



The East Coast Pygmy Goat Club

HOOVES-LETTER

Fall 2009

Volume 1: Issue 2

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Note from the Editor

Happy Fall! I hope everyone is having a great breeding season (or kidding season or just goating season). With the weather beginning to get colder it is time to reflect on the past show season. The ECPGC's first show, the Cynthia Malmrose Memorial Show, is now over. The show was a great opportunity to make friends and strengthen bonds within our club.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Hooves-letter.
Have a great Thanksgiving!

Region 5 Directors

"Your voice matters! Call us and give us your input!"

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Raffle!

Bronze Wether-Simple Necessities Inder

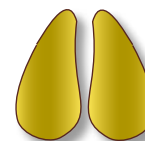
Tickets-\$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20

Drawing to be held at the end of **November**

Contact Tammy Riggins
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for more information

ECPGC Mission Statement:

The East Coast Pygmy Goat club is a nonprofit club founded January 2009 by fellow pygmy goat enthusiasts. Our knowledge, dedication and compassion will be the key to our success within this club. Our goal of dedication is to focus on the future of the Pygmy Goat by educating the new members, promoting health, longevity and the welfare of the pygmy goat. As a club we intend to have shows, seminars on management, health, reproduction and other challenges. Join us in our compassionate endeavor. The East Coast Pygmy Goat Club welcomes all. Owning a pygmy goat is not necessary to be a member. We do ask that you share the same interest, dedication and enthusiasm in the welfare of the pygmy goats and the future of the NPGA.



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A Guide to Trimming Pygmy Goat Hooves

Hannah M. Atkins

Introduction

One of the most important management practices performed by the pygmy goat owner is proper hoof care. A goat's hooves play an important part in its health and longevity. Hooves provide support for the rest of the goat's body and allow it to easily reach food and get away from predators. If a pygmy goat has painful or structurally unsound feet, it will not reach its full genetic potential or be as healthy as a goat that has sturdy hooves. In addition, there are several diseases associated with improper hoof care. One of these diseases is hoof rot—inflammation of the hard part of the foot caused by bacteria. Trimming your goat's hooves every 2-5 months will help prevent hoof problems and keep your goat healthy and mobile.

NOTE: Before beginning these steps, read the entire instruction set and collect the necessary materials. Your goat may become tired and hard to manage if restrained for too long while you are preparing supplies.

SAFETY WARNING: Use extreme caution while using the hoof trimming shears and rasp. These tools can easily slip away from the hoof and cause serious cuts or abrasions. Never cut in the direction of your hand.

Instructions

Recommended supplies (see Figure 1)

- 👉 Milking stanchion, collar and leash, or assistant
- 👉 Hoof trimming shears
- 👉 Wood rasp
- 👉 Blood stop powder
- 👉 Sterile gauze
- 👉 Tetanus antitoxin vaccine

NOTE: Many of these supplies can be purchased at an animal feed and supply store or from one of the goat supply companies listed at the end of the instruction set. The wood rasp can be found at a hardware store.

Step 1-Restraining the Goat

Proper restraint helps to ensure safety for both the person trimming the hooves and the goat. Several methods can be used depending on available resources:

- 👉 Milking stanchion
- 👉 Collar and leash
- 👉 An assistant to hold the goat



Figure 1: Hoof Trimming Supplies



Wooden Pygmy Goat Milking Stanchion

Milking Stanchion

1. Place the goat's head securely into the milking stanchion headpiece, allowing some room for movement. The headpiece style will vary depending on the type of milking stanchion.

NOTE: Ensure the animal is standing on a mat or other textured surface so it can regain balance after you pick up a foot for trimming.

Collar and Leash

WARNING: NEVER leave a goat unattended while it is tied to a gate or post for any length of time. The goat will injure or hang itself.

1. Place the collar securely around the goat's neck, keeping it loose enough to allow two or three fingers to slide underneath.

2. Attach the **leash** to the **collar** and tie the **leash** to a sturdy object such as a post or gate using a quick release knot (see Figures 2-5). A quick release knot allows for rapid release of the goat from the restraint if it becomes tangled in the lead rope or frightened.

