of the male you choose. Breeding up is a long process and trying to 'breed out' bad faults is an even longer process.

Happy Christmas. Sheila.

WELCOME TO KIDS FOR KIDS. WE HELP THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN OF DARFUR.

KIDS FOR KIDS helps children the world has forgotten, children in Darfur, Sudan, who live lives of inexcusable and unimaginable hardship. We are enabling families to stay together, in their own homes. In Darfur mothers are forced to rely on their eldest son to search for work across the world in order to send money home so his brothers and sisters will not die of starvation. Because in Darfur children are dying. Kids for Kids transforms the lives of individuals and whole communities – but we desperately need your help.

Kids for Kids adopts whole villages, lifting them out of abject poverty. We are different, because our projects are what people tell us will help them the most. Our grassroots projects not only make an immediate difference to individual families – their children have milk to drink, a blanket to sleep under, a mosquito net to protect them from malaria, farm tools, blankets and mosquito nets – we are transforming the lives of the whole village, providing health care, veterinary care and, most important of all, water near at hand. We even plant trees, transforming the desert.

KIDS FOR KIDS has already adopted 78 villages – over 364,000 people whose lives have been transformed long term – in one of the most remote and inaccessible regions of the world. Children are hungry, thirsty and at risk. We know we can change their lives, for good, with your help.

Meet Butterfly, A Rare Sheep-Goat Hybrid



Petting zoos typically have common farm animals like chickens, piglets, sheep, cows, and goats. A Petting Zoo in Scottsdale, Arizona now has something more exotic to offer patrons. The staff recently welcomed Butterfly: a healthy baby geep. What exactly is a geep, you ask? It's hybrid animal that is half goat, half sheep. Geep.

Butterfly was born on July 27. Her mother is fortuitously named Momma, and is a sheep. Her father, Michael, is a pygmy goat.

Goats have 60 chromosomes, while sheep have 54. This genetic difference does pose some considerable difficulties, and is likely why these hybrids rarely occur. Geep typically don't survive throughout embryonic development, but those who are born healthy strike a balance and have 57 chromosomes.

Butterfly's features are a blend from her parents. While her hooves and face are similar to her goat father, her body is covered in a thick woolen coat, just like her mom.

However, some have doubted whether Butterfly is truly a geep, or an ordinary lamb with parents from different sheep species. A simple genetic analysis would verify Butterfly's lineage, but there is no word on when or if My Petting Zoo will be going that route or not.

My Petting Zoo is currently closed due to Arizona's hellacious summer heat, but will be reopening and available for events beginning in October.

CORNWALL GOATKEEPERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Playing Place Community Centre, Playing Place, Near Truro.
17th October 2015

Opening: The Acting Chair, Mrs J Clarke opened the meeting at 8.06pm, introduced herself and welcomed the 20 members present.

Apologies: from Jean and Keith Wilshaw, who have attended our AGMs without fail for the last 45 years. And from Rob Prout,

Minutes of 2014 AGM: These were agreed by those present and signed by the Acting Chair on their behalf as an accurate report of the 2014 AGM

Acting Chair's Report

We moved our Spring and Male Youngstock/Autumn Pygmy shows to Mays Country store this year - a good venue with easy access, hard standing for parking and showing, and with a bad weather option to show indoors. The show licence is easy to get as there are no other "cloven hoof" events on site. (If members are experiencing problems getting a supply of AML1 forms - I have obtained a box full from ARAMS on behalf of the CGA so please just let me know and I can send some to you.)

Fortunately most of our shows had good weather. The CGA committee and members worked extremely hard, either running or supporting the Spring, Male & Youngstock/Autumn Pygmy, Royal Cornwall, Kernow, Stithians and Camborne shows. My thanks go to them all for their hard work, and particularly to Geoff for the new judges book and to Odette for sourcing the engraved tumblers for presentation to judges.

But without the support of you, the members, the club would cease to exist so please keep up the good work.

