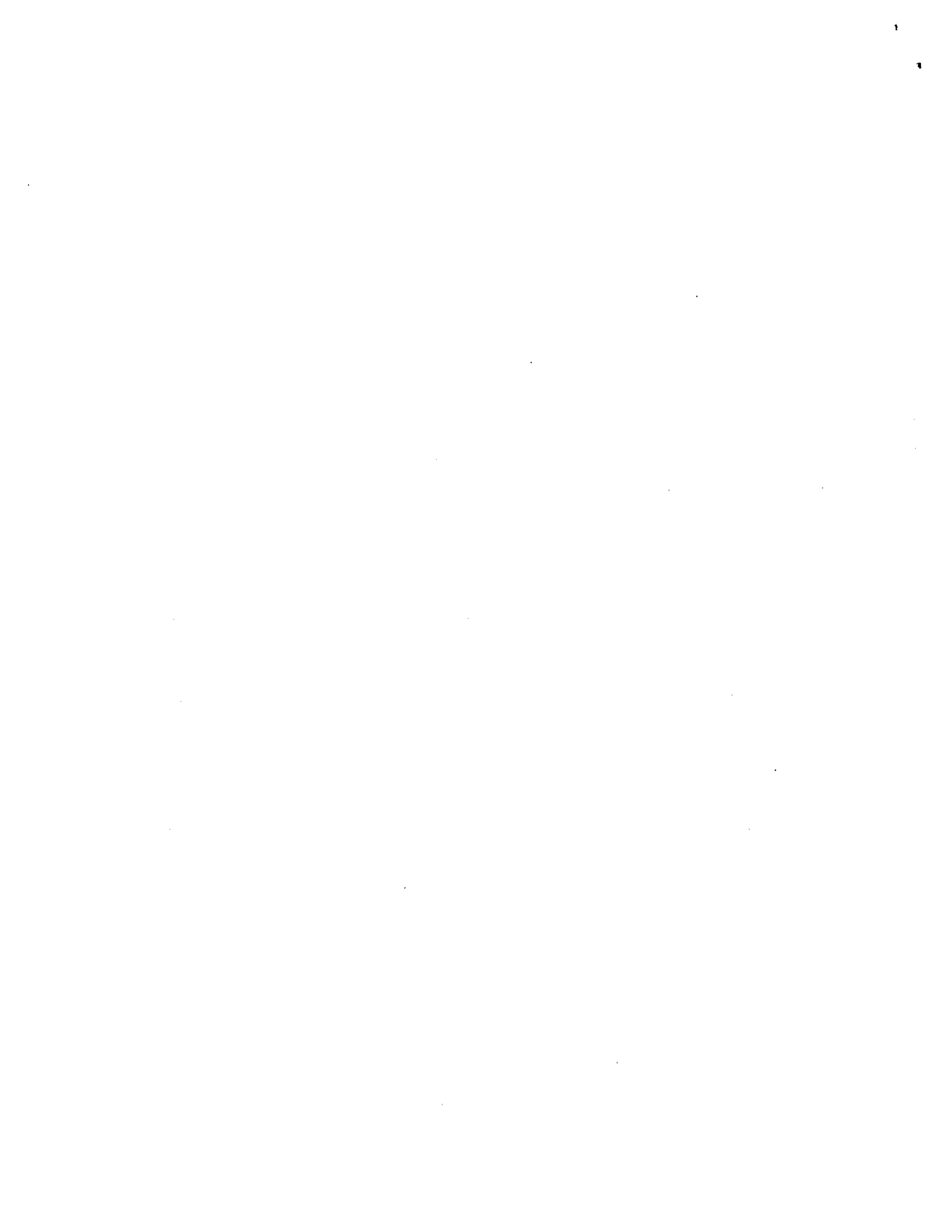


4-H Pygmy Goat Project Handbook





4-H PYGMY GOAT PROJECT HANDBOOK

OBJECTIVES

Challenge and fun are in store for you as you begin this project.

The objectives of your 4-H Pygmy Goat project are:

1. To have you learn the proper methods for care and management of Pygmy goats.
2. To give you experience and training in selecting Pygmy goats of the right type, feeding the proper ration, fitting and exhibiting at the 4-H Club roundup, open shows, and fairs.
3. To provide you the opportunity to keep complete and accurate feed and cost records.
4. To enable you to participate in organized group activity within your club and to assume responsibility in the club program.
5. To enjoy the fun and responsibility of caring for an animal.
6. To get satisfaction. Once you have enrolled in a 4-H Club project, carry it to completion. Get the thrill of completing what you start! A good 4-H member is the best exhibit.

