

The East Coast Pygmy Goat Club Newsletter

Summer 2010

A Word from the ECPGC President:

Our club continues to grow with many wonderful people. The dedication to the breed, our passion for the animals and the friendships we create reflect in our membership. ECPGC thanks and appreciate's all it's members. Hopefully as time passes our membership increases with many new members. Please remember if you have not paid your 2010 dues to mail them to Stefany Hemmer.

2010 has been a wonderful and productive year in the Pygmy Goat World. Both the January and June Board meetings have passed and gone. Another year proves productive for NPGA! Remember to call your directors and relay your thoughts on matters that will be presented at the board meeting. If there is something you would like to have addressed in January, please feel free to contact Lynda Gredin or myself. We as members are NPGA and our voices do count.

The 2010 NPGA Convention was held in Hamilton, OH, hosted by Jean Sisco and Jennifer Sanderson with LOTS of help from the OH Pygmy Goat club! It truly was a memorable convention. Thank-you to Lisa Bragg and Sheryle Howard on the wonderful slide show of the previous Nation Champions! That was truly inspirational. I am also proud to say that we have 6 new judges. Four fully licensed judges and two provisionals!! A big round of applause to Jason Overman on a job well done. His hard work and dedication on the committee as well creating/implementing the two day Judge's Training Education Seminar is something that brings NPGA to another level!

Summer seems to be one season that we all look forward too, whether it be the warm weather or the Pygmy Goat Shows! Before we know it Fall will be here and it will be time to settle in for a long winter ahead. But before we get too far ahead of ourselves we still have some terrific shows coming in the next few months. In August, one of my favorite shows hosted by the Keystone Pygmy Goat Club the Hagerstown, MD show! Our 2nd Annual Cynthia Malmrose show is happening in September 2010 with judges David Wortham and Tammi Josephson. As always this show will go down in history!!

-Michael O'Kelly

East Coast Pygmy Goat Club



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Check out the
Youth Holiday Card
Design Contest on
page 8!



Brennen Schiller and
Billy Goat Co. House of Cash



ECPGC Newsletter

From the Editor:

Howdy! I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer thus far. I've heard many great stories about fun and enjoyable shows. It's really heartwarming to hear pygmy goat lovers new and old interacting to help each other learn more about and improve the breed. Keep recruiting buyers to join the club and stay passionate about your four-legged kids.

I've been your newsletter editor for a year now and I hope to keep it educational and fun! If there is anything you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. Thanks for all of your support and enjoy the rest of the summer! Oh, and congratulations to all of the new judges!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefany Hemmer'.

News and Announcements

Upcoming ECPGC Show:

The 2nd Annual Cynthia Malmrose Memorial Show

September 18, 2010 at Knee Deep Farm in Chestertown, Maryland

Judges: David Wortham and Tammi Josephson
Showmanship and Unregistered classes to be included.

For more information contact:

Stefany Hemmer

stefany@joplinrotts.com or 410-703-8257



Have you paid your dues for 2010?

Pay now and don't miss the excitement!

Membership forms are available on the club website:

<http://ecpgc.yolasite.com/>

Forms and dues should be mailed to Stefany Hemmer:

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1612 McGinnes Road
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Summer 2010

DISEASES OF GOATS: PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND MANAGEMENT

By: Suzanne W. Gasparotto, HC 70 Box 70, Lohn TX, 76852, (325)344- 5775

A major concern of responsible goat producers is the introduction of diseases onto their property. Prevention is of course the producer's desire, but realistically speaking, control and management are most likely to be goal.

Disease can enter the producer's farm or ranch from many sources. Introducing new animals is the usual avenue but definitely not the only way that illness finds its way into the herd.

- 1) Bringing new animals into the herd from offsite. Quarantine and handling procedures will be addressed in this article.
- 2) Offering stud service. This typically involves bringing other producers' does onto the property for service by an on-site buck.
- 3) Goat shows. A huge source of infection and illness, shows are like children's day-care centers -- incubators for disease.
- 4) Visitors. Infectious materials can enter on visitors' shoes, clothing, and hair; on the tires of their vehicles; in hay, water, tubs/buckets, feed and other supplies that visitors have brought with them.
- 5) Unclean conditions in pens and pastures.
- 6) Poor health management practices within the herd.
- 7) The producer's family members and pets.