Treasurer's Report

Mr Munson reported that there was an overspend of £284.47 over income, leaving us with £3729 plus Santander shares worth £317. The CGA has 47 members. Income from Subscriptions was £31 up,

Publicity showed a loss of £8.85 due to the purchase of stock cards. whereas Magazine costs were down by £70.44 to

£419.56 due to less copies and less colour. The three shows covered their costs. Other expenditure totalled £72.46 (First Aid kits £41.20 Camborne special rosettes £13.26 Rose in memory of Sue Prior £18)

Shows, review of 2015:

Spring Show: A successful show, held at May's Country Store, Hewaswater, with good entry numbers from 11 exhibitors. Run by Mrs Julia Clarke. Bob Vickery an experienced judge and goatkeeper judged both the Dairy and Pygmy sections.,

Royal Cornwall / Kernow Show went well and were enjoyed by all. Hopefully proper hurdles will be supplied in 2016.
Stithians went well. The layout was OK in the end. The water pipe could benefit from having a T section. It is hoped Pygmys can leave earlier next year. £3 per day for marquee and hurdles is very good.
Camborne: All enjoyed it. The show would benefit from having more Dairy goats present. It will be run by Angie Prout in 2016.
Male, Youngstock & Pygmy Show : Well supported, in spite of road congestion and being held on a Saturday. The Dairy judge was excellent and related to all. William Merrell asked about the show's income. It was £412 in 2014 and £336 in 2015 when it clashed with Okehampton show. A discussion ensued on dates and venue for 2016, final decisions being left to the Committee.

Election of Officers:

The 2014/15 committee formally stood down and elected for 2015/16 as:

| Position | Name | Proposer | Seconder | Vote result. |
|----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Chair | Julia Clarke | Nigel Julian | William Merrell | For – Elected |
| | Hazel Badger | Sue Smith | Dennis Badger | Not elected |

Remaining Committee was re-elected enmass:–
(Treasurer: Geoff Munson, Secretary: June Markham
Members: Hazel Badger, Odette Eddy, Neil Munson, Tina Murphy, Sue Smith of Helston)

Winter Meal: It was agreed to hold the meal on Saturday 16th January at the Victoria Pub Threemilestone as usual.

Any Other Business:

The Website needs attention. Doreen will be invited to the next Committee meeting when it will be discussed.

Awards:

Presentations of the awards then followed. Geoff Munson officiated in the absence of Mrs Wilshaw. (A bouquet will be sent to her on behalf of the Association thanking her for carrying out the time consuming task of collating the points to find the winners)

AGM 2016. This will be held on 15th October at Playing Place.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm followed by tea, refreshments and informal talk.

The most natural milk to feed the kids on is obviously goats milk – if you are lucky and have a Dairy goat keeper close by you might be able to arrange to purchase milk from them. Failing that you have two options – purchase from your local supermarket or find a corn merchant who can supply you with a bag of powdered milk. I was fortunate to find a powdered milk which was suitable for kittens, puppies, lambs, calves and foals. My kids did extremely well on the formula.

Something to watch out for with bottle fed kids is scour. You need to catch this quickly and recognise the difference between “milky stools” and watery discharge. I was fortunate that I caught this quick enough and by giving 1.5ml of kaolin orally using a small syringe 3 times a day for a couple of days got it under control very quickly. Kaolin is available from most chemist and possibly supermarkets for approximately £1.00.
If after a couple of days, or if you are concerned, the kid (s) need to go to the vet. The vet will probably advise a course of antibiotic injections. I took one of my kids in to our vets and told him what I had been using – he said that kaolin was the best form of medication for the scour but I also had to inject with antibiotics for 3 days.
If you need to take your kids to the vets always tell them what you have used – if you don’t their medication could re-act with anything they pre-scribe.

I would state that this is what I did and it worked for me – however, I am not a vet - if you are worried about any animal the best action is to take them to the vets for professional advice.

