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<http://AlaskaMiniGoatCache.com>



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*A club specializing in  
creating a safe place  
for all miniature goats*

## **ALASKA MINI GOAT CACHE NEWS**

A CACHE OF NEWS FOR ALASKA'S MINIATURE GOAT ENTHUSIASTS  
NOVEMBER 2011






## Challenges & perseverance

Friends, although we are looking forward to returning to better days, it is saddening to report that 2011 was a trying year for the Alaska Mini Goat Cache. As some of you may know, the 2010 Officers were forced to make some very difficult decisions at the end of their term and the 2011 Officers spent most of the year dealing with the fallout. A problematic group brought turmoil with repeated attempts to harm our small club and stage a takeover. They caused the removal of our Facebook page; attacked the Officers; claimed they had changed our Bylaws; and pretended to hold an invalid election with non-members voting. To add to the confusion, they contacted several members claiming to represent the club; fraudulently obtained control of and misappropriated our funds; created an unauthorized website using our name as the domain; manipulated and eventually deleted the members' Yahoo! group and all archived files; held events; and even filed several false documents with the State of Alaska. Although we tried very hard to proceed in a positive manner, we were put through some incredibly frustrating legal battles and thus were in limbo all year. For the first time in many years, we were not even able to sponsor a show or hold a fundraising event. Fortunately, we eventually prevailed in court, the credit union worked with us to fully restore the club's accounts, and we learned more about our non-profit corporation status with the State of Alaska. While there continues to be serious untruths spread by these malevolent parties, another group has emerged and they formed their own corporation, which we hope means they are finally turning their efforts to more productive activities.

There are many details too unpleasant for our otherwise lighthearted newsletter, so we encourage members with questions to contact



the Officers directly for more information.



## Back to basics

Throughout these challenges, we kept in mind our Objectives and remained dedicated to the return to our family-oriented activities and good times with great friends. To keep us on track, Officers Rayna Fritcher and Heather Fair worked very hard to host several days of events during the first week of the Alaska State Fair in Palmer. We conducted milking, handling, and grooming demonstrations and added Goats' Milk bath and body products from Member Tisa Witham's Lavish Me Soap Bar to our display. Holding our annual Obstacle Course for All Ages and third annual Fair Skies "Goats on Loan" program on multiple days yielded the greatest turnout ever, with well over 100 participants! The Fair and Alaska Farm Bureau donated prizes for everyone, thanks to Janna Krostek and Pamella Meekin. Since the Fair sponsored our events, we did not take in any donations this year, but our public outreach was very successful. We were also grateful for our amazing volunteers, including Brianna Graves Bierma, Carol Hepler (Kennelwood Nubians and Boers), and Deborah Baines (The Learning Farm) who took time out of their busy schedules to assist.

## A fresh start

So with a new year approaching, we are excited to have everything starting up again and we would love for you to join us for continued networking, education, and fun and a return to the basics that started this wonderful group. It all begins with nominations for 2012 Officers, so bring your family and friends to our next meeting and let's have a baaa-aaa-aaa-ll!

Heather Fair  
Newsletter Editor



## NOMINATIONS FOR 2012 OFFICERS NOW OPEN!



At the October 29, 2011 meeting, President Rayna Fritcher opened nominations for 2012 officers.

Nominations may be submitted in writing to [secretary@alaskamini-goat-cache.com](mailto:secretary@alaskamini-goat-cache.com), to the club's mailing address, or in person at the next meeting. Please indicate the name of the member you are nominating, the office for which you are nominating them, your name, and your contact information for verification of membership. Members in good standing that are at least 16 years of age are eligible to nominate members in good standing that are at least 21 years of age.

Nominations will close at the next meeting, but the ballots will include spaces for eligible write-ins. **The next meeting is scheduled for 12:00PM (noon) on November 26, 2011, at [Krazy Moose Subs](#), 405 E. Herning Ave., Wasilla, AK**, shortly after which ballots will be mailed. The election meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 31, 2011, location and time are to be announced. Watch our website at <http://alaskamini-goat-cache.com> for news and updates!

Please send club mail to:  
Alaska Mini Goat Cache  
c/o Rayna Fritcher, President  
3060 N. Lazy Eight Ct., Suite 2, PMB 103  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

## From the Bylaws...

### Article 5 Elections of Officers:

The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter, and Webmaster.

**PRESIDENT:** Will preside over the meetings-issue the called regular meeting, special meetings and scheduled or special elections, and shall review the Treasurer's financial reports.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Will perform all duties of the President in his/her absence. Notify club members of special events and shows in the area.

**SECRETARY:** Will record and maintain the minutes of the meeting and maintain membership records, scrapbook, memorabilia and club activities.

**TREASURER:** Will collect dues and other income due. Maintain accounting books. Sign all checks and make reports of the clubs financial status at meetings.

**NEWSLETTER:** A minimum of 6 newsletters shall be published yearly. The position of editor will be voluntary.

**WEBMASTER:** Maintain and update website. The position of Webmaster is voluntary.

All nominations for officers must be members in good standing. Ballots for officers will be mailed out one month prior to the election meeting. Ballots for votes of offices must be postmarked within seven days from election notification or delivered in person at the election meeting. Proxy voting is not allowed. Installation of new officers will be held at the election meeting. Any officer not performing their duties to benefit the club after a period of 3 months can be removed from office by a vote of 51% of the voting membership.

### The objectives of the AKMGC shall be:

1. To function as an official club, with coordinated and organized efforts to provide reliable information on goats; to promote miniature goat breeds and goat products; and to educate the general public about the breeds, and their value beyond being novel pets.
2. To advertise the breeds more efficiently than is possible to do individually, and to publicly provide for and service the goat industry.
3. To support well-equipped and -managed miniature goat farms as one of the best means of introducing the goat and related products.