Most producers are aware that they should quarantine new animals brought from outside the ranch property in order to protect their goats from whatever diseases the new animals might be carrying. However, the reverse is just as true: newly-introduced goats need to be protected from organisms present on the ranch to which they've never had their immune systems previously exposed. Recognize that these goats are on a new property in a changed environment and often in a much different climate from which they had been previously adapted for living. From the moment they left their previous homes, these new goats' immune systems are under constant assault.

Set up a pen and shelter sized to accommodate the producer's anticipated needs and locate it away from pens and pastures where healthy animals are regularly kept. The pen should be large enough to provide space for proper exercise and should have at least a three-sided shelter with roof to protect the new goats from bad weather. Nearby but not within this pen/shelter area, there should be several smaller gated pens and sheds where sick and/or contagious animals can be confined for observation and treatment. Place a shallow plastic cat-litter pan and a gallon of bleach outside each pen and require persons entering and exiting to wet the soles of their shoes in the bleach. The producer and all other persons handling these goats should consider using disposable gloves.



New and/or ill goats should be kept in appropriate parts of these "sick pens." Goats new to the ranch should be quarantined for a minimum of four weeks, during which time they should be dewormed, vaccinated, and otherwise examined, based upon the producer's management practices. If blood testing for specific diseases is part of the program, do it while the goats are in quarantine. If the tests come back positive and the new goats are already running with the main herd, exposure to disease has probably already occurred.

Offering breeding services on the ranch is an avenue for contamination. Before making a decision to offer such services, the producer should read this writer's Article entitled Pros and Cons of Offering Breeding Services on the Articles page at www.tennesseeatgoats.com. A lot of decisions must be made and agreements put into writing before the first goat arrives on the servicing ranch.

Participating in goat shows is almost a no-win situation with regard to disease. The producer must take extraordinary precautions to protect both goats and human participants from exposure to contagious bacteria, viruses, and other organisms. Animals and people, both young and adult, present risks to all in attendance. Consult an experienced goat-show participant to find out what steps to take to protect you and your goats from taking "unwanted visitors" home with you. At the very minimum, sick goats and ill people should not attend shows and should not be allowed to participate. If they are, leave immediately. Don't even unload your animals. The health of your goats is much more important than a forfeited entry fee or a winning ribbon.

Visitors, relatives, children, pets, and even the producer can easily bring to the ranch infectious bacteria, viruses, and other organisms without ever realizing it. Using a shallow plastic cat-litter pan and a bottle of bleach, the producer should have all visitors step through the solution. This is the very minimum protective action that goat ranchers should take. If the producer knows that visitors or family members have had direct access to goats from outside the ranch, then those folks should be asked to change clothes and shoes before they enter your property. A visit by kids to the 4H barn is a good source of contamination -- a fact that probably never crosses peoples' minds.

Unclean/unsanitary pens, feed troughs, and water containers are excellent sources of infection -- worms and coccidia oocysts thrive in these environments. Flies carry disease from goat to goat. Less often recognized is the exposure to disease that occurs when infective birthing materials are left in pens/pastures for healthy goats to contact. Infected placentas left lying around after birthing are transmitters of abortion diseases such as chlamydiosis; many other diseases are spread through placental material and mucous secretions. Footrot/footscald is highly infectious and contaminated ground very efficiently spreads these diseases. Viral-borne diseases such as some types of Pinkeye are quickly passed around in crowded herds. Caprine Arthritic Encephalitis (CAE) is a viral disease that is spread through body fluids and mother's milk. Cutting open and draining an active Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) abscess and exposing the exudate (pus) to other goats and the ground upon which they walk is one of the main ways that CL is spread throughout a herd. Reusing contaminated needles, syringes, and scalpels is another easy way to transmit disease.

Raising quality goats requires planning and hard work. Doing the planning part in advance will cut down on the amount of hard work each producer faces daily.



ANTITOXIN OR TOXID?

-----By Dr. Kay Orlando, DVM (Reprinted from WPGC Newsletter, July/August 1999)

The difference between antitoxin and toxoid can be very confusing. Both are used to protect our goats. But they are very different in their usage. One (toxoid) is used for long term protection. And the other (antitoxin) is used for immediate, short term protection.

Clostridia are a group of bacteria that includes the organisms that cause tetanus and enterotoxemia. They are large bacteria that produce powerful toxins. These toxins are the cause of the symptoms. Clostridia are anaerobes - they colonate and grow in the absence of oxygen on damaged, poorly oxygenated tissue and dead plant material. The toxins they produce attack organs and systems far from the site of the bacteria.