**Regards
Julia Clarke
Juliacle21@live.com**

BOTTLE FEEDING A PYGMY GOAT KID

Unfortunately there comes a time when we have no alternative other than to take on the responsibility to feed very tiny kids.

I have had three occasions – once when the mother died after a caesarean section having produced twins. The second time the nanny died following a very bad kidding having produced one live and one dead kid, and the next day the nanny's sister produced twins and rejected one of her kids. And the third occasion when the nanny loved her kid but would not let him feed from her.

In these instances you have two options – have the kids put to sleep or hand rear them. As with a lot of goat keepers I have never been strong enough to have the kids put to sleep so the bottles have come out and the “fun” has begun.

The first thing to remember is that a Pygmy goat kid's stomach is approximately the size of a walnut when they are born. They would normally feed off of the nanny many times during the day – taking a few sucks at a time. So it is no good to think that a couple of large bottles a day will suffice.

The timing and quantities I have used is as follows:-

| Week number | Number of feeds per day | Quantity feed | per | Times (guide) |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 5 | 1 to 3 ounces | fluid | 8am 11am 2pm 5pm 8pm |
| 2 to 3 | 4 | 4 to 5 ounces | fluid | 8am 12pm 4pm 8pm |
| 4 to 5 | 3 | 5 to 6 ounces | fluid | 8am 2pm 8pm |
| 6 to 10 | 2 | 8 to 10 ounces | fluid | 8am 8pm |

The kids can be weaned off at approximately 10 – 12 weeks depending on the individual kid.

By week three I always introduce a small amount of pygmy goat mix and hay. The kids will start to mouth it to get the taste and feel of this strange food – they would be doing this if they were with their own mum. Very soon you should find that they actually start to eat very small quantities. This will get them used to the food and by the time you wean them they will be eating quite happily.

CORNWALL GOATKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

| | £ | £ |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Receipts</u> | | |
| Subscriptions | | 390.00 |
| Santander Sale of Rights Issue | | 24.47 |
| Donations | | 13.00 |
| <u>Net Receipts from : -</u> | | |
| Spring Show | | 191.55 |
| Kernow Show | | 179.17 |
| Male and Young Stock Show | | 67.41 |
| | | <u>865.60</u> |
| <u>Payments</u> | | |
| BGS Fees and Magazine | 75.00 | |
| Public Liability Insurance | 116.00 | |
| Magazine Expenses | 419.56 | |
| Pygmy Club Subscription | 12.00 | |
| Gifts, Vouchers and Donations | 56.26 | |
| Net Loss on AGM | 58.20 | |
| Net Loss Publicity Stall (Stock held) | 8.85 | |
| Rosettes for Show | 243.88 | |
| CGA Banner for Shows | 47.00 | |
| Website Fee | 60.00 | |
| Stationery and Sundries | 53.32 | |
| | | <u>1,150.07</u> |
| <u>Net (Deficit) for the Year</u> | | (284.47) |
| <u>Opening Balances at 1.10.2014</u> | | |
| Cash in Hand | 123.00 | |
| Bank Account | <u>3,891.01</u> | <u>4,014.01</u> |
| <u>Closing Balance at 30.9.2015</u> | | |
| Cash in Hand | 209.99 | |
| Bank Account | <u>3,519.55</u> | <u>3,729.54</u> |

Accountant's Report

In accordance with the instructions given to me I have prepared, without carrying out an audit, the attached Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 30th September, 2015 from the accounting records, information and explanations supplied to me.

Peter Margetts
Chartered Accountant
31 High Cross Street
St Austell PL25 4AN

5th October 2015

Zookeepers gave a tiger a live goat to eat... but they made friends instead

The lion will lay down with the lamb when peace arrives on earth, so the saying goes.