THE 4- H PYGMY GOAT PROJECT

The Pygmy goat was first imported into the U.S. in 1959. Because of its smaller size it is more adaptable to limited space than a larger goat and is ideal for a suburban 4-H project. Pygmy goats make good 4-H projects. They are interesting, like attention, are not expensive to buy or feed, are easily handled and transported, and are fun to show at fairs. You may want to begin with a kid and develop her into a producing goat. This allows you to get to know your goat and watch her develop. Also, a good kid can often be obtained at a lower cost than a good doe. Wethers (castrated males) are permitted as a 4-H project. Do not buy a buck unless you are seriously interested in breeding goats.

CHOOSING YOUR GOAT

When you buy your Pygmy goat, start by selecting a kid as young as possible and if at all possible, choose a Purebred. Consider physical appearance, type of the animal and its parents. Be sure your goat is healthy and that you buy a goat from a reputable breeder, not at a local auction.

If you start with a mature doe, be sure to look at her offspring to see the type of kids she has produced.

FITTING FOR THE SHOW

Good grooming and management throughout the year generally prepares an animal for show. However, several special steps should be taken to prepare a Pygmy goat before every show. A Pygmy goat should be properly cleaned and groomed before the show and the hooves should be properly trimmed. General cleanliness adds to the appearance of yourself and your animal.

SHOWMANSHIP

There is a proper procedure for exhibiting animals at a show. This procedure is outlined on the showmanship score card. Exhibitors should be dressed according to local standards. Animals should be trained so they become accustomed to being handled, lead and exhibited.

PUBLICATIONS

It is recommended that every 4-H member carrying a Pygmy goat project obtain the book "Dairy Goats, Breeding, Feeding, Management" from your county agent or the American Dairy Goat Association, Box 186, Spindale, North Carolina, 28160. This book is a must and is to be used as a reference in caring for and managing your Pygmy goat and in answering your questions.

Other sources of information include:

1. Dairy Goat Journal, a monthly magazine from Box 1808, Scottsdale, Arizona, 85252.
2. National Pygmy Goat Association, RD # 1, Fern Avenue, Amesbury, Massachusetts, 01913 Membership includes a quarterly "memo", cost \$10.00 for youth 18 and under per year as of 11/82.

NOTATIONS

This handbook should be given out once to new members in the project. It serves as a reference guide. A separate 4-H Pygmy Goat Record Book should be used for a three-year period for that animal. If you have two or three goats keep a record for each animal.

Once a 4-H member has completed 3 years and/or is carrying more than three Pygmy goats as a project, it is wise to transfer the individual animal pages from this book to the 4-H Goat Herd Record Book and carry the project on a herd basis from then on. The Herd Record Book is not recommended for a member under 12 years of age. This can be obtained from your County Eugene

PYGMY GOAT ANATOMY

ANGULATED	Having clearly defined angles
BARREL	The girth of the belly
BIFURCAL	Forked, branching but connected along its length
BLIND	Teat: lacking orifice Udder: incapable of producing milk flow
BUCKED OR BUCKLED JOINTS	Excessively bent or bent in the wrong direction
CANNON	Front: leg bone between knee and pastern joints Rear: leg bone between hock and pastern joints
CHINE	Backbone, spine
COBBY	Short-legged, thick-set
CROPS	Fore-ribs
CROWN	Area between horn bases
DEWCLAW	The projection of the leg behind joint of cannon and pastern
DISBUDDING	Removal of horn cells before horn develops
DORSAL STRIPE	Linear marking along spine
DOUBLE TEAT	See bifurcal
FEMUR	Bone extending from pelvis to stifle
FLANK	Portion of body where barrel meets stifle
FLINTY	Hard and unyielding
FUNCTIONAL	Capable of functioning
GENETIC	Traits produced by genes; hereditary
GENETICALLY SMALL	Small by heredity rather than by environmental factors
GIRTH BELT	Light marking circling the barrel
HEART GIRTH	Circumference of chest measured behind elbows
HOCK	Joint of tibia and rear cannon bone
COW-HOCKED	Hindlegs bowed out at hocks
FIDDLE-HOCKED	Hindlegs bowed in at hocks
ILIAC CREST	Pertaining to the uppermost portion of the pelvic blades
INGUINAL	Pertaining to groin
LAID-ON	Angle of placement
LOIN	Part of the back from last rib to hip
MALOCCLUSION	Defective contact of opposing teeth in the upper and lower jaws; misalignment
MARTINGALE	Sideways extension of the dorsal stripe; cross-shaped marking (Seen from above)
MATURE	Does at 24 months, bucks at 30 months
MULTIPLE	Teats: more than two Orifices: more than one per teat
OVERSHOT	Upper jaw projecting beyond lower jaw
PASTERN	Portion of the foot between the dewclaw and the hoof
PIN BONE	Posterior point of pelvis
POSTERIOR	Situated behind or at the rear of ; opposed to anterior
POSTING	Rigid posture, unnatural extension of hindlegs
PROSTERNUM	Breast bone
ROACHED	Arched, bulging
ROMAN NOSE	Convex profile
RUMP	Convex profile
SLAB-SIDED	Long and flat, rather than well-arched, elliptical rib cage
SNIPEY	Long, narrow pinched
STIFLE	Joint between femure and tibia
SUPERNUMERY	Those beyond normal number, extra
THURLS	Hip joint, connecting femur to pelvis
TIBIA	Bone extending from stifle joint to hock joint
UNDERSHOT	Lower jaw projecting beyond upper
VENTRAL	Pertaining to the belly side, lower
WATTLES	Short, finger-shaped appendages on neck or jaw, optional, non-functional
WETHER	Castrated male goat
WITHERS	The highest part of the back where the shoulder blades almost touch
WRY	Crooked

