RK ANIMAL SUPPLIES LTD



Tips & Tricks on:

Fitting & Showing Your Goat

You can select a winning goat, but it's your hard work and dedication that makes a champion















Never think you will break any animal. A goat that doesn't shy away in a pen and shows curiosity by coming up to you will be easier to train and to lead!

Buying a Goat

You must take the following into consideration:

- What breed do you want to show?
- What age animal do you want to show?
- What is your final goal for the show season?
- When making a purchase, make sure to stay in your price range!
- Visit an established breeder to buy from.
- Choose a quiet animal.
- Before you head out to purchase an animal, look in your barn. You may just find something in there that you can be proud of!

Showing

A judges perspective

The judge likes to see a well presented animal and handler. The animal should be clipped and fit to emphasize its good qualities. Have your animal well trained so that the judge can view the animal both walking and standing.

Don't get discouraged if the judge places you differently then you expected – every judge and every day is different. Try to keep focused on your goat program, developing what YOU like and what YOU are happy with. This will keep more consistancy in your herd and prevent you from following judges' trends.





In the Ring

Protocol & expectations

- Be on time – first impressions are lasting!
- Follow the dress code and all show rules.
- Be courteous to fellow exhibitors both in and out of the show ring.
- Always show your positive attitude.
- Have fun while you're showing! If you enjoy yourself, it will show!



When traveling, feed and water after you have arrived – your animals are more likely to eat and drink.

Show FresH2O™ is a quick and easy solution for eliminating free chlorine and related odors from municipal drinking water. Chlorine can lead to reduced water consumption, dehydration, and poor performance at shows. Show FresH2O™ is a convenient pour and go treatment option, so you don't have to worry about hauling water to shows or using unreliable water filters.

Feeding & Caring for Your Show Animals

Under proper management, the change in the feeding program will be slight. The object is to put a "bloom" on the animal without causing them to get fat. Dairy goats should carry medium flesh and have a glossy coat. This can be done by feeding roughage more frequently and by increasing the amount of grain when necessary. The amount of flesh you want on the animal will depend on the type and age of the animal.

Proper feeding of your market goat is essential for a successful project. Hand feeding or feeding a limited amount of feed multiple times throughout the day is recommended for goats. This will help prevent overeating and allow you to monitor the growth of your goat. You will need to feed your goat both roughages and grains. It is also important to establish a feeding routine twice a day for your goat at the same time every day. Sudden changes in feed or feeding can damage the rumen.

- Pick up uneaten feed to prevent overload. This will keep your goat's appetite more aggressive.
- Show goats should get lots of exercise. This will help muscle grow and prevent over conditioning.
- Keep your show animal in a clean, well ventilated shelter with outdoor access. This will help with their skin and hair coat staying healthy.
- Before you go to your first show, feed your animal from a feed tub and water from a clean water pail. Do not use the feed tub or pail for anything else but feeding and watering your animal.

ShowBloom is most effective if fed year-round, and we recommend feeding ShowBloom as part of the everyday ration. You will notice that the skin and hair will take on a healthy and shiny appearance. One tub will last you over 200–250 days.

Goats: 1.5 oz. ShowBloom Ultra per day.
Start feeding ShowBloom as soon as you put your goats on feed.

What is ShowBloom?:
A natural protein supplement rich in brewer's yeast and fortified with vitamins.

- Increases feed intake and utilization.
- Promotes healthy skin conditions.
- Aids muscle development and firmness.
- Produces a healthy coat!







Training Your Show Goat

HINT:
Don't practice too much when working with your animals – short periods work better

Remember to work around your animal in a calm manner – never raise your voice or hit them

Dairy Goats

It is important to handle your goats more than you ordinarily would. This includes training them to be led so they will respond obediently to a light pull on the collar. A show animal should be trained to be led easily and stand quietly while being handled and "set-up." This is easier if you start them at a young age. The training sessions will be more productive if they are no longer than 5 minutes long, and are held daily after feeding time, as dairy goats have a limited attention span.