Well, in Russia, a tiger is already best friends with the goat he was given for dinner – and the goat has even kicked the jungle predator out of his own bed. The unusual duo struck up their bromance in a Siberian zoo, where keepers sacrificed the goat thinking he would make a tasty snack. But instead of a blood bath in the enclosure, the two started trotting around the woods together, just hanging out



The tiger named Amur lives at the Far Eastern Safari Park with his new roommate, who staff have christened Timur meaning iron to symbolise bravery. Keepers said Amur is no pacifist and it was bravado alone that saved the goat's skin. 'Our tigers get live prey twice every week,' a staff member told the Siberian Times. 'Tiger Amur knows very well how to hunt goats and rabbits. But recently he came across a goat that he refused to hunt.' 'We think that the goat never came across tigers and no-one taught him to be scared of them. Amur the tiger is quite cautious by his nature and decided not to go to the trouble of hunting Timur.' This story proves you don't need to be big to be brave.

Pygmy milk goats

I want to get a pygmy goat for milk and cheese, and as a pet. My question is, can you get a goat lactating without breeding? My hunch is no, but if it's a possibility, it'd be great as bucks aren't allowed here (I'm in the city), and I wouldn't have to find one for breeding. How do you find a buck for breeding? I've also heard that you can keep milking a pygmy for up to 2 years once it's started. What are people's experience with keeping a goat lactating? Thanks for answering the questions of a goat newbie!

Comment

Wow, brave soul, are you sure you really want to milk a pygmy goat? Have you ever tried this? It might be helpful to find someone with a milking pygmy doe and try it. I'm not trying to be flip but Pygmy teats are REALLY tiny. You also won't be getting much milk, I'm thinking cupfuls at best. Nigerian dwarf goats aren't much bigger than pygmies but are supposed to have bigger udders and are referred to as backyard milkers. You can't get a goat to lactate unless it has been bred. You can buy a goat already in milk that has kidded. Goats can be milked continuously for years if they are pretty heavy milkers to begin with. I milked one of my Oberhasli's continuously for 4 years, and got a gallon a day consistently. But, if a goat is a light milker, when they go into heat during their breeding season, their milk volume decreases and if it gets too low, they start to dry off in anticipation of breeding.

To find a buck, you can look up the pygmy goat national registry to find one hopefully in your area. Usually the county extension office in your area can put you onto someone who has pygmy goats or maybe nigerians and a buck as well.

I assume you want a pygmy because a dairy goat wouldn't be allowed in the city. You might want to check out Nigerians or see if anyone in you area has one you can see before you buy.

Good Luck.

Taken from the internet.

THE BEST MINIATURE GOAT TO HAVE AS A PET

Goats make wonderful pets, but the full-sized breeds belong more on a farm than a backyard or place with limited space. Miniature goat breeds fit this niche nicely, taking up less room than the larger breeds. Most miniature goats are about the size of a medium to large dog. The best miniature goat is the one that matches your goals in terms of milk production, personality or appearance.

Nigerian Dwarf Goats

If you're looking for a small dairy breed, Nigerian dwarf goats may fit the bill. These goats aren't actually dwarfs; they are proportional to larger, standard goats. These small goats originated in Africa as dairy goats. Their rich, high butterfat milk at 6 to 10 percent makes them popular among goat milk drinkers, and their size makes them easy to keep in smaller spaces. Nigerians top out at 23 to 23.5 inches for bucks -- males -- and 21 to 22.5 inches for does -- females. These little goats' gentle personalities make them ideal for pets, states the Nigerian Dwarf Goat Association.

Pygmy Goats

Pygmy goats come originally from Cameroon. Standing just shy of 21 inches, they are gregarious and docile, making for a fine pet. If you're looking for one to milk be sure the goats you buy are from good milkers. They don't need much space and they forage well.

The Kinder

Kinders bring the best of both worlds, as they are a cross between Nigerian dwarf and Pygmy goats. They weigh between 100 and 125 pounds, and provide both meat and milk. Easy to handle, they're ideal for the small homestead. Like the Nigerian dwarf, their milk ranks high in butterfat and makes excellent cheese.