JUDGING DOES

By Lydia Hale

When you, the exhibitor, enter the show ring with your doe, the judge will first look at general appearance (14 points on the score sheet). Ease of movement, grace, expression (10 points) also play a large part in general appearance. The head ideally is short to medium long with dished profile and good width between the eyes. Ears are medium size and erect. The face should have strong breed markings and an animated expression. Either horned or disbudded is acceptable.

The neck (3 points) is fairly short, well muscled while retaining femininity and blends smoothly into well attached shoulders (5 points).

Body capacity includes the chest and barrel. The chest (10 points) should have good width between the forelegs and fullness in the brisket. Heart girth is large with good width at the point of elbow. The barrel (8 points) is broad and deep, increasing in width toward flank. Ribs are wide, flat and well sprung.

The back and rump constitute the "topline" and total 16 points. The back (8 points) is strong, straight and level, going smoothly into the rump (8 points) which is medium wide, medium long - not too steep or too level. The pin bones and hip bones are fairly wide apart. The tail is symmetrical, set and carried high.

Legs and feet are of great importance. Defects are more severely faulted in young does since problems tend to increase with age. Forelegs (5 points) are ideally short, strong and straight, set wide apart with short cannons and strong pasterns. Hindlegs (5 points) should also be strong and straight, widely set to accommodate barrel and full udder. There should be good angulation at the stifle when viewed from the side. Feet are well shaped with deep heel and level sole.

The coat (4 points) is straight and short to medium in length. Skin should be firm and clean. Breed markings are worth 8 points and should be judged according to the NPGA Breed Standard with points taken off for undesirable random markings. (See Breed Standard and Faulting Sheet.)

The mammary system is 12 points. The udder should be firm, rounded, small to medium sized and well attached in front and rear, and evenly balanced. The texture is smooth, pliable and free of lumps. Teats are uniform in length and size and placement. They should be free from obstruction, multiple, blind, or deformed teats and multiple orifices. (See Faulting Sheet.)

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JUDGING WETHERS

By Lorrie Blackburn

The wether has been placed in an awkward position in the show ring. Both does and bucks are judged according to breed standards and productivity potential. Obviously, our wethers are not in the same category.

Wethers may be shown in special breed classes or in showmanship classes. The NPGA Breed Standard applies to all pygmy goats, but a separate faulting sheet and scorecard has been developed by the Breed Standard Committee specifically for wether classes. These classes should be an ideal place for pet wethers to compete with each other while not having to contend with the strict standards set for breeding animals. Showmanship classes are another excellent place for an owner to show off the care, training and love he has put into his pet.

While judging wether classes, the judge must keep in mind the differences between breeding animals and wethers. Some faults which are of concern only in breeding animals are decreased in severity in the wethers. Extra tests are unimportant in a castrated animal. Bad bits are much less important as long as the teeth still function well enough to keep the wether in good physical condition. Other faults are considered less serious if they are the direct cause of the animal's having been castrated or the direct result of the same. Many wethers will grow larger than the breed standard, but this should only be a fault and not a disqualification. Wethers will often appear effeminate rather than showing the strong, thick neck and shoulders one would expect on a buck. While a weak, thin neck is a very serious fault in both breeding animals and wethers, lack of masculinity is not faulted in a wether. Faults which are basically opposed to the NPGA breed standard are still considered important. Roman noses, natural hornlessness, and complete lack of breed specific markings are disqualifying in wethers as well as in breeding animals.