Giving an injection of antitoxin is similar to infusing the animal with antibodies to the toxin. As long as these antibodies persist in the body, the animal is protected against the toxin. Tetanus antitoxin is the most familiar. It is given to animals with no protection (such as kids from unvaccinated does) and to boost immunity in protected animals at dehorning, castration, or after injury. The protection is immediate but short-lived (2 weeks). Enterotoxemia antitoxin is used mainly to treat animals diagnosed with the disease. Extremely large doses of antitoxin are used to treat animals that have already contracted the disease. Antitoxin ties up the toxin produced by the bacteria.

Toxoid, on the other hand, is used to stimulate the animal's body to produce its own antibodies (antitoxin) to the specific toxin. This can take several days but will last for several months. Tetanus toxoid and enterotoxemia toxoid are used as part of a routine vaccination schedule. The vaccination causes the animal to produce its own antibodies to the tetanus toxin or enterotoxemia toxin so that animal is protected. Toxoid does no good in the face of active symptoms of disease.

Tetanus toxoid and tetanus antitoxin can be given at the same time. This produces the immediate protection an unvaccinated animal needs and the long term protection it needs for the future. If there is an injury and the animal has not been vaccinated for several months, go ahead and give both the toxoid for lasting protection and the antitoxin for immediate protection.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO ZOO NOTIC DISEASES...

What is a zoonotic disease?

A disease that can be transmitted from animals to people.

Which animals can carry zoonotic diseases?

Almost all species of animals have the potential to carry some sort of zoonotic disease

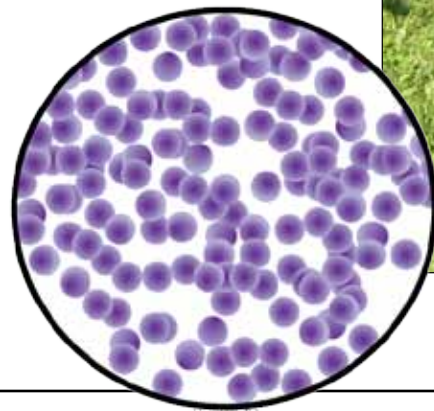
What diseases can goats carry?

There are several diseases that people can acquire from goats including Q fever, sore mouth, and tuberculosis.

Does this mean I need to fear my goats?

No, just keep in mind some common sense biosecurity practices. Wear gloves, respirators, and safety glasses when delivering kids, and wash your hands after interacting with your goats. If pregnant, do not assist with goat kid deliveries. Also, practice good biosecurity by quarantining new animal purchases before introducing them to the herd.

The chances you will actually catch a disease from your goats are low. Simply be aware that there are diseases that you can contract from your animals. Staying informed is the best way to keep both you and your goats safe.



Summer 2010

For Sale

Silly Lil' Mater as in Tuhmater

Sire: Maggidan's Minis Gladiator

Dam: Silly Lil' Baby Ruth

Black Agouti.

DOB: 4/29/2008

Mater is a well-behaved and friendly buck who would make a great 4-H starter buck. He's sired one kid, who was born very easily. I've only used him once because all of my does are more closely related to him than I like.

Asking \$150.

Contact: Hannah Atkins-hmatkins@cvm.tamu.edu



2 x Gr. Ch Simple Necessities Easton

Sire: PGCH Simple Necessities Eason

Dam: Gr. Ch. Loma Linda Farms Chastity.

Grey Agouti

DOB 7/12/06. \$400.

Contact: Stefany Hemmer- Stefany@joplinrotts.com

Lone Palmetto Paris

Sire: PGCH Simple Necessities Bill

Dam: PGCH RRH Kinges Riches

DOB 2/16/06. Kidded successfully twice. \$300.

Contact: Stefany Hemmer- Stefany@joplinrotts.com



Got an animal for sale? Advertise here for free! Just send the goats' names, pedigrees, your contact info, and other relevant information to:

hmatkins@cvm.tamu.edu

2010 Pygmy Goat Holiday Card Youth Design Contest

This year the ECPGC is holding its first Pygmy Goat Holiday Card Youth Design Contest. The Contest is open to all youth up to age 18 who have a relative who is a member of the ECPGC.

Entries will be divided by age class and judged anonymously according to pygmy goat theme, creativity, and design.

The winner in each class will be featured in the Winter newsletter and the winning designs will be featured in 3 different holiday card designs to be sold as a fundraiser for the ECPGC.