*(continued on next page)*

**...Objectives (continued):**

4. To promote good will and understanding among its members and to discourage destructive thoughts and acts. To these ends we pledge our greatest efforts.
5. To assist its members and others, whether show or pet breeders, in producing the best goats of their chosen breeds, and to breed for healthy, productive goats.
6. To study and encourage balanced rationing and the cooperative buying of suitable feeds at a reasonable cost.
7. To encourage all available assistance from City, County, and State, and to protest undesirable laws that would injure the industry.
8. To assist the "herdsperson" (politically correct) and breeders in dispersing of their products at a price that will tend to build up the industry through truthful advertising, and further, to reject and call attention to advertising found to be misleading or otherwise less than truthful.
9. To provide a means for a group of people who share a common interest in goats to come together in spite of geographic location, in order to learn more about the breeds, exchange ideas and knowledge about raising, maintaining, breeding, improving, and promoting goats and goat products.
10. Through the strength of a club to foster and support the development of miniature goats in 4-H, and State fairs, as a means of helping the youth of our communities.
11. Through the membership of a club, and fundraisers, to sponsor annual shows, where individuals will have a means of gauging progress in their own breeding program and thereby contributing to the continued overall improvement of goats as a whole.
12. And through the memberships of the club functions, to offer every-one ways to enjoy their animals.

**Complete Bylaws available online at:**  
<http://alaskaminigoatcache.com/bylaws.pdf>

**If you are enjoying this newsletter, perhaps you would consider advertising in our next issue. To place an ad today, please contact our Newsletter Editor. Call Heather Fair in Wasilla at 907.232.5414 or in Anchorage at 907.441.1851 or contact her by email at [news@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:news@alaskaminigoatcache.com)**

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	12 Issues	\$25
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<u>Classified Ads:</u>	20 words	\$1
	20 words + picture	\$2
	50 words	\$2
	50 words + picture	\$3



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<http://alaskaminigoatcache.com>

*Did you know?*  
 Members can advertise relevant sale items on the club's website **for free!**



## Calling all Pygmy fanciers!

You may have seen this in previous issues, but it's so important, we feel it's worth repeating (again)!

The Alaska Mini Goat Cache is an affiliated club with the National Pygmy Goat Association (NPGA). We would like to continue sponsoring pygmy goat shows, but participation in the events and planning has fallen to critically low levels. In fact, despite several attempts to garner sponsorships and encourage exhibitors, we were unable to hire and fly in a pygmy goat judge for the Alaska State Fair in Palmer since 2008.

While we did manage to offer a pygmy goat show at our June 2009 Summer Solstice Show, due to low entry numbers, we failed to meet sanctioning requirements.

**We miss our pygmy friends and their fun-loving owners! We know you're out there and we'd really like to see you again!**

Please come to our meetings, renew your memberships, recruit fellow pygmy owners, and proudly exhibit your beautiful animals at our shows. While your goats make great pets, they also act as wonderful stewards to the public and we would love to see them more often, especially in areas beyond the petting zoo! We have all tremendously enjoyed the events focused on your breed over the last several years and we need your guidance and support to secure these events well into the future. Of course we'd also love to see your other goats at our events too!



## News!



Do you have news to share with the goat community? Make your submission today and we'll help you spread the word! Email [news@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:news@alaskaminigoatcache.com), snail mail 645 G St., Ste. #100-579, Anchorage, AK 99501, or phone 907.441.1851 (Anchorage area) or 907.232.5414 (Mat-Su area).

### **ADGA Breed Standards Committee Report**

The ADGA Breed Standards Committee worked on a proposed change to Nigerian breed standard. For more information, see <http://ndproposal.webs.com>.

### **Officer Wrangles Animals on Movie Set**

Our very own Secretary Vickie Young was hired as the animal wrangler for the On Frozen Ground movie shot in Anchorage starring John Cusack and Nicholas Cage! Vickie worked with local dogs for the scenes.

### **Member Cleans Up at Products Competition**

Member Tisa Witham's Dune Grass soap won 1st place in the Fresh Goat Milk Soap Fragrance Bar category and her Sugar Lips Super Moisturizing Lip Balm won 3rd place in the Fresh or Powdered Goat Milk Miscellaneous Product category at the American Dairy Goat Association convention's annual Bath Products Competition held at their Convention in October! See her products at <http://lavishmesoapbar.com>.

### **ADGA Linear Appraisal Held in Alaska Again**

A group of breeders brought up an ADGA Linear Appraiser again this year and participated in a special session of the program to evaluate their herds. The largest herds had Nigerian Dwarf dairy goats evaluated and the permanent scores of participating goats are now available online at <http://adgagenetics.org>. If you are interested in participating in the future, notify your club officers.

## Reasons Why that Doe Won't "Settle"

By Sue Reith

(reprinted with permission from <http://dairygoatsplus.com/>)

Cystic ovaries, Uterine infections, Freemartins, Pseudohermaphrodites: Differentiation and Treatment:

Right now in the early part of the breeding season might be good time to offer some guidance to readers who are trying to figure out what's wrong when that favorite doe fails to 'settle' despite the fact that in most cases she clearly appears to be in season.

I often get posts along about now like the one below, which reads: "One of our does seems to be cystic- she keeps short-cycling. What is the correct protocol for administering Cystorelin or Factrel? The instructions don't mention any particular timing, and neither did our Vet, but on the internet I often read about people giving it when the doe is in heat. And when do you give a second dose?"