Wethers showmanship classes are judged as other showmanship classes. Cleanliness, hoof trimming, coat condition, body condition and general health are all factors to be considered when looking at the animal. The exhibitor should be well groomed. The animals should be well behaved and well mannered in the show ring. Conformation is not a consideration in any showmanship class.

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BUCKS

By Lydia Hale & Lucy Hulse

Because the buck is such an important part of the herd, he should conform to the NPGA standard as closely as possible.

General Appearance (14 points) should show a strong bodied masculine animal who walks with a smooth and powerful gait. The Head and Expression (10 points) should show the typical dished face. Width between the eyes, erect ears, and a majestic expression. Either horned or disbudded animals are acceptable.

The Neck (5 points) is short and well-muscled, blending smoothly into Shoulders (5 points) that should be strongly muscled and well attached at the withers.

The Chest (10 points) should be full and powerful with good width between the front legs. The Barrel (8 points) is short, full and deep, although not as proportionately large as in females.

The back and rump together make up the Topline (16 points) and should be straight, neither dipped nor roached. The Back (8 points) is strong and level, blending smoothly into the Rump (8 points) which should be wide and medium long, neither too level nor too steep. The hip and pin bones are fairly wide apart.

It is important that the Feet and Legs (10 points) be strongly muscled and sturdy to enable the buck to move with strength and ease. The forelegs are widely set with strong, straight bones and short cannons. Hind legs show good width between the hocks and good angulation at the stifle when viewed from the side. The pasterns are strong and resilient on well-shaped feet.

The Coat (6 points) is longer and fuller on a buck than on a doe, and adds to his masculine appearance. Hair growth should be straight and dense with a full flowing beard and heavy mane over the shoulders.

Good breed standard Markings (8 points) on a buck are essential because of his greater influence in a breeding program. Forehead, ears and muzzle (except in all black bucks) are frosted in a lighter tone than main body color. Face mask, all socks and dorsal stripe are black, without white spots or other random markings, with the exception of caramet animals which show a typical white vertical stripe on the front of all dark socks. Main body colors range from white to black and gradations of gray. White patches or belting on the barrel are acceptable.

The Reproductive System (8 points) should appear to be functional and without extra teats (see Faulting Sheet).

Bucks do not make good pets and only the serious breeder should give consideration to keeping one in the herd. A buck can pass along faults to many more offspring than a doe can, and therefore only the best quality animal should be chosen as a herd sire.

PYGMY GOAT SHOWMANSHIP SCORE CARD

<u>Based on Usual Order of Consideration</u>	
APPEARANCE OF ANIMAL	40
<u>Condition and Thriftiness</u> - showing normal growth--neither too fat nor too thin.	10
<u>Hair</u> - clean and properly groomed.	10
- coat in good condition and well groomed	
<u>Hooves</u> - trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally.	10
<u>Cleanliness</u> - as shown by a clean body as free from stains as possible, with special attention to legs, feet, tail area, nose and ears.	10
APPEARANCE OF EXHIBITOR	10
Clothes and person neat and clean - white costume preferred.	10
SHOWING ANIMAL IN THE RING	50
<u>Leading</u> - enter, leading the animal at a normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking on the left side, holding the collar with the right hand. Exhibitor should walk as normally and inconspicuously as possible.	
<u>Goat should lead readily and respond quickly.</u>	10
<u>Lead equipment</u> should consist of a collar or small link chain, properly fitted.	
<u>As the judge studies the animal</u> , the preferred method of leading is to walk alongside on the side away from the judge.	
<u>Lead slowly</u> with animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage, and graceful walk.	
<u>Pose and show</u> an animal so it is between the exhibitor and the judge as much as possible. Avoid exaggerated positions, such as crossing behind the goat.	
<u>Stand or kneel</u> where both judge and animal may be observed.	
<u>Pose animal</u> with front feet squarely beneath and hind feet slightly spread. Where possible, face animal upstage with her front feet on a slight incline. Neither crowd other exhibitors nor leave too much space when leading into a side-by-side position.	
<u>When judge changes placing</u> , lead animal forward out of line, down or up to the place directed then back through the line, finally making a U-turn to get into position.	15
<u>To step animal ahead</u> - use slight pull on collar. If the animal steps badly out of place, return her to position by leading her forward and making a circle back thru your position in the line.	
<u>When judge is observing the animal</u> , if she moves out of position, replace her as quickly and inconspicuously as possible.	
<u>Be natural</u> . Overshowing, undue fussing, and maneuvering are objectionable.	
<u>Show animal to best advantage</u> , recognizing the conformation faults of the animal you are leading and striving to help overcome them.	15
<u>Poise, alertness and courteous attitude</u> are all desired in the show ring. Showmen should keep an eye on their animals and be aware of the position of the judge at all times--but should not stare at the judge. Persons or things outside the ring should not distract the attention of the showmen. Respond rapidly to requests from judges or officials, and be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times, respecting the rights of other exhibitors. The best showmen will show the animal at all times -- not themselves -- and will continue exhibiting well until the entire class has been placed, the judge has given his reasons, and he has dismissed the class.	10
TOTAL	100