3. The goat's head should be slightly elevated with no extra leash hanging where it could entangle you or the goat.

Using an Assistant to Restrain the Goat

NOTE: This method usually works best for young pygmy goats and is not recommended for use with adult goats.

1. Have an assistant rest the goat on its rear end with its feet sticking out in the front. The goat will essentially take on a "sitting" position (see Figure 6).



Figure 6: Holding a Goat for Hoof Trimming

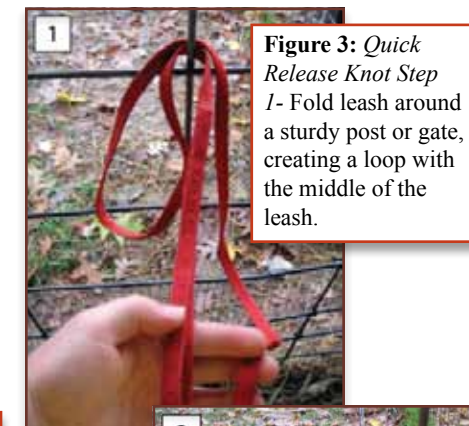


Figure 3: Quick Release Knot Step 1- Fold leash around a sturdy post or gate, creating a loop with the middle of the leash.

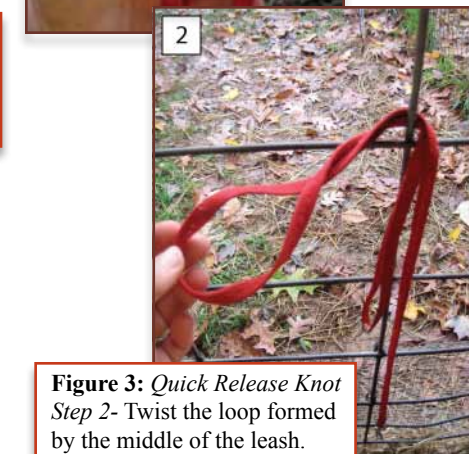


Figure 3: Quick Release Knot Step 2- Twist the loop formed by the middle of the leash.



Figure 4: Quick Release Knot Step 3- Fold the handle end of leash through the twisted loop. Do not pull it completely through.



Figure 5: Quick Release Knot Step 4- Pull on loop closest to knot to tighten it.

Step 2-Lifting and Safely Holding the Hoof

1. Position yourself so you are facing away from the goat's head and looking at the back of the goat.
2. Starting with the front hoof, wrap your hand that is positioned nearest to the goat around the goat's pastern (see Figure 7 and Figure 8).
3. Gently, but firmly, lift the hoof off the ground and allow it to come to a natural bent position with the bottom of the hoof facing up (Figures 8 and 9).

As you lift, gently press your shoulder or arm towards the goat to help the goat balance. The animal may rest some of its body weight onto your shoulder until it regains balance.

NOTE: If the goat struggles or kicks as you lift the hoof, gently release the foot so that you are not kicked or injured. Allow the animal to calm down before trying to lift the hoof again.

4. You should now have a clear view of the bottom of the hoof.

Step 3-Trimming the Walls of the Hoof

1. Hold the **hoof trimmers** securely in your free hand. With the **trimmers** closed, scrape out any dirt that may be stuck to the inside or bottom of the hoof.
2. Trim the walls of the hoof level with the rest of the bottom of the foot, working your way from the heel towards the toe or from the toe to the heel (see Figure 10).

Step 4-Trimming the Heel and Finishing the Hoof

1. Using your **hoof trimming shears**, slice thin pieces of hoof away from the bottom of the heel. Only remove small pieces of the heel to prevent cutting into the fleshy part of the hoof.

If you feel uncomfortable using the **hoof trimming shears** for this step, the **wood rasp** may be used instead.