- Place the collar on the kid and allow her to get used to it for several days.
- Begin teaching her to lead by holding the collar in one hand and gently pushing on her rear with the other. This will give you more control over her and keep her moving in the right direction.
- When led obediently, teach her how to stand still. Stop her briefly at first, then gradually increase the length of standing time. Make sure to praise her when she does what you want!
- Start "setting up" when she has learned to stand still. Practice different methods to find out which way works better for you.
  - Method 1: Gently grasp the leg with your hand and place it in the square stance desired.
  - Method 2: Walk her into position and adjust the leg position by pushing at the point of shoulder to cause the opposite hind leg to move into place. This method works well with a touchy or sensitive doe.

Boer Goats

Halter breaking is an excellent way to start the gentling process, especially if you have several goats. Goats should be caught, haltered, chained or collared, and tied to a fence. If using the collar or chain, snap them to the fence. Do not tie the goats where they can hurt themselves, and do not leave tied goats unattended. After your goat begins to gentle, you can start teaching it to lead. Use the collar, chain or halter to keep the goat's head up while you teach it to lead. Have someone assist you by pushing the goat from behind whenever it stops. Teach the goat to lead with its front shoulder even with your leg. The goat's head should be in front of your body.

The next step in the training process is to lead the goat and properly set it up. Set the front and hind legs squarely under the body, keeping the body and neck straight and the head in a high, proud position by using the chain or collar. Halters should never be used in the show ring; use only chains or collars. After the training is complete, you may wish to practice showing. Set up your goat and show it while someone else handles it. You must make sure the goat looks good at all times. If the goat responds properly, return it to the pen and do not overwork it.





Tips on Fitting Your Goat

Fitting goats for show requires more than simply shaving them. Goats, regardless of breed, should be washed prior to clipping!

Dairy Goats



Clipping: Clip with a fine blade over the entire body 2–3 weeks before the show and re-clip the head, tail, belly, lower legs and udder just before the show.

Washing: Bathe goats with a mild shampoo – rinse well!

Hoof Trimming: Do not trim the hooves less than 3 days before the show to allow for healing if they are trimmed too short.

Boer Goats



Clipping: Clip all the hair on the body, except for the tail, and below the hocks and knees. Only the top 1/3 of the tail should be removed and then blended.

Washing: Bathe goats with a mild shampoo – do not put the shampoo directly on the goat, but mix with water in a bucket.

Hoof Trimming: Final trimming should be done 14–21 days before the show to allow for healing.

Products



Sullivan's Natural White: dye-free whitening shampoo, infused with coconut oil that can be used daily.

Sullivan's Clear Choice: A mild shampoo perfect for use on sensitive skin. It will not leave the skin dried out or irritated.



Sullivan's Rejuvenate Shampoo: An olive oil, pomegranate extract, and Vita Skin Package that leaves the skin silky smooth.

Sullivan's Healthy Hide Lotion: Used for after shearing to help condition the hide on goats. It's ability to penetrate deep into the hide allows for this lotion to heal skin cracks and abrasions for a tighter, firmer look.



Sullivan's Revive: Perfect for restoring natural oils and nutrients to the skin and hair coat. Revive Lite is great for warmer weather when the hair is thinner.

Andis 5 Speed, Pulse ZR II, and Emerge Clippers: Perfect for body clipping as they can clip at higher speeds.

Shear Magic Hoof Trimmers: Lightweight, rust resistant, and Teflon coated!

Soft Short Bristle Brush: Used to brush off dust and dirt gently.

Goat Cool Blankets: Constructed from a breathable mesh material that provides excellent ventilation and protection from the elements.

Combs & Brushes

Other great grooming aids to use are combs and brushes. These combs and daily hair care brushes are used at home to help stimulate the hair by massaging the scalp. All combs and brushes have synthetic material in the plastic teeth that are gentle to the animal's hide.





Sullivan's Mini Roto Brush

An industry first, this brush trains leg wool and hair on sheep and goats. This brush is for use with a drill for rotation that stimulates leg wool and hair growth when used as a part of your daily care routine. You can count on the roto brush to pull up, separate and define leg wool and hair as the first step in the finishing process.