Suggested Uniform:

Long-sleeved white shirt, regulation white pants with matching shoes and belt in either black, brown or white. Exhibitors' hair should be neatly tied back or styled so that it does not become a distraction or take away from the exhibitors' neat appearance.

NATIONAL PYGMY GOAT ASSOCIATION, Inc. PYGMY GOAT FAULTING SHEET A REFERENCE FOR EXHIBITORS AND JUDGES OCTOBER 1, 1979

CONFORMATION:	SCORE:	MODERATE FAULT:	SERIOUS FAULT:	VERY SERIOUS FAULT:	DISQUALIFYING FAULT:
General Appearance	14	Poorly groomed	Uncharacteristic proportions In poor condition	not cobby In poor health	Non-conformity of size Serious emaciation Permanent lameness Hernias (navel, inguinal) All genetic defects Ears pendulous, helicopter Permanent, total blindness Disfiguring malocclusion
Head & Expression	10	Muzzle snipey Eyes round, small Jaws undershot in kids	Eyes protruding Slightly over/undershot in adults	Eyes set too close Overshot or severely undershot in kids Over/undershot in adults	Face crooked Roman nose Natural hornlessness
Neck	5	Shoulders open/forward/under-angulated		Neck weak, thin	
Shoulders	5	Chest narrow/shallow/pinched/slab-sided			
Chest	10	Barrel narrow/shallow			
Back	8	Tail wry or broken	Back weak/swayed/roached		
Back	8	Rump too short/too long	too steep		
Rump	8	Legs too close	Legs bowed/buck-kneed		
Forelegs & Feet	5	Legs too close	Legs cow*/fiddle-hocked		
Hindlegs & Feet	5	Thighs shallow/scanty/weak	-----/posting-----		
Coat	6	Pasterns sprung/non-resilient/long			
Breed Markings	8	Feet crooked/flat			
Reproductive System (bucks)	8	Coat too short/sparse	Coat wavy/silky Some specific breed markings Markings other than breed-specific or optional	Coat curly/too long Markings absent/indistinct	Lacking all breed-specific markings Lacking one or both testicles Lacking evidence of siring ability Hemaphroditism Multiple/functional teats or multiple orifices
Mammary System (does)	12	Teats too small/close-/uneven	Multiple orifices Multiple teats: all functional	Multiple teats: 2 functional + blind	Bifurcal teats Blind teats Blind udder in lactating animals
Udder poorly attached			Udder pendulous/lumpy/unbalanced		

PERFECT SCORE: 100 100

BREEDING THE PYGMY DOE

By Hamp Randolph, Breeder

Your doe will come into heat every 21 days starting around August. Some does will come into heat three months after kidding and therefore can be bred twice a year although this is not recommended.

To avoid having kids in the dead of winter it is suggested that you do not breed your doe till mid-November or December. The gestation period is 145 - 152 days. If you do breed your doe in August, September or October be prepared to provide adequate facilities and care to be sure that the kids are protected from frost bite or freezing. Obviously this depends on the area of the country in which you live.

When you are looking for a buck try to find the best. Do not breed to a dairy goat buck or your doe may have severe complications with oversized kids. Avoid a buck with supernumary teats, double orifices or whose dam had the same. It is preferred that you use a registered buck so ask the breeder to show you a copy of the registration papers and pedigree. Obtain a service memo from the breeder. Be sure that the buck conforms to breed standards. Make certain your doe and the buck are clean and free from disease and external parasites when you take her to be bred.

The National Pygmy Goat Association has just published a book entitled "Pygmy Goats: The Best of MEMO". It is recommended that each 4-H group procure a copy as it contains valuable material covering the whole spectrum of pygmy goats. Cost is \$9.95. Make checks payable to "National Pygmy Goat Association" and send c/o Ms. Ellen Kritzman, Route 2, Box 135, Burton, Washington, 98013.
