



# Guide to rearing your Kid Goat



## Selection of the Kid Goat

Kids can be located via Trade Me, breeders, websites, local contacts or by asking around. If possible, buy from the farm of birth.

The kid should be chosen no earlier than three days after birth but preferably five days after birth. This allows the kid to have its mother's colostrum in the first 12 hours of life, which gives protection against diseases and is high in both vitamins and minerals.

On occasion kids have been rejected by their mother or are one of triplets, in which case one is removed from its mother as she is not able to adequately feed three of them. In these cases, the kid may not have received colostrum.

The healthy kid should have a dry small navel, lively movements and clear bright eyes.

If a buck (male) is chosen he should be wethered with a rubber ring from one week old, otherwise he will become smelly and possibly aggressive as he reaches maturity. Ensure both testicles are down before releasing the ring.

If kids are to be dehorned, they should be debudded by a vet at two weeks of age. Failure to do this at the correct age often results in horn re-growth. Dehorning adult goats is often very unsatisfactory.

Take note of your kid goat's date of birth as this is required on your entry form.

## Basic Rearing Needs

- Two x 10kg bags of milk powder.
- Two x lamb teats (it pays to have a spare in case they are chewed), or a complete bottle and teat, plus a spare teat.
- Pellets or meal (from approx 3-4 weeks of age).
- Collar and lead.
- Brush.
- Drench.
- Vaccine.
- Cover (optional).

## Feeding

Lamb milk powders are specially formulated to meet the needs of your kid goat. Lamb/goat teats that can be screwed onto a coke or water bottle or complete lamb/goat feeding bottles are available from Franklin Vets.

Mixing and feeding instructions are clearly written on the bag. Avoid sudden changes in the type (brand), quantity or temperature of milk or milk powder. For best results milk feed your goat until Ag day.

When feeding your kid in the first 5 days, watch that its tummy doesn't get over distended. As a guide, feed 15% of body weight daily - split into 5 small feeds. For example; a 3kg kid needs 450ml per day, fed at 90ml per feed. Thoroughly clean bottles and teats after each feed.

Supplement the milk with a lamb or multi-feed pellet and keep moving your goat so that it has access to fresh grass every day. Your goat (depending on how old) should be around 10kg by Ag day.

## Scours - What to do if your kid scours

Did you know that over 80% of diarrhoea cases in bottle fed lambs and kids are due to inappropriate feeding? Young animals can go downhill very quickly, so if your little one seems “off” or has lost his appetite, then he needs to see a vet. However, if he is bright, alert and happy, with a good appetite but loose stools, here are some simple things you can check for first, to rule out dietary scours. These include temperature, speed of flow, mixing and hygiene. For more information read our Addressing Dietary Scours flyer located on our website.

## Vaccinations and Drenching

If your kid has had adequate colostrum in the first 12hrs, from a mother that has had a vaccine within 1 month of giving birth, it will have 3 months

protection. It will then require a Clostridial vaccine at weaning (or 3 months), a booster shot 1 month later and once a year, thereafter.

If the mother is not vaccinated, the kid will need a Clostridial vaccine at 2 week of age and a booster at 6 weeks. If your kid is unvaccinated at the time of debudding, it should also receive a Pulpy Kidney/ Anti-tetanus shot.

The 6-in-1 vaccine prevents pulpy kidney disease, tetanus, black disease, malignant oedema and blackleg. If your kid is at high risk of abomasal bloat we recommend Covexin 10 vaccine from 2 weeks old. See the Franklin Vets website for more information on abomasal bloat.

Drench at about six weeks old and again at 10 weeks. An oral lamb drench is suitable for goats.

## Housing Requirements

A dry, draft-free house or kennel is required. You may even want to make a cover for your kid goat. It will grow better if it is not using energy to keep warm. A lamb or dog cover is ideal while it is small.

## Poisonous Plants

Goats have a love of garden plants however; they are unfortunately not able to determine which ones are poisonous. Many plants that are potentially poisonous or have poisonous parts are found in our gardens at home. Here are some examples...

- Box (Buxus) and its relations such as the Allegheny spurge used for ground cover.
- Many plants in the forget-me-not family which have harsh bristly leaves.
- Members of the Erica or rhododendron family eg. calico bush and its close relations.
- Bracken or rarauhe
- Camelia, Daphne, Azalea
- Daffodils, Snowflakes & Snowdrops
- Delphinium ferns
- Hyacinths
- Cress
- Red maple
- Oak
- Oleander
- Arums
- Ivy
- Five finger
- Swan plant
- Heathers
- Rhododendrons
- Lilies
- Poppies
- Clematis
- Cyclamen
- Poinsettia
- Hemlock
- Titoki
- Fox-gloves and snapdragons
- Rhubarb leaves.
- Many species in the large legume or pea family and the rose, peach and apple family are poisonous to some extent.



## Daily Care Requirements

- Regular feeding.
- Wash its face to remove any milk residue.
- Walk it on a lead and play with it.
- Brush it a least once a day.
- Practice calling your goat before each feed.

## Points to remember

1. Hooves should be trimmed and clean.
2. Hair around the hooves should be clipped.
3. Make sure your pets face and ears are clean.
4. Trim long hair under its tail.
5. Brush it often to get a nice finish on the coat and remove loose hair.
6. Ensure the collar is loosened regularly so it is not too tight otherwise it will wear the hair off around its neck.

## Lice Control

Lice are a common problem. Lice treatment are available from Franklin Vets.

It also helps brushing the kid daily to remove the dead lice eggs. If your kid does get lice, you also need to isolate it from other goats.

## Judging

Each school has slightly different judging criteria, but generally ribbons are presented in three age groups – Junior, Intermediate and Senior and an overall winner in the following categories:

**Rearing** – general appearance and condition.

**Calling** – kid goat needs to come directly to you when called from a minimum distance of 4-5metres (this distance will vary depending on the judge) and the child must be able to hook its lead back on.

**Leading** – the kid goat needs to walk through the course without dragging or pushing. The lead should be held in the right hand 20-35cm from the lamb and the slack of the rope held in the left hand.

**Best Pet** – bond between the kid goat and the child. Observed throughout the day.

You should know the breed, age and general feeding requirements (how many times a day it is being fed)of the goat as some judges will ask.

## Tips for Success

1. The child should always feed the goat, mum or dad can assist younger children if needed.
2. Give your goat a treat when leading and calling. Use the pellets or they often like raisins and bread (save the crusts and stale bread). Even a hug, pat and a few kind words are beneficial.
3. Spend lots of time with your goat so you build a bond and it will come when called.
4. Set a course up at home and walk your goat daily. Make sure you include a small fence post or piece of wood so the goat gets used to stepping over it. They mustn't touch the wood. Some judges at Franklin Group Day believe a well-trained goat will walk any course with you if you have put in the time, so have on occasion in the past, made the animals walk it backwards. The point being, walk your goat anywhere around your property, the more the better.
5. Wash your goat on or before Ag day and take a bucket, brushes, an old towel to clean it if it is dirty when you arrive. Take its food and water requirements for the day.



If you have any concerns about your kid's health, please don't hesitate to contact your local Franklin Vets Clinic. We are happy to give advice over the phone on whether the animal requires treatment.



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