Sullivan's Air Express

The most powerful, most efficient motors available. Comes with a slide in filter cartridge that fits in the rear cap. Aerodynamic and efficient design to increase air velocity and speed up drying time.





Dandruff?

Try Sullivan's Revive! This product promotes healthy hair coats, stops flaking, conditions skin, and eliminates and cuts through soap scum left on the hair. No need to rinse out. Spray hair with Revive 3–4 times a week – this will restore the natural oils and condition dull, dry hair.

Stains?

Sullivan's Bright Lights – Fantastic for highlighting and enhancing hair. This product brightens white hair and intensifies coloured hair. Use Bright Lights to wash away yellow tint, sun faded, and stained hair.





Let's Start Clipping!

When clipping, it is always better to make more passes then trying to do it all in one stroke

The head and legs can be done with any of the small Andis clippers – blade guards are available to make clipping easier!

When clipping necks and fronts, use a 5/8HT or a 3/4HT Andis blade. These blades will eliminate hours of clipping time for a straight, even cut. Use Andis Super Blocking blade for body and leg clipping. Finish off your clip job by using the Andis Medium Blending blade along the neck area. This blade works best when using the "back dragging" technique.

Don't forget to use Andis Cool Care Plus often to ensure your blades never get dry. Cool Care is a cleaner, coolant, disinfectant, lubricant AND rust protection formula used by professionals to maintain longevity of your blades.

To keep your blades at their best, store them in a leather blade wallet or blade pouch.

Clip the animal only after you have washed and dried the hair. When clipping prior to show, keep hair light with product to ensure a crisp clean cut. To give the hair more lift, use Sullivan's Revive.

Use a blocking stand when fitting your animal – it was designed with the fitter in mind! It is an open concept stand that allows access to all parts of the animal while standing stationary. This stand features a 22"x54" platform with telescoping front legs. The neck design adjusts from 25" to 44" above the platform. The stand folds up for easy hauling! Side rails are available for purchase separately.





How to Handle Your Goat

Where to Start...

Working with your goat daily will help it get used to you. You want your goat to trust you, so that when you are at a show, it is comfortable and relaxed while in the ring. Invite your family and friends to watch you practice walking and setting your goat up, as this will help it get used to different noises and sudden movements. Make sure to desensitize your goat to your touch so when you are setting them up at the show they are not jumpy!



Step 1 – Setting up your Goat
Quickly yet smoothly, set the goat up so that all four feet are at the corners of it's body and the goat's weight is distributed evenly over its legs. When setting up the goat, do not get down on your knees because you will have less control of your goat. One way to move the back feet is to press back on the opposite shoulder of the foot you want to move.



Step 2: Restraining your Goat
To restrain the goat, hold it by one or a combination of ways as described below. One method is to stand in front and place your knees in front of the goat's shoulder. Another method to restrain your goat is to grab a front leg below the knee and raise the leg up toward you while leaving the other three legs on the ground. While restraining your goat, never pick the goat up so that both front feet are off the ground.