Mini Dairy Goats

Breeders cross Nigerian dwarfs with standard-sized breeds to obtain a miniature version of those breeds. These goats measure between the Nigerian dwarf and the standard-sized breed and produce about three-quarters the amount of milk that the standard-sized breed will. They look like the standard breed and not like a Nigerian.

Considerations

Regardless what miniature goat you choose, you should own more than one. Goats are herd animals and need companionship with their own kind. Wethers -- castrated males -- make sweet pets and don't have the "buck smell," a strong odor associated with adult males that some find unpleasant.

Taken from animals.mom.me/minature-goat-pet-1565.html

SPECIES OF WILD GOATS

Wild Goat

The wild goat (*Capra aegagrus*) is not to be confused with the domesticated goat; the two are separate, distinct species. The wild goat inhabits the Middle East from Afghanistan through Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. They prefer rocky plateaus and terrain where they feed on grasses, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Their coat comes in a variety of creams, grays and browns, and their horns are medium-sized and curved backward. Due to a dramatic decline in population -- more than 30 percent over the last three generations as a result of exploitation and habitat destruction -- the IUCN Red List of Threatened species has the wild goat listed as "vulnerable," one category away from endangered.

Ibexes

The ibexes form another group of wild goats, except this group has characteristically long, thick horns that curve backward past their shoulders. Five distinct varieties of ibex exist throughout Europe, Asia and Africa: the Spanish ibex (*Capra pyrenaica*), the Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex*), the Nubian ibex (*Capra nubiana*), the Siberian ibex (*Capra sibirica*) and the Walia ibex (*Capra walie*). Of all ibexes, the Walia ibex is the only one listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species. This species is the only wild goat found in Africa -- less than 500 individuals inhabit Simien Mountains National Park in Ethiopia.

Turs

The turs consist of the west Caucasian tur (*Capra caucasica*) and the east Caucasian tur (*Capra caucasica cylindricornis*). The west Caucasian tur is endemic to the region between the eastern Caucasus mountain range in Georgia and Babadagh Mountain in Azerbaijan. The east Caucasian tur is indigenous to the western portion of the Caucasus Mountains in Georgia and Russia (see ref 5). Both varieties have stocky, thick bodies with short legs and shorter beards than their wild goat counterparts. The west Caucasian tur is listed as endangered, while east Caucasian tur populations have fared slightly better and are listed as "near threatened."

Markhor

Markhors (*Capra falconeri*), unlike other wild goats, sport unique vertically twisted horns. Their horns resemble corkscrews, and a male markhor's horns can reach lengths upwards of five feet. These unique wild goats are occasionally found in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Categorized as endangered in 1996, less than 2,500 individuals live in fragmented populations throughout the region.

THE BOYS DO IT THEIR WAY.....

Recently I was very ill. There are no shows, so the goats are just out in large paddocks and most of my does are dry or drying off, so I did not think my husband Wayne would have any trouble with them (knowing my four year old son Torino would keep him in line and knew the ins and outs of the chores).

I asked Wayne to order some molasses so I could get the kids used to it before shows start. Simple, right?.....not a problem, his mate delivers it. I was only thinking of a few litres and didn't click that delivery shouldn't be necessary. Three semi-trailers pumped out later! (I guess the weaners will be all right this year). I started to wonder should I call my Mum to come down. Wayne and Torino assured me everything was fine and under control....

By this time it had rained and it was time for worming. One afternoon I wondered what the boys were looking at out the window. I thought there must have been wedge tail Eagles around and I went inside for a sleep. Only to be woken up later by the sound of a helicopter! As I walked outside wearied eyed I thought it was strange as we don't normally muster cattle until Easter. I then heard Torino yell "You're in trouble now dad!" And Wayne telling the chopper pilot to go.

I'm guessing this is how parents feel when police come to their door (A LOT OF CONFUSION). I asked Wayne what was going on. "It's alright, I'm just saving time. They will all be wormed this arvo".

