



GUIDE TO REARING YOUR Kid Goat

Selection of the Kid Goat

Kids can be located via Trade Me, breeders, web-sites, 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 a concentrated source of fat and protein to give them a good kickstart in life.

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 castrated at 12 weeks old. This will be significantly more painful at this age, so should be done with a vet to numb the testicles and give long-acting pain relief. Castrating before 12 weeks old halts development of the urethra (the tube inside the penis that carries urine). The thin tube is more likely to block.

If kids are to be debudded, they should be debudded by a vet at one - two weeks of age. Failure to do this at the correct age often results in horn re-growth. Dehorning of adult goats is not commonly performed as goats have a unique skull anatomy that makes them very high risk.

Basic Rearing Need

- Two x 10kg bags of milk powder (can use Anlamb)
- 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, lead, brush & cover (optional)
- Drench
- Vaccine

Most of these products are available at your local Franklin Vets clinic.

Feeding

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

Mixing instructions are clearly written on the bag. Given that weight of newborns can vary, as a guide, *feed 15% of body weight daily split into five small feeds*. For example, a 3kg kid goat needs 450mls per day fed at 90ml per feed.

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 goat in the first five days, watch that its tummy doesn't get over distended.

Thoroughly clean bottles and teats after each feed.

Supplement the milk with a goat 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 kids are due to inappropriate feeding? Young animals can go downhill very quickly, so if you're little one seems "off" or has lost its appetite, then it needs to see a vet.

However, if they are bright, alert and happy, with a good appetite but loose stools, there are some simple things you can check for first, to rule out dietary scours.

These include correct temperature, speed of flow, mixing and hygiene. For more information read our **Normal feeding guidelines & preventing dietary scours** flyer located on our website.

Vaccinations and Drenching

From vaccinated goat:

- Goat- vaccinated with annual booster 2-4 weeks before kidding
- Kid goat vaccinated with 2 doses of 5-in-1, 4-6 weeks apart starting from 6 weeks old

From unvaccinated goat, or vaccination status unknown:

- Lamb vaccine when born then 2 doses of 5-in-1, 4-6 weeks apart, starting at 2 weeks.

Drench at weaning and then strategically for the first year of life. See www.franklinvets.co.nz/lifestyle_farms/disease-management/sheep for recommended schedules.

An oral lamb drench is suitable for goats at 1 ½ times the lamb recommended dose rate. You'll need to weigh your goat on the scales at home first by holding the kid and weighing yourself together minus your own weight.



Housing Requirements

A dry, draught free house or kennel is required. Lamb covers are available from Franklin Vets, which can also fit kid goats. Sudden changes in temperature when small can cause pneumonia and kids will grow better if not using energy to keep warm.

Daily Care Requirements

- Regular feeding (ideally 5 feeds a day).
- Wash its face to remove any milk residue.
- Walk it on a lead and spend time playing with it.
- 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 is 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 and size (with the goats age taken into consideration).

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 kid 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.

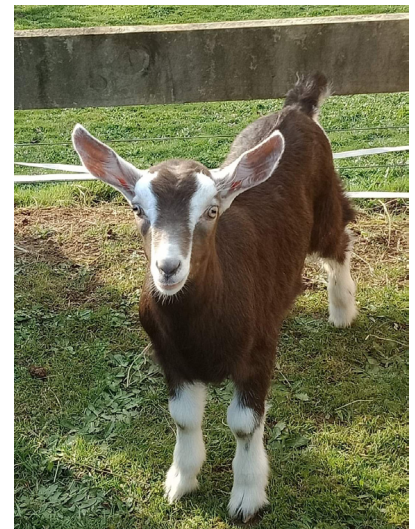
Tips for Success

1. The child should always feed the kid, mum or dad can assist younger children if needed. It is important to ensure the milk is mixed correctly.
2. Give your kid 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.

*Download our [Guide to safely weaning your kid goat](#)

*Updated Aug 25