The email above contains a very common misconception, wherein the doe's owner is assuming she has one problem (cystic ovaries), but describes the symptoms (short cycling) for quite another problem (metritis). I'll try to help the reader to differentiate one breeding problem from another, and to offer some guidance in repairing the difficulty if that can be done.

### CYSTIC OVARIES:

There's a little 'lump' called the corpus luteum that sits on the doe's ovary. Its job is to keep the uterus stable in whatever stage it is in. That stage could be anestrus (that prolonged period of time each year when does do not come into heat), or standing heat, or pregnancy, or labor... The body produces a hormone called prostaglandin that, by controlling the life-span of the corpus luteum, determines the length of each of those stages. As the appropriate time to end any stage approaches, this natural prostaglandin is produced gradually until there is enough of it to kill the corpus luteum, which once dead, allows the uterus to move into the next

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## Reasons Why that Doe Won't "Settle"

*continued (Reith)*

scheduled stage. In does with cystic ovaries, however, for undetermined reasons a hormonal imbalance in the goat keeps the natural prostaglandin from being produced in sufficient amounts in her body to kill the corpus luteum at the appointed time, and as a result the doe is unable to move to the next scheduled stage, which in this case would be a standing heat. So the corpus luteum just sits there and stays as-is, and it is said that she has 'cysts' on her ovaries (aka 'cystic' ovaries). This hormonal imbalance that has stopped the production of prostaglandin will also cause her to exhibit buck-like behavior, of which 'blurping' sounds and aggression are classic symptoms. So when a doe has cystic ovaries, she will fail to come into a true, standing heat, and she will act 'bucky' on top of that.

I have generally treated cystic ovaries quite successfully with an injection of HCG (Human Chorionic Gonadotropin, an Rx) to correct the hormonal imbalance. That is followed about 9-10 days later by an injection of Lutalyse (a man-made prostaglandin), the result being that in the absence of the natural prostaglandin, the artificial prostaglandin will do the job for it, killing the corpus luteum so she can go into a normal standing heat from 36 to 72 hours later, at which time she can be bred.

### UTERINE INFECTION (Metritis):

Occasionally a doe, if she does not conceive when initially bred, will return to a standing heat a short 7 to 14 days later, instead of waiting for the usual 21 days. Bred again by the owner, the story repeats itself. This is known as 'short-cycling', and it is an indication of a uterine infection (aka 'metritis'). This infection within the uterus will prevent a conception from taking place. Generally the problem is the result of the owner having had to assist at the previous freshening, in so doing accidentally introducing pathogenic bacteria into the womb. In the two or three weeks immediately following the assisted freshening the owner may overlook a 'pinkish' (as opposed to a dark reddish) tinge in the lochia (post-partum discharge), indicating that a uterine infection has set in. After that, however, commonly no further signs will be

## Reasons Why that Doe Won't "Settle"

*continued (Reith)*

observed... No temp, no abnormal discharge, milk production is normal... This is because, unlike other mammals such as dogs, horses, et al, the goat has an amazing way of containing the infection within the walls of the uterus itself.

Because of this potential for post-partum uterine infection during an assisted birthing, I always, immediately at its conclusion, prepare about 7cc of Oxytetracycline LA200, diluted with about 25cc of saline or sterile water, in a 35cc syringe, and infuse that right into the uterine cavity while the cervix is



*Vickie Young with Yakutat,  
at Fair Skies, November 2011.*

*Photo by Meagan Kern.*

still wide open and accessible. This flushing with diluted oxytetracycline (diluted to prevent irritation of the uterine tissue) prevents any possibility of pathogenic bacteria getting a foothold in the vulnerable uterus, which, if allowed to happen, will result in the doe being unable to become pregnant when she is bred the following breeding season unless or until the infection caused by those bacteria is cleared up. Oxytetracycline, an antibiotic that is accessible and inexpensive, is very effective in treating uterine infections in goats, and it is preferred over penicillin, which is also accessible and inexpensive, but does not have a good track record in this situation.

I have learned the hard way that this immediate, preventative uterine care following an assisted delivery is the wisest approach. Although it is not impossible to clear up a uterine infection in the Fall, when the doe lets you know by short cycling that there's a prob-

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## Reasons Why that Doe Won't "Settle"

*continued (Reith)*

lem, it is very difficult to do so. You see, during the breeding season she can only be treated when she is at the peak of her standing heat, when the cervix is fully dilated (wide open), to facilitate the entry of semen. And either you, yourself, must be experienced in doing A-I, or you will need to find someone else that is experienced with this process, as well as available (possibly at midnight), to do it for you, because in addition to the likelihood that said peak might actually take place in the middle of the night, the procedure used for flushing an infected uterus with oxytetracycline is the same as for doing an artificial insemination, with the only difference being that instead of infusing a straw full of semen through the doe's cervix and into the uterus, you will be infusing a 35cc syringe full of diluted LA200 in there. You should be aware that if you permit someone who is not experienced in the A-I process to attempt this procedure on your doe, you risk losing her to your breeding program permanently.