"Who, what?" I asked in an extremely worried voice. "The goats silly!" he said with a huge grin as he turns away from the paddock.

Due to all the rain the goats did not need to come in for water and with a few thousand acres to hide in, the goats were ducking down when the fellas rode past them. Wayne and his mates had decided it would be faster to use the chopper to round them up!

I can't complain as they wormed everything and rebuilt my buck pens and made me new baby pens. Wayne always tells me that my goats are just like little cows and that's how he looked after them. Although I think next time I'll get Mum to come up for a while.

Jen Brodie

Thanks to Jean Macleod for sending us some of the articles printed in this issue

goat, who taught her twins bad habits. Those bad habits included running away from their human handler, not letting me near her kids (which kept on happening to the point, last year, where I decided to poddy her kid).

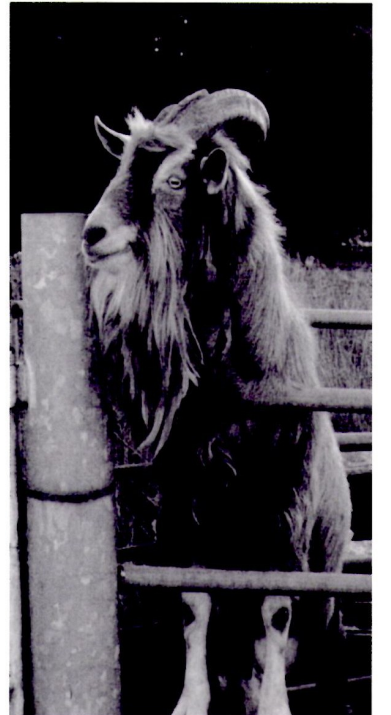
Over the last two years, I have learned that no amount of research will prepare you for the reality of goats. That's not to say that it's been bad, or even that it's been horrible. It teaches you that no matter how many times you read things in books, obsessing over what could go wrong with maiden does and their first kiddings, nature ultimately decides what it's going to be like. I've learned that obsessing isn't the way to go, that things will always end up going arse-end up. I've learned that if your favourite doe is squatting as if she is going to kid, and then doesn't deliver the kid, that there is trouble. Learning to milk, and the sheer frustration of milk being wasted when your naughty first kidder decides to put her foot in the milk, and kick you in the shoulder—dealing with mastitis in said first kidder, and the destruction of her otherwise pristine udder.

I've learned that if you have a buck, and you decide to shoot him before you know how hard finding a good buck can be-- that the next buck you get may not look as handsome as your previous one. I've learned the value of pain killers when you disbud kids, so they don't scream as much—how important it is to disbud them early. Yet ultimately, the thing I've learned over the last two years is how amazing nature is. How amazing these beautiful animals are, and how they completely enrich my life. I intend to become a judge, once the five year period is over, and I intend to breed quality animals, handled with love and respect. I do not poddy my kids—I believe fully in allowing them to be dam-reared, but handled intensely and lovingly from the moment they're born.

Some of my favourite moments include the jubilation of having a doe kid born as one of the first kids born, the sorrow of her dying some two days later—being the mating of brother over sister, and not surviving. Malta will always remain in my heart—and her mother, too. The elation of then having Malta's grandmother give birth to twins, and having one of them be a doe. Having *Don't Fence Me In* playing in my head the morning those twins were born, and naming them Ella and Fitz, and then the kids which were born on the hill five months exactly to the day.

Naming those kids after stupid in-jokes that were old and half-forgotten, Poppet, Bitty and Mairin (pronounced Maureen), and then registering them as Sappho and Briseis, to match Helen of Troy.

For me, the goats give my life purpose, a reason to get up in the morning. I think about the attributes I want and my large ambitions to breed a stud that will last for twenty, thirty years. I named one of my first ever doe kids Helen of Troy—in honour of the face in ancient times launched a thousand ships, and ignited a war—and hopefully, she will launch the stud I want to have.