Figure 7: Parts of the Leg (Side view)

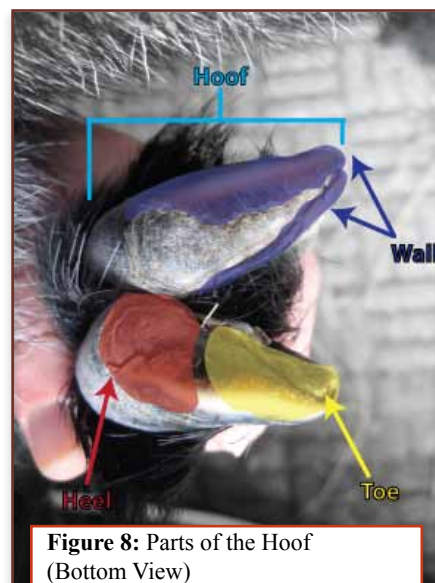


Figure 8: Parts of the Hoof (Bottom View)



Figure 9: Holding the hoof for trimming using a collar and leash for restraint.

WARNING: Stop trimming if you begin to notice pink just below the cut surface of the hoof. If you continue to remove more of the hoof, you will reach flesh and the toe will begin to bleed.

If you cut into the fleshy of the hoof apply firm pressure to the wound with the **sterile gauze** until you have finished trimming the remaining hooves on the animal.

If the bleeding does not stop by the time you have finished, apply **blood stop powder** to the wound.

Check the goat's vaccination records to ensure it has been properly vaccinated for tetanus. If not, administer the goat a dose of **tetanus antitoxin** according to the label directions. Over the next several days, monitor the animal for signs of infection. The goat may limp for a day after the cut.



Figure 10: Trimming the Walls

2. Using the **wood rasp**, flatten and smooth the bottom side of the hoof.
3. Remove any excess growth from the hoof to form a "teardrop" shape (see Figure 11).
4. Repeat Step 2 (Lifting and Safely Holding the Hoof) through Step 4 (Trimming the Heel and Finishing the Hoof) with the remaining 3 hooves.
5. Release the goat from the restraint and prepare for the next animal.



Figure 11: Finished Hoof

Step 5-Final Clean-up

1. After trimming the hooves of all of the goats, wash and dry your hoof trimming tools. Store the tools in a safe, dry place where they can be easily accessed for the next trimming.

Links to Online Goat Supply Stores

- Hoegger Goat Supply
<http://hoeggergoatsupply.com>
- Caprine Supply
<http://www.caprinesupply.com>
- Jeffers Livestock Supply
<http://www.jefferslivestock.com>

The Feed Bowl Recipe Corner

Goat Cheese Fall Salad

- 🍌 1 large sweet potato, cut into 1 inch cubes
- 🍌 2 gala apples, cored and chopped and tossed with 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 🍌 6 oz goat cheese, crumbled
- 🍌 3 oz walnuts, chopped
- 🍌 1 small red onion, thinly sliced in rings
- 🍌 8 oz mixed greens of your choice
- 🍌 1 teaspoon maple syrup
- 🍌 1 Tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 🍌 2 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 🍌 1/4 cup plus 1 Tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 🍌 Salt and pepper to taste



Preheat oven to 400 F. Toss the cut sweet potato with 1 Tablespoon of olive oil, a pinch of salt and some black pepper. Spread in a single layer on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. Bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown and soft. Allow to cool slightly.

While the sweet potatoes are cooling, assemble the rest of the salad. Arrange the greens in a large bowl followed by the onion, goat cheese, walnuts, and apples. Top with roasted sweet potato.

For the dressing: combine the last four ingredients in a glass jar with a tight fitting lid. Shake well to emulsify dressing. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve on the side or toss desired amount with greens immediately before serving.

Variation: Substitute pears or dried cranberries for the apples.

Did you know?



Goat cheese, such as chevre, is a great-tasting low calorie snack that fits into a healthy diet.

A 1 oz. serving of chevre contains about 80 calories and over 5 grams of protein.