Unfortunately, unless your veterinarian actually raises, and is experienced at doing the A-I procedure with, goats, he or she will not be able to help you with this. The process requires training, experience, and specialized equipment, and caprine artificial insemination is not a subject that is taught in veterinary school. The veterinary profession, seeking some alternative to offset veterinarians' inability to repair caprine uterine infections using that method, has devised a rather complex series of hormonal injections, designed to (it is hoped) correct the problem. This alternative procedure, time-consuming and expensive, has an unsettlingly unpredictable rate of success. At the same time, when a veterinarian who is not experienced in the area of caprine reproductive medicine is asked for guidance regarding this dilemma, he or she will most likely tell the owner of a doe with a uterine infection that diluted LA200 should not be used to 'flush' the uterus, as it is too 'irritating' to that tender organ. However, the procedure was taught to me by Dr Bob Bondurant, who was the large animal reproductive specialist at UC Davis in the 1980's (and who I believe is still there in that capacity),  
*(continued on page 20)*

**Local Goat Websites of Interest:**

(\*\*as with all internet links, parental supervision is advised\*\*)

**Alaska Mini Goat Cache Official website:**

<http://www.alaskaminigoatcache.com>

**Alaskans With Goats:**

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/165639586798729>

**Alaska Alliance for Raw Milk:**

<http://www.facebook.com/Alaska-ARM>

**Alaska Livestock Sales:**

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskalivestocksales>

**Anchorage Craig's List Farm & Garden:**

<http://anchorage.craigslislist.org/grd>

**Kenai Craig's List Farm & Garden:**

<http://kenai.craigslislist.org/grd>

**Fairbanks Craig's List Farm & Garden:**

<http://fairbanks.craigslislist.org/grd>

**Juneau Craig's List Farm & Garden:**

<http://juneau.craigslislist.org/grd>

**Alaska's List Farm & Garden:**

[http://alaskaslist.com/1/posts/14\\_Farm\\_Garden/0](http://alaskaslist.com/1/posts/14_Farm_Garden/0)



**National Goat Organizations & Forums:**

Totally Natural Goats: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/152871881437232/>

American Goat Society: <http://www.americangoatsociety.com>

American Dairy Goat Assoc.: <http://www.adga.org>

Nigerian Dwarf Goat Assoc.: <http://www.ndga.org>

Kinder Goat Breeders Assoc.: <http://kindergoatbreeders.com>

Miniature Dairy Goat Assoc.: <http://www.miniaturedairygoats.com>

National Miniature Goat Assoc.: <http://www.nmga.net>

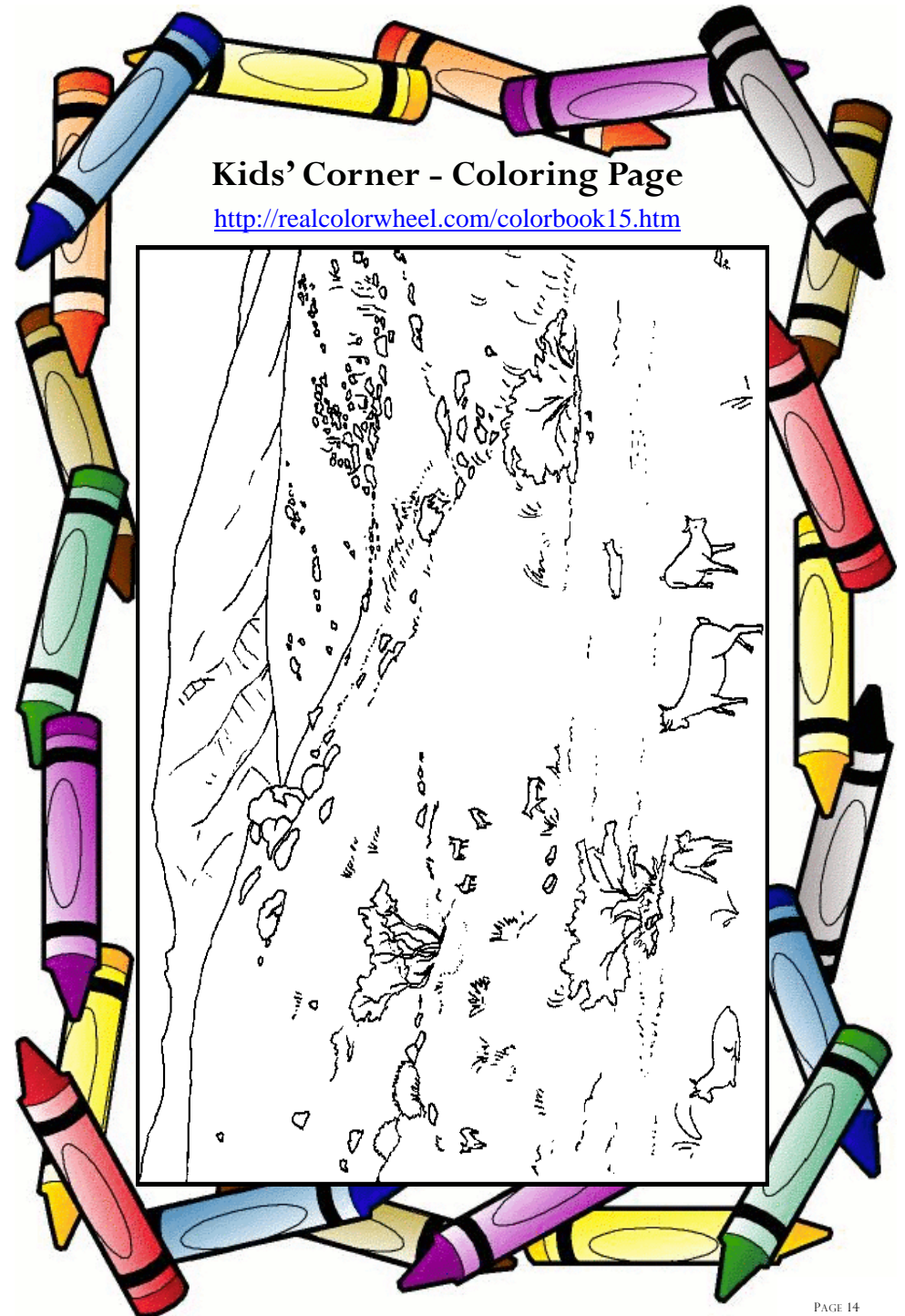
The Miniature Goat Registry: <http://www.tmgonline.org>