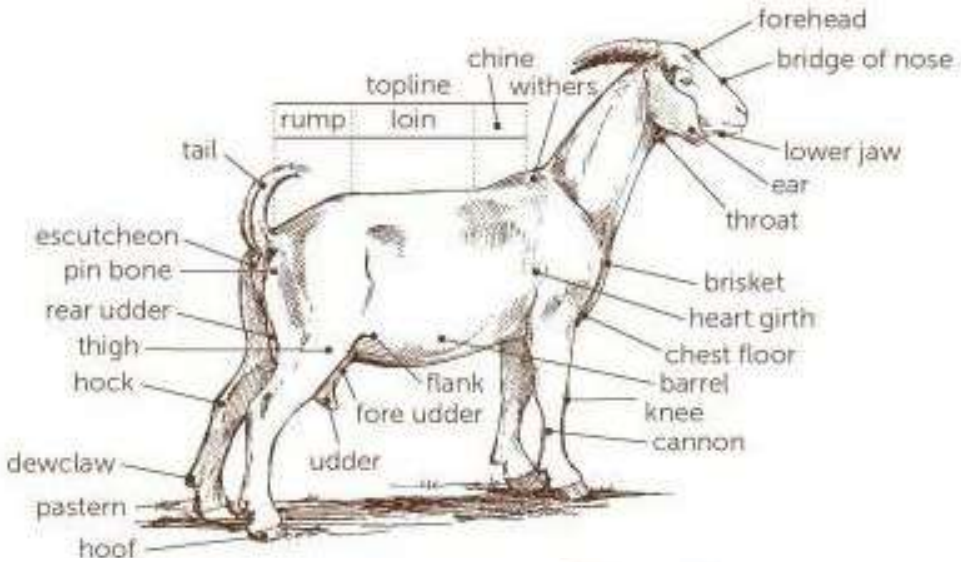


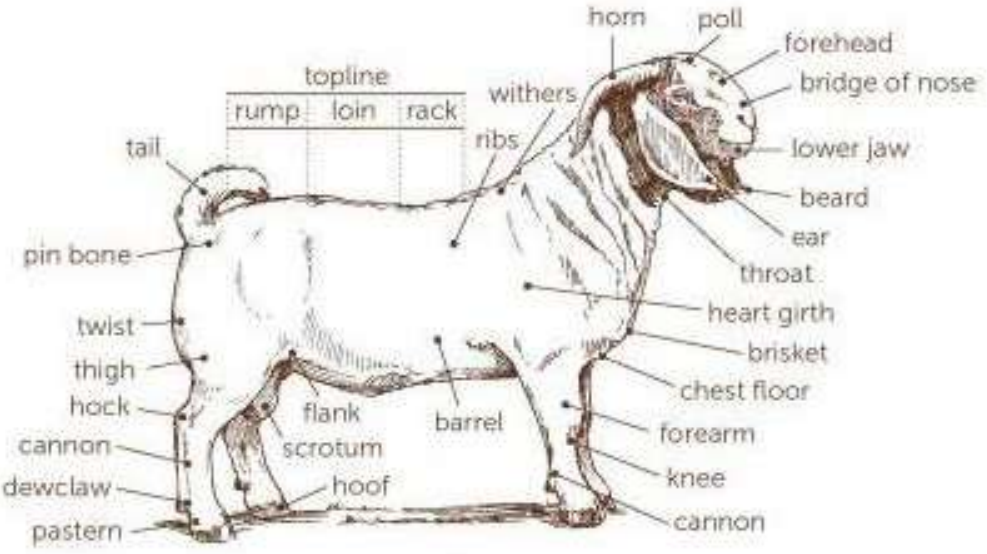
Step 3: Bracing your Goat
The preferred way to show goats is NOT to brace the animal. However, some judges will allow you to brace. Observe the first class and listen to the judge to determine if bracing will be allowed. You should be prepared to brace your goat if bracing is allowed by the judge and you want to be at the same advantage as the other exhibitors.



Do You Know the Parts of Your Goat?

Know what you're dealing with before you start clipping!







Showing Your Dairy Goat

Where to Start...

When showing a dairy goat, walk holding the chain in one hand and leading the goat beside you. Always make sure the goat is between you and the judge. If the judge walks around to the opposite side, stop and walk around the front of your goat and switch the chain to the other hand. Face your goat while you are doing this; do not cross to the other side while switching hands behind your back. Do not go behind your goat or step over your goat. This is very important to do correctly. If the judge asks you to step out of line and change to a different position in the line, lead your goat out of line on the side nearest to the judge, so that from the judge's point of view you are in front of the other goats.

The judge will usually have you walk your goats in a circle. If the judge is inside the circle, simply walk your goat around with your goat on the inside of the circle, and do not crowd the other exhibitors. If the judge is on the outside of the circle, you will need to switch sides before and after you pass the judge.