References: mayoclinic.com, caloriccount.com

Faces: Photos of Our Friends





Show Results

Cynthia Malmrose Memorial Show,
September 26-27, 2009



Colleen Sheehan

Showmanship, Shows 1 and 2:

Colleen Sheehan

Show 1: Judge-Michael O'Kelly

Best Wether:

Hope Hill's Farm Momma's Boy-Shunney

Reserve Best Wether:

Knee Deep Farm's Wether Alert-Lavere

Unregistered Doe Best in Show:

Pettis Annie Mae

Unregistered Doe Res. Best in Show:

Clover

Grand Champion Jr. Doe:

Leolynn Farms Whimsical Willow-McGhee

Res. Grand Champion Jr. Doe:

Whirlwind Farms Almost Perfect-Landis

Grand Champion & Senior Champion Doe:

Little Legend Farm Twist and Shout-Brown

Res. Gr. Champion & Res. Senior Gr. Champion Doe:

Whirlwind Farms Beautiful Concept -Hemmer

Junior Champion Buck:

Echo Springs Zephyr-Brown

Res. Junior Champion Buck:

Whirlwind Farms the Merlin Concept: McGhee

Gr. Champion & Senior Champion Buck:

Pygmy Goats By TJ Sanford-McGhee

Res. Grand Champion & Senior Grand Champion:

Simple Necessities Easton-Hemmer



Pettis Annie Mae



Clover



Hope Hill Farm's
Momma's Boy



Knee Deep Farm's
Wether Alert



Leolynn Farms
Whimsical Willow

Show Results (cont'd)

Cynthia Malmrose Memorial Show,
September 26-27, 2009

Show 2: Judge- Jason Overman, DVM

Best Wether:

Hope Hill's Farm Momma's Boy-Shunney

Reserve Best Wether:

Pettits Pygmy's Petey

Unregistered Doe Best in Show:

Clover

Unregistered Doe Res. Best in Show:

Pettis Annie Mae

Grand Champion Jr. Doe:

Country Farms Modern Design-O'Kelly

Res. Grand Champion Jr. Doe:

Knee Deep Farm Chelsea-Lavere

Grand Champion & Senior Champion Doe:

Leolynn Bella Vista-McGhee

Res. Gr. Champion & Res. Senior Gr. Champion Doe:

Lots Does 4 A Buck Shodish-McGhee

Junior Champion Buck:

Echo Springs Zephyr-Brown

Res. Junior Champion Buck:

Whirlwind Farms the Merlin Concept: McGhee

Gr. Champion & Senior Champion Buck:

Pygmy Goats By TJ Sanford-McGhee

Res. Grand Champion & Senior Grand Champion:

Country Critters Lunes Effect-McGhee



Whirlwind Farms
Almost Perfect



Little Legend Farm
Twist and Shout



Whirlwind Farms
Beautiful Concept



Pygmy Goats By
TJ Sanford



Simple Necessities Easton

Show Stats:

Income:

1464.00

Expenses:

307.00

Total income:

1157.00.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Thank you to everyone who made the show a success with a special thank you to Tammy Riggins for donating the chairs as trophies!

Goat Links and Resources

“Goats”

A list serve hosted by Washington State University
<http://lists.wsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/goats>

Penn State Meat Goat Production and Goat Research

<http://www.das.psu.edu/research-extension/goats>

Langston University Goat & Research Extension

A great link with resources to current research in goat health, husbandry, and nutrition.
<http://www2.luresext.edu/goats/index.htm>



A special THANK YOU

to Debbie and Ron Lavere

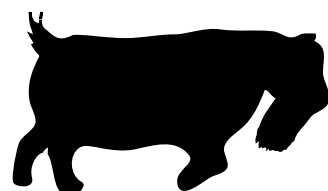
for their generous financial donation to the ECPGC in loving memory of
Debbie's father:

William Quillen

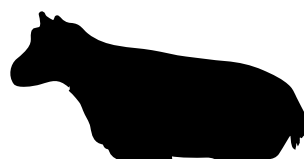
ECPGC! This is YOUR Newsletter!

Do you have something you would like to see in the newsletter?
A photo? A recipe? An announcement?

Suggestions? Comments? Technical Issues?



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“Thank you” to those who have contributed to this issue of the ECPGC Newsletter!

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