Miniature Silky Fainting Goat Assoc.: <http://www.msfgaregistry.com>

National Pygmy Goat Assoc.: <http://www.npga-pygmy.com>

Pygora Breeders Assoc.: <http://www.pygoragoats.org>

PCA Goat Registry: <http://www.pcagoats.org>



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MLK Jr. Day



Ben Franklin Day

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Chanukah



Chanukah



Chanukah



Chanukah



Chanukah



Christmas



Chanukah



Chanukah



Chanukah

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Election Meeting

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Veterans' Day

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Nominations Due

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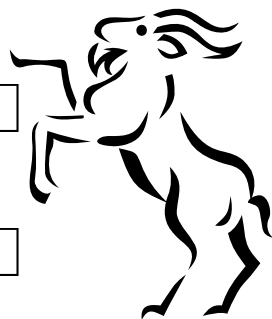
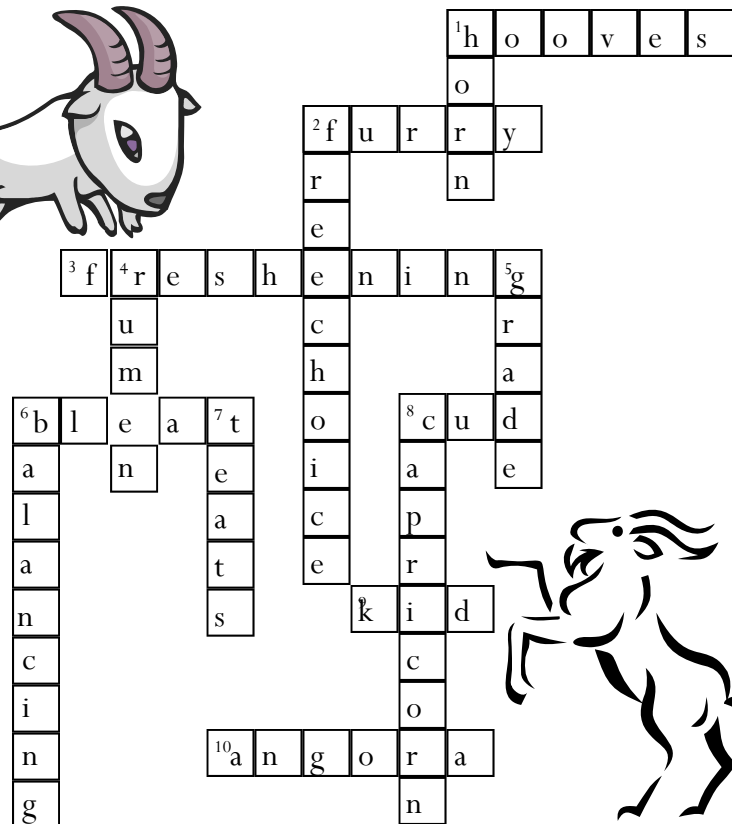
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## Crossword!

Here are the answers from last issue's puzzle!



### Down

- 1 Not an antler, but a \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Offered all the time
- 4 Tummy
- 5 Unregistered
- 6 One of a goat's best skills
- 7 Milk "faucets"
- 8 In the night sky

### Across

- 1 Feet
- 2 The winter look
- 3 Kidding
- 6 Goat-speak
- 8 Not gum, but \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Baby caprine
- 10 Fiber breed

## Articles by Maxine Kinne

(reprinted with permission from <http://kinne.net/articles.htm>)

### FAQ: Is She Too Young to Breed?

**Q. I bought a Pygmy doe kid.  
At what age can I breed her?**

Pygmy does can start cycling as early as six weeks of age, and they are fertile when they come into heat. Pregnancies this young very often end up in surgical removal of the fetus. Pygmy bucks may also be fertile as early as six weeks of age.

Age at first breeding is far less important than size and growth. The young doe should ideally be a minimum of either 40 pounds or 3/4 of her expected adult weight. Some does may reach breeding size as early as 9-10 months. Most people feel that it is safer to wait until 15-18 months.

Pygmy breeders sometimes continually wait for "late bloomers" to get large enough and don't feel it is safe to breed them until they are about two years old. The type of goat that matures that late is reproductively inefficient. When waiting this long for first time breeding, does should be monitored and managed for body condition or they can gain too much weight to conceive easily, deliver easily or produce milk efficiently.

### FAQ: Is She Too Old to Breed?

**Q. Our 8-year-old doe has never kidded before.  
She was accidentally bred and is due soon.  
Is she likely to have problems with delivery?**

My answer is not intended to alarm you, but aging first-timers (four years and older) usually have trouble kidding. The cervix often does not dilate enough to deliver. Part of this is because their hormones are "rusty," and they also tend to have excess internal fat that makes delivery very sluggish and more prone to malpresented kids. Excess fat is also a barrier that makes the birth canal much smaller than it would normally be.

When her contractions begin and she and breaks "water," the first kid should be delivered within 30 minutes. If not, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Solving the Mysteries of Obstetrics (see <http://kinne.net/ob1.htm>) describes normal labor and how to recognize delivery problems. Good luck!