To set up a goat, use your hands to place their front legs squarely, straight down from the shoulders. There are many helpful tricks to setting up a goat; however, not all judges like to see you use them. The back legs should be positioned slightly more apart, to show off the udder, and slightly back at an angle. Another trick is to have your goat take a step back before you set them up, which causes their back legs to often fall into place. When you are done setting up your goat, stand up and let the judge see. Keep pressure on the chain to keep your goat's head up. If the judge walks over to your goat and touches it, reposition your goat and smooth down its fur when the judge steps back.

Showmanship Etiquette

- Be sure you, your clothes, and boots are neat and clean. Check the show guidelines or standards for specific clothing requirements.
- Tie long hair back away from your face.
- Always be on time for your show.
- You should appear keen but relaxed.
- Always accept the judge's decision in a sportsmanlike manner. Remember that the class is not over until everyone exits the ring. Keep showing until you are out of the ring.
- Keep your animal under control at all times and keep glancing at the judge to watch for their directions.
- Avoid grandstanding or showing off!
- Always shake hands with the champion and reserve champion – sportsmanship is a big part of the show!



Showing Your Boer Goat

Where to Start...

Be sure to enter the show ring promptly, and that the goat is led from the left hand side. Small exhibitors may use a collar, chain, or halter, however, more advanced exhibitors should lead the goat with their left hand under the goat's chin, and the right hand behind the ears. Quickly, yet smoothly, set up the goat so that all 4 feet are at the corners of its body, and that the goats weight is distributed evenly over its legs. When setting up, do not get on your knees because you will have less control. You can move the back feet by pressing back on the opposite shoulder of the foot you want to move. Always set the rear legs first. Once the goat is set up, be sure the head is held high.

Be ready for the judge to handle your goat. To restrain the goat, you can use one of 2 options:

- Place your knees in front of the goat's shoulder.
- Grab a front leg below the knee and raise the leg up towards you while leaving the other 3 legs on the ground.

The preferred way to show your goat is to not brace the animal, however some judges will allow you to brace.

After the goats are handled by the judge, they will indicate what they would like to be done next. They will most likely want you to walk the goat. Be sure the goat is under control and is between you and the judge. If your goat does not lead, gently reach back and lift up on the goat's tail. If an exhibitor ahead is having problems, help that person. Never whip the goat with the halter rope or grab the goat skin – this will result in a bruise and a soft area will remain for some time.

Standing is preferred, but larger exhibitors may squat on the goat's left side. Do no place your knees on the ground – squat so you can get up quickly and maintain control of your goat. Once the judge has given reasons, the class is over, but exhibitors should continue to work hard and display good sportsmanship. Congratulate the class winners and those who stood ahead of you.

Showmanship Etiquette

- Be sure you, your clothes, and boots are neat and clean. Check the show guidelines or standards for specific clothing requirements.
- Tie long hair back away from your face.
- Always be on time for your show.
- You should appear keen but relaxed.
- Always accept the judge's decision in a sportsmanlike manner. Remember that the class is not over until everyone exits the ring. Keep showing until you are out of the ring.
- Keep your animal under control at all times, and keep glancing at the judge to watch for their directions.
- Avoid grandstanding or showing off!
- Always shake hands with the champion and reserve champion – sportsmanship is a big part of the show!

Show Equipment Checklist:

- Blower
- Trimming Stand
- Shovel
- Broom
- Nylon Halter
- Rope Halter
- Goat Collar
- Water Bucket
- Feed Bucket
- Rag to wipe face
- Clippers
- Blades
- Hoof Trimmers
- Curry Comb
- Smart Sensation Brush
- Sullivan's Knock Out
- Sullivan's Rejuvenate
- Sullivan's Clear Choice
- Sullivan's Revive/Revive Lite
- Sullivan's Healthy Hide Lotion
- Extension Cord
- Goat Blanket
- Show FresH20

EDUCATIONAL FLYERS AVAILABLE AT RK













RK ANIMAL SUPPLIES LTD.
7647 WELLINGTON COUNTY ROAD 10
MOOREFIELD, ONTARIO, N0G 2K0
1-800-440-2694
RKANIMALSUPPLIES@XPLORNET.COM ~ WWW.RKANIMALSUPPLIES.COM