Taken from The Australian Goat World



The Adventures of an Inexperienced Goat Keeper

By Laura E Hurley

Freya Dairy Goat Stud

I thought I knew what I was getting into, when I rashly declared one rainy afternoon driving from the farm to Braidwood, forty minutes down the road, that I was getting goats. I'd recently decided that a move from Canberra to the farm was in my best interest-- I was bored of the city and the fact that every time I went in there, I spent vast sums of money on seemingly pointless things. The decision to get goats was something I had thought would be fun-- and different from the Dorper sheep enterprise my parents ran-- and watching as we poured \$80 a bag of Profelac into our poddy lambs-- that the goats would also help reduce the cost of having poddies.

But, let's back up to before that madness started. Before my parents had a Dorper sheep enterprise on a hundred acres of poor country, back further to when I was a very small child living in Inverell. We lived up the road from the resident mad goat woman, who ran a herd of Anglo-Nubians. My mother received some poddy wethers, which we enjoyed raising, only for my dad, getting frustrated by them getting into the veggie garden, shot them and unknown to my brother and me, butchered and served them up as chops. Sometime after that, we acquired two Saanens, and this time, the only damage they did was to the trees--this time my father *didn't* shoot them out of sheer frustration.

I remember how fun they were, which stayed in my mind for the decade or so before I acquired my own. When I decided that I was going to get goats, the first thing I did was buy "Storey's Guide to Raising Dairy Goats" by Jerry Belanger. This book has formed the basis for how I raised them. The next thing I did was become disappointed that the La Mancha was not available in Australia, but didn't despair for long, as I quickly decided I liked the sound of Toggenburgs (or Toggenbuggers, as I came to learn). I then started looking online to see what was available, and was very nearly talked right out of Toggenburgs by a South Australian goat breeder who was trying very hard to convert people to the sweet natured Saanens. Nope. Not for me. They're gorgeous goats, but not my cup of tea. I fell in love with the Toggenburg, and so that was what I had my heart set on.

After narrowing down my selection, I decided I needed to see the beautiful animals in the flesh--going to the Canberra Show to see the goat section. It was the last time the Dairy Goat Section would ever be at Canberra, making way in 2013 for the Alpaca section instead. (Only good thing about the Alpacas were that they showed me the inescapable pens they had--mesh with strong steel created the panels.) I found I liked the Toggenburgs bred by Linden Sly, and, with nary a backwards glance at the Saanens, I cashed in on my Christmas present from my wonderful stepdad. It wasn't until late April, however, that we went out to Wagga to pick them up. The ten hour round trip in the ute, plus the excitement of getting my two goats, was more than worth it.

Of course, I then had to choose where to house them--and initially, they were going to be housed in a chook shed that my stepdad had built, with doors and mesh cages, but sadly, they ended up getting too cold there. So, we moved them to another shed. I instantly christened my two does Sunshine and Daisy, as a reference to a video game character's nicknames. The does formerly known as Seezi became Daisy, and Samukelsi became My Lady Sunshine, or just Sunshine for short.

Amusingly, once you get two does, you decide it's not enough. Or, for me, it wasn't. I scoured Farmstock until I found a breeding package, and decided that the sound of the breeding package was a great idea--three adult does, two kids and a buck. Of course, Marulan was closer than Wagga, so we went to get the goats. Getting to Marulan wasn't easy with our stock trailer, as some months before, our bridge out of town fell into disrepair. It involved taking a rather risky route around a mountain, the three of us in the cab of our truck, shoulders squished together, and a rather bumpy ride.