To contact your legislators, visit:

<http://www.ltgov.state.ak.us/elections/distcom.php>

To contact Dr. Gerlach, VMD at ADEC:

[http://dec.alaska.gov/divs\\_contacts/index.htm#vet](http://dec.alaska.gov/divs_contacts/index.htm#vet)

To watch for public notices from ADEC:

[http://dec.alaska.gov/public\\_notices.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/public_notices.htm)

See also: <http://realmilk.com>

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THE  
NEXT  
ISSUE,**

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<http://jefferslivestock.com>

<http://pbsanimalhealth.com>

<http://store.firmeadowllc.com>

## Reasons Why that Doe Won't "Settle"

*continued from page 12 (Reith)*

and I have had phenomenal success with it. As noted above, experience with the A-I process, and the equipment one uses for it (A-I sheath, speculum, special light source) is essential to this procedure, which is as follows:

The aforementioned 35cc syringe with the diluted LA200 in it is connected with a 1 inch rubber tube to an A-I sheath, which at the optimum time during the standing heat must be carefully inserted via the speculum thru the doe's wide open cervix and flushed directly into the interior of the uterus, with the handler using the special light source as a guide. This flushing, combined with systemic injections of LA 200, has resulted for me in a 100% success rate in reversing a uterine infection.

Addendum: After treatment the doe will conclude her cycle normally. She should return to standing heat in 21 days, at which time she can be re-bred.

If you cannot either do this for your doe, or have a capable friend that can do it for you, you will have lost a good doe to your breeding program, which in my view is very sad, as well as having been preventable. For that reason I strongly urge the reader to conclude an assisted birth with a diluted oxytetracycline flush preventatively as noted above.

FREEMARTIN and PSEUDOHERMAPHRODITE does:

This category of non-breeders is the most frustrating of all, because unlike the others it is untreatable. Every year I get requests for help from individuals who tell me that they cannot 'catch' their favorite doe in season. They are always sure that they must have 'missed' the cycles. Last year I spent many months trying to help a woman who had bought at auction a 'really nice' 4-year-old Boer doe with a fine pedigree from a man that she declared undyingly was a good and  
*(continued on page 26)*

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## Factors That Maximize Litter Size

By Maxine Kinne

(from <http://kinne.net/f-multkd.htm> reprinted with permission)

**Q.** My does have problems delivering single kids. These singles are large and hard to pull. Can I do anything to reduce the size of the babies or get my does to have more babies in each pregnancy?

**A.** It really helps to focus on all the little details of management, nutrition and reproduction to maximize litter size. There are some linked articles at the bottom of the page that expand on this information on this one.

- If you live in a selenium deficient area, supplement with Bo-Se 2 to 4 weeks before breeding. It helps ovulation rates and higher conception rates. Bo-Se is only available through your veterinarian.
- Keep internal and external parasites at a very low level. Your veterinarian can help you diagnose which parasites may be a problem in your herd. Deworming about a month prior to breeding helps get the doe into better condition for healthy estrus and conception.
- Free choice loose minerals may enhance the reproductive process.
- Breed on strong estrus cycles. The theory is that more ovarian follicles produce higher amounts of estrogen and result in more intense signs of heat. If a doe has 5-day heats, breed her on both, as she may ovulate on both.
- Keep does in medium body condition for breeding (see <http://kinne.net/bcs.htm>). Thin does can have problems conceiving and during pregnancy. Fat does may conceive fewer embryos and/or bring fewer fetuses to term.
- Keep kids out of does who produce large litters. Genetic selection for prolificacy results a 2% increase per year in litter size. Bucks out of larger litters probably also pass this trait to daughters, as their mothers had the trait.
- The general fertility of young does (under one year) and aged does is reduced, so they can't be expected to produce like they will (or used to) in the prime of life
- Include pelvic capacity, particularly longer rumps from hips to pins, in your selection program. If your does have ample room, they will have less trouble delivering.

## Heat Detection for Hand Breeding

By Maxine Kinne

(from <http://kinne.net/heat-det.htm> reprinted with permission)



- \* Registering Miniature Dairy Goats
- \* Shows, including online Virtual Show
- \* Milk testing, One-Day & 305-Day Test

**The Miniature Dairy Goat Association**  
PO Box 7244  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
(509) 591-4256

Do you get your does bred about when you want to? If not, maybe you need a refresher in heat detection so you can mate the doe when she is most likely to settle. Many different factors can affect your ability to spot does in estrus. Sometimes the signs are weak, or maybe you just aren't paying close enough attention.

Hand breeding involves finding a doe in heat, then putting her with a buck while he does his job. You hover over the romantic pair until he successfully mates with her once or twice (5 minutes or less), then put them both back where they belong. This breeding method has the added advantage of seeing that the buck is working correctly and that the doe is properly receptive. Each one needs do their

part to make conception a reality.

For the best chance of conception, breeding animals must be in good physical condition. Trim the hooves for sound footing. A good deworming beforehand averts the need for it during early pregnancy. Vaccinations should be current. And it is very important that selenium supplementation, if it is necessary in your area, be done several weeks before breeding. Selenium plays a very important role in reproductive success in bucks and does. (Work with your veterinarian to develop a herd health program, including vaccinations, mineral supplementation and a deworming protocol.)

Pygmies are polyestrous - they cycle all year long or nearly so. Very hot summer weather may be anestrus (without estrus). Summer heat cycles

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## Heat Detection for Hand Breeding

*continued (Kinne)*

may be weaker than normal, if they occur. Nubian dairy goats can cycle for slightly longer than other dairy breeds. Dairy breeds usually only cycle from October to February or March. Cooler fall weather and decreasing daylight (photoperiod) are both factors that tell the body to begin the cycle of reproduction.

The length of the heat cycle can vary from 12-72 hours. Sperm must be inside the doe for several hours to undergo changes that allow it to mature and travel through the uterus and into the fallopian tubes to meet and fertilize the egg(s). After insemination in a live service, as opposed to artificial insemination, sperm live up to 30 hours.