Designs may be created with any medium (crayons, markers, etc.) but should be kept two dimensional and fit on an 8.5 in by 11 in piece of paper. The artist should NOT include their name on the artwork. Instead, please write the **artist's name, class, address, and phone number** on a separate piece and include it with the artwork.

Classes are as follows...

Class 1: 0-5 years

Class 2: 6-13 years

Class 3: 14-18 years

Entries should be postmarked by December 3, 2010. Mail entries to:

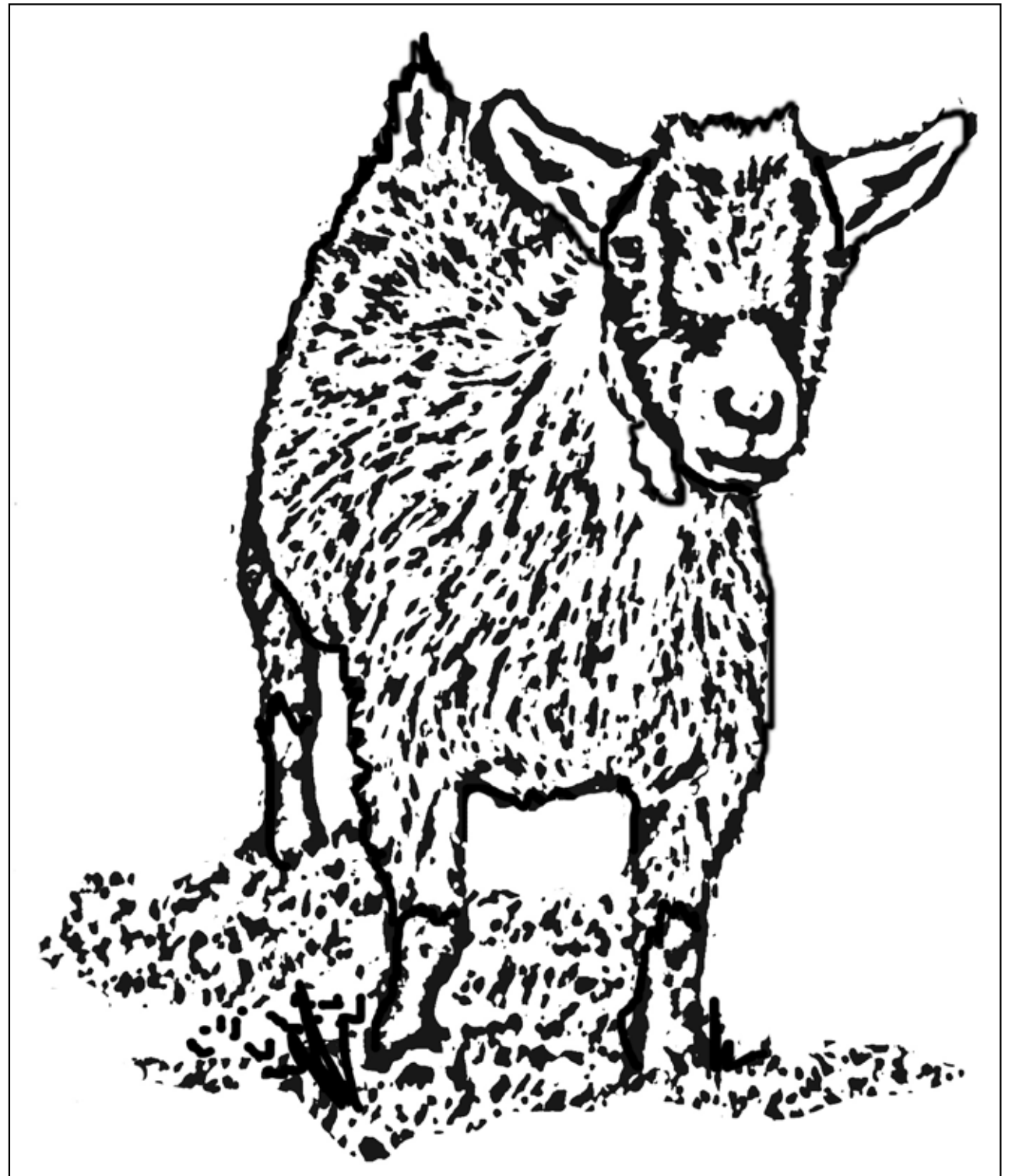
Hannah Atkins
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If you have any additional questions, feel free to e-mail or call Hannah Atkins:

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Pygmy Goat Coloring Page





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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.



Current Club Officers and Contact Information:

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Summer 2010

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