On the way home, the doe known as Odette, and the buck known as Bertie, became quite amorous. That was amusing, as five months later to the day, she kidded on the hill. Getting those triplets home off the hill was not fun. Learning how to handle more than two goats was tricky--Odette, promptly renamed Grace, was a prickly, difficult



GOAT OF THE YEAR 2015 A.G.M. AWARDS

DAIRY BREADS

**Best Female Kid
Reserve**

Best Goatling

Joint 1st

Best Milker

Reserve

Joint Reserve

Best Male Kid

Reserve

Best Adult Male

Reserve

Highest Milking Points @ Stithians Show **Leatland Heidi 20.83 Points**

Dairy Goat Of The Year 2015 **Boscadjack Moccano**
Reserve **Leatland Sonya**

Boscadjack Moccamoon

Baggerbush Tansy

Landsmead Tigerrose

BaggerbushSaffron

Leatland Sonya

Leatland Leaf

Baggerbush Primrose

Coppergon Vanilla

Coppergon Ginger

Poplartime Lysander

Coppergon Jimbob

Mrs S Smith

Mr W Merrell

Mr B Hale

Mr W Merrell

Calcraft & Day

Calcraft & Day

Mr W Merrell

Mrs H Jervis

Mrs H Jervis

Mrs S Smith

Mrs H Jervis

R Calcraft & Day

Mrs S Smith

R Calcraft & Day

Pygmy Goat Awards

Best Female Kid

Joint 1st

Best Goatling

Reserve

Best Adult Female

Reserve

Best Male Kid

Reserve

Best Adult Male

Reserve

Pygmy Goat Of The Year 2015

Reserve

Young Goatkeeper Not Awarded

TROPHY IN MEMORY OF SYLVIA RICHARDSON A.N
WITH HIGHEST POINTS

BOSCADJACK MOCCAMOOON **Mrs S SMITH**

Millview India

Gallaine Poloma

Sunnydene Puzzle

Hendra Primrose

Sunnydene Paris

Sunnydene Sapphire

Gallaine Sprite

Gallaine Imp

Marshview Lennox

Gallaine Graham

Marshview Lennox

Sunnydene Paris

Mrs S Davies

Mr N Julian

Mrs A Prout

Miss O Eddy

Mrs A Prout

Mrs A Prout

Mr N Julian

Mr N Julian

Mrs S Davies

Mr N Julian

Mrs S Davies

Mrs A Prout

- 3 large red onions, sliced
- 2tbsp olive oil
- few thyme sprigs
- 6tbsp caramelised onion marmalade
- 1tbsp red wine vinegar
- 6 x small bought pastry cases or ready rolled shortcrust pastry
- 2x100g goats' cheese, each sliced into 3
- Baby leaf salad, to serve

1. Heat the oven to Mark 6/200°C. Fry the onion in the oil with half the thyme and cook gently for 15 mins until soft. Stir in the onion marmalade and vinegar; heat through for 2 mins.
2. Divide the mixture between the pastry cases, top with a slice of goat's cheese and sprinkle with remaining thyme. Bake for 10 mins until bubbling.

Twists

Add oven-dried tomatoes

- 900g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/2tsp caster sugar
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme

Preheat the oven to 220C/425F/gas 7. Oil a large roasting tin and put the tomatoes in it, cut side up. Season well and sprinkle over the sugar. Roast for 10 mins, then reduce the oven to 150C/300F/gas2. Continue roasting for 1 hr. scatter with the thyme for the final 20 mins. Put to one side until needed.

Make your own onion marmalade:

- 40g butter
- 2tbsp olive oil
- 5 red onions, sliced
- 3tbsp redcurrant jelly

Heat the butter and oil in a large pan, add the onions and stir well until coated. Cover with a tight fitting lid, reduce the heat and cook gently for 20 mins, stirring occasionally. Remove the lid and cook for another 10 mins until soft and caramelised. Season well and stir in the redcurrant jelly.

THE VICTORIA INN

THREEMILESTONE TRURO

7-30 For 8pm

I will be taking a £5 deposit per person which will be given back on the evening of the meal to enable you to order and pay for the meal yourself. So you have the choice of how much you order. The deposit is NON REFUNDABLE after the final numbers have been given.

**Deposits to be sent to
Mrs H Badger 11 Penventon Terrace Four Lanes
Redruth Cornwall TR16 6QX.**

To arrive no later than 10th Jan