Heat cycles normally occur every 16-24 days, but most are between 19-21 days apart. Record each doe's cycles on a calendar to get an idea of what is normal timing for each one. This helps you plan breedings more effectively, and enables you to spot irregularities that may signal reproductive abnormalities. Charting heat cycles is especially important for artificial insemination.

Some does have a short cycle 5-7 days after the normal cycle. These 5-day heats are entirely normal if they are followed by a 12- 24-day period. A doe who has only 5-day heats without a longer period between them probably has cystic ovaries (follicular or luteal cysts). Certain hormones can be given to correct cystic ovaries, especially early in the course of the condition. Does will not conceive when they are cystic because eggs do not ovulate. Talk to your veterinarian about it. (See [Reproductive Hormones: Blessing or Curse?](#) for my view on trying to correct this problem.)

### Estrus Signs

Tail flagging	General attitude change
Vocalizing - yelling and moaning	May mount or fight others
Vulva - discharge, swollen, red	Increased activity rate
Frequent urination	Nervousness
Reduced milk production	Reduced appetite

Tail flagging has its own characteristics. The tail quickly waggles back and forth while it is held at about a 45-degree angle. Flagging can usually be stimulated by placing your hand on the loin and pressing down slightly. This only works when the doe is in heat, because it mimics the pressure of the buck during mounting.

## Heat Detection for Hand Breeding

*continued (Kinne)*

Most does in estrus have a mucus discharge from the vulva. Mucus is an important part of sperm transport to the uterus. At the beginning of the cycle the discharge is clear and stringy, a lot like raw egg white. The color and consistency change gradually throughout estrus to become thick and white at the end. Mucus usually gets stuck to the underside of the tail. When you can't catch a doe discharging from the vulva, telltale signs are often stuck to the tail.

Estrogen causes a generalized swelling in the vulval lips. The vulva may also appear to be from pink to a reddish color due to an increased blood supply and the swelling. There should be no blood. A number of people have phoned me to schedule buck service said, "My doe is bleeding." I always asked for a description. Sometimes they meant bleating. Once, a woman actually meant bleeding, and I thought she was mistaken. When the doe arrived, sure enough, the doe had a small discharge of bright red blood. This is very abnormal during estrus. (In this particular case, it was a vaginal infection.)

With a buck in an adjacent pen, it is usually very easy to spot a doe in heat. She is the one seeking his attention. And about the kindest that can be said of him is that he has, well, a one-track mind. Fine. That's his reason for being.

The best time to detect heats is during or just after feeding when normal patterns may be disrupted. Check vulvas while the does are lined up eating hay or see who declines dinner in favor of a hot date. Don't hesitate to lift a tail to see the vulva and underside of the tail. Check daily for signs of estrus.

It is thought that strong estrus signs are due to higher amounts of estrogen which may indicate multiple follicles. To take advantage of a potentially higher ovulation rate, I always try to breed when does have very obvious estrus signs.

Some does display weak signs of estrus until they are exposed to the scent of a buck - this is called the buck effect. If you do not keep a buck, your does may show stronger signs if they smell his odor. A buck rag is one that was rubbed on a nice, stinky buck and is kept in a sealed container. Remove the lid and give your does a daily whiff. There will be no doubt at all when she comes into heat.

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## Heat Detection for Hand Breeding

*continued (Kinne)*

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*Meagan Kern with Fair Skies AD Bastian Bean, at Fair Skies, November 2011. Photo by Vickie Young.*

## Reasons Why that Doe Won't "Settle"

*continued from page 20 (Reith)*

was a good and honorable person, who 'would never cheat her', and who had told her that the doe had previously freshened every year (this despite the fact that when pressed, she told me that there was no development of the mammary system, which she was sure had simply 'shrunk back down')! She had left this doe with her buck for several months, and although the doe did not appear to be pregnant, after her last possible due date had passed she 'lutalysed' her anyway, hoping desperately to produce the kid she was sure had to be in there. That effort, as expected, was unsuccessful. The owner, when asked, told me the doe was not showing any 'bucky behavior', to which I responded that she didn't sound 'cystic'. Still hopeful, she asked me to guide her thru the treatment for cystic ovaries anyway, sadly with no change. Finally I asked her to find someone who knew how to do A-I and had A-I equipment and would come to her farm and examine the doe vaginally. She said she knew of no one with that capability, and that was where we left the saga in July.

The reason I had asked her to find this person with A-I capability was that I wanted someone to check the doe out vaginally. To do this one needs to insert an A-I speculum coated with KY jelly gently up into the doe's vagina, just as we do for Artificial Insemination. Examination with the special light source would have revealed one of three things:

1) At the far end of the vagina, a clearly defined cervix (looks like a pink elastrator band) would be visible. Best-case scenario!

Or:

2) The speculum would not insert very far into the vagina, but instead, at what should have been about half to 2/3 of the way in, it would come to a halt... at a blank wall! This would indicate that the doe was a freemartin", a female developed in the same uterine horn with a male fetus, wherein the male hormones interfered with

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## Reasons Why that Doe Won't "Settle"

continued (Reith)

*"Caring for your horse like no other place on earth."*  
Located on  
Palmer-Fishhook Rd. **907-746-2591**  
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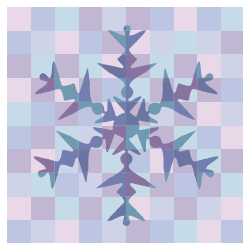
her development of female characteristics. Result: No female reproductive organs! A nice pet for someone...

Or:

3) The speculum would be unable to penetrate thru the vulva into the vagina at all, because lo and behold, it was stopped dead in its tracks by a penis! If this were an older animal, by that time it probably would have been exhibiting aggressive male behavior... In a younger animal, however, perhaps not... If placed in a pen full of normal does, these goats, known as pseudohermaphrodites, will make great 'teasers'. They have the internal characteristics of one xxx, and external characteristics of the other. They are sterile, but they will mount a doe that is in season, helping with herd management by alerting the owner to take her to a buck for breeding.

Having said all of the above, one more suggestion is in order: If your doe is not settling, and has NONE of the signs indicated above, but is returning cooperatively to heat every 21 days, you might want to do a breeding soundness exam on the prospective dad!

Sue Reith  
Carmelita Toggs  
Bainbridge Island WA  
[suereith@msn.com](mailto:suereith@msn.com)



## Current Members (as of November 2011)

### **Rayna Fritcher, President**

Eight Stars Nubian & Nigerian Dwarf  
dairy goats  
Wasilla, Alaska  
907.373.8082  
[president@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:president@alaskaminigoatcache.com)

### **Victoria Young, Secretary**

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907.360.3220  
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<http://polarpug.org>

### **Heather Fair, Treasurer, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor**

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907.232.5414 or 907.441.1851  
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[news@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:news@alaskaminigoatcache.com)  
[web@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:web@alaskaminigoatcache.com)  
<http://FairSkiesAlaska.com>

### **Brouillet Family**

My Kids Farm Nigerian Dwarf, La-Mancha, Alpine, Experimental, Pure-bred Nubian, & Mini-Nubian dairy goats, Boer goats  
Pt. MacKenzie, Alaska  
907.357.4865  
[karleneb@mtaonline.net](mailto:karleneb@mtaonline.net)  
<http://mykidsfarm.com>

### **Adam & Teri Lynn Dyrud**

Nigerian Dwarf goats  
Trapper Creek, Alaska  
907.903.3016, 907.903.3017, or  
907.733.1115  
[Trappercreeksoap@gmail.com](mailto:Trappercreeksoap@gmail.com)

### **Tracy Hanson**

Hanson Family Farm  
Alpine, Boer, & Nubian goats  
Palmer, Alaska 907.746.0195  
[tracy@alaskascout.com](mailto:tracy@alaskascout.com)  
<http://alaskadreamalpacas.com>

### **Daphni Ryan**

Legato Nigerian Dwarf, Alpine, & grade goats  
Palmer, Alaska  
907.746.6573  
[daphniryan@yahoo.com](mailto:daphniryan@yahoo.com)

### **Bev Short**

Williwaw  
Pygmy & Nigerian Dwarf goats  
Anchorage, Alaska  
907.345.2946  
[eluj@gci.net](mailto:eluj@gci.net)

### **William Spearman**

Anchorage, Alaska  
907.248.2946  
[wspearman@alaska.net](mailto:wspearman@alaska.net)

### **Von Bergen Family**

Von Bergen Family Small Goat Farm  
Nigerian Dwarf & Nubian goats  
Wasilla, Alaska  
907.376.5016 or  
907.315.0578  
[jenandjewel@yahoo.com](mailto:jenandjewel@yahoo.com)

### **Witham Family**

Edgefield Nigerian Dwarf & Experimental dairy goats, pure goats' milk soap  
Wasilla, Alaska  
907.357.1737  
<http://EdgefieldAlaska.com>  
[Tisa@EdgefieldAlaska.com](mailto:Tisa@EdgefieldAlaska.com)



## It's a terrific time to become a member or renew your membership in the Alaska Mini Goat Cache!

It's just \$20/yr for an individual (one vote) or \$25/yr for a family (two votes). Members get free online classified ads, a subscription to the newsletter, and an opportunity to network with like-minded, caring people that know how to have fun with their goats!

### You can now join or renew in one of two ways:

1) **Fill out the form** on the facing page (printable form also available on our website at:

<http://alaskaminigoatcache.com/membershipform.pdf>)

and mail it in with a check; or

2) **Bring the form to one of our events** and pay in person.

**Come with a friend to our next meeting!**

**It's time to nominate 2012 officers.**

*Vickie Young with  
Fair Skies AD Bastian Bean,  
at Fair Skies,  
November 2011.  
Photo by Meagan Kern.*



## Alaska Mini Goat Cache Membership/Subscription Application

The Alaska Mini Goat Cache is open to anyone interested in miniature goat breeds, breeders of registered and unregistered goats, show enthusiasts, and single pet owners alike, regardless of age, race, or creed, all are welcome.

Date of submissions: \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose one type of membership (circle one):

Individual Membership (one vote): \$20 – must be at least 16 years of age and cannot be the only other person 16 or over in a household with an existing family membership.

Family Membership (two votes): \$25 – must have at least two members at least 16 years of age in the same primary household. Proxy voting is not allowed.

Your first and last names for membership: \_\_\_\_\_  
(you may include farm or herd name, list names and ages of qualifying members in the household)

Your mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(this is where you will receive ballots and other club news)

Your phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your website: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed(s) of goat(s) you have: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you offer buck service? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

May we add you to our website's member list? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
Note that if you are elected or appointed to an office or committee, your name and contact information will be listed on the website and in other club publications.

### Please send this form and your payment to:

Alaska Mini Goat Cache c/o Rayna Fritcher, President, 3060 N. Lazy Eight Ct., Suite 2, PMB 103, Wasilla, AK 99654. Phone: 907.373.8082.

*Membership will not be processed until payment is received in full.*

Make checks payable to **Alaska Mini Goat Cache** or **AkMGC** or pay in person with cash at one of our events. Visit <http://alaskaminigoatcache.com> for meeting and other announcements.