



## Meat Goat Project Training

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Kansas State University  
Extension Sheep & Meat Goat  
Specialist

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## FAMILY PROJECT





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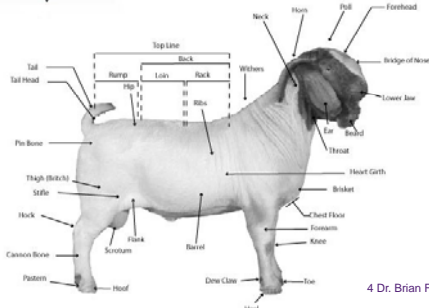
## Session I: Selection

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**American Boer Goat Association  
Boer Goat Anatomy**




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## Selection

- Questions to ask yourself
  - How much experience do I have?
  - Where do I plan on exhibiting my goat(s), and do I know the rules?
  - How many goats do I need?
  - What is my BUDGET?


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## Selection, continued

- Questions to ask yourself
  - Where should I get my goats?
  - What size goat is best for my child?
  - Have the goats been disbudded?


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## Selection, continued

- **Genotype vs Phenotype**
  - Genotype is what the animal should be.
  - Phenotype is what the animal appears to be.
  - Use both to make the best decision...


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## Selection, continued


- **Genotype vs Phenotype**
  - A poor quality goat will always be poor quality.
  - A high quality goat can be ruined without proper care.
  - A high quality goat with a lot of work, proper care and some luck can be a **CHAMPION**.

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## Selection, continued

- **Structural correctness**
  - Head should be held erect
  - Neck should come out of the **TOP** of the shoulders
  - Stand & Walk balanced – wide and straight
  - Strong, level top-line – especially behind shoulders



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## Selection, continued


- **Structural correctness, continued**
  - Long loin and long hip
  - Hip should be as level as possible
  - Heavy bone and strong pasterns

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## Selection, continued

- **Structural correctness, continued**
  - Growth indicators: Long canon bone and long neck
  - Muscle indicators: Forearm and shape of hip

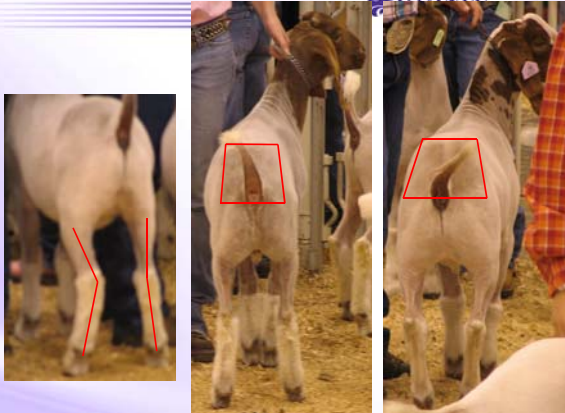
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## Selection, continued

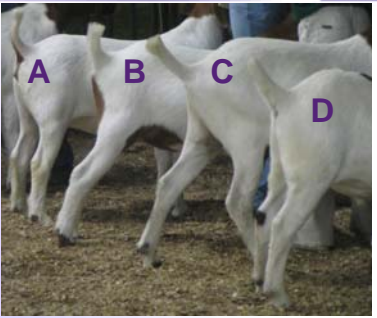
- **Muscle**
  - Broad, thick rack and loin
  - Firm and hard handling
  - Deep, heavily muscled leg and rump
  - Stifle should be the widest part of the leg when viewed from behind

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## Selection, continued

- **Muscle**
  - Wide through the chest floor
  - Powerful through the shoulder
  - Smooth and clean over the point of the shoulder
  - Top of blades tie neatly and tight at top of shoulders
  - Large forearm

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## Selection, continued

- **Topline**
- **Rump**
- **Forearm**



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## Selection, continued

- **Width of Chest**
  - Watch out for FAT



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**Selection**, continued

- **Volume and capacity**
  - Relationship of body length to body depth and width.
  - Proportional
  - Long body and adequate depth
  - Should have some spring or shape to the rib

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**Selection**, continued

- **Rib Shape**
  - Well sprung (cylindrical)
  - Flat ribbed/sided

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**Selection**, continued

- **Style and balance**
  - How well do the body parts connect?
  - Neck blends into the shoulder
  - Shoulder blends into the rib cage
  - Rib cage blends into the loin
  - Loin blends into the rump

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 **Selection**, continued

- **Style and balance**
  - Overall “EYE APPEAL”
  - A goat with good style and balance will be the **FIRST** goat that will catch your eye when you walk into a pen.

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 **Selection**, continued

- **GOATS TO AVOID**
  - short bodies
  - shallow bodies
  - narrow based
  - “bulldog” front ends
  - flat ribbed
  - early maturing

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 **Selection**, continued

- **On the move**
  - View goats on the move to ensure structural soundness and correctness



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## Session II: Ethics, Facilities, and Equipment


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## Ethics

- **Minor Issues**
  - Don't wait to the last minute
  - Honor your tag-in dates
  - No switching tags
  - Report lost tags to Extension Agent or Ag Teacher


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## Ethics, continued

- **Major Issues**
  - Illegal use of LEGAL drugs – prescription
    - Steroids
    - Analgesics
    - Anesthetics
  - Illegal use of ILLEGAL drugs
  - If you choose to use these or allow them to be used on your goats ...YOU SHOULD BE BANNED FROM SHOWS


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## Facilities

- **Barns/sheds**
  - Access to shade and sunshine
  - 15 sq. ft./goat of shed space
  - Well drained and well ventilated
  - Escape from cold weather


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## Facilities, continued

- **Fences**
  - Predator proof
  - Height = 48" or higher
  - Galvanized wire with 4"x4" staves
  - Galvanized panels with 4"x4" squares or 2"x4" squares
  - Avoid "Cattle Panels" if possible


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## Facilities, continued

- **Feeders**
  - Self-feeders
    - Place on blocks 6" off of the ground
  - Feed troughs
    - Top of trough should be hung level with top of goat's shoulder
  - Clean troughs regularly
  - Individual or Group
  - Metal, Plastic, or Wood

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## Facilities, continued

- **Water Containers**
  - Automatic or Manual
  - Small
  - Drain easily
  - Clean regularly
  - Locate in the shade
  - Plastic, Rubber, or Metal

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## Facilities, continued

- **Exercise Facility**
  - Track or Road
    - Oval, Circular, Straight, etc.
    - Net wire, Construction fence, etc.
  - Dog
  - 4-Wheeler (not safe)

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## Equipment

- **Mandatory (to have or have access to...)**
  - Stiff brush to clean water troughs
  - Scales to weigh goats
  - Trimming table 45”L x 20”W x 18”H
  - Electric clippers
  - Syringes and needles
  - Goat blankets and/or socks

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## Clippers (Slick shearing)



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## Clippers & Guards (Fitting)



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## Equipment, continued

- **Mandatory, continued**
  - Show chains
  - Halters
  - Hoof trimmers
  - Drench gun
  - Portable feed troughs
  - Feed & Water buckets
  - Soft brush for grooming


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## Hoof Trimmers



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## Tattoo Outfit (3/8" Numbers & Letters)



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## Tattoo Outfit (3/8" Numbers & Letters)

Left Ear



Right Ear



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## Equipment, continued


- **Optional**
  - Show box
  - Hot air blower or dryer
  - Portable livestock scales
  - Extension cords
  - Muzzles
  - Electric fans
  - Disbudding Iron

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**Session III:  
Health**

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- Everything included in this section is based on advice received through written or oral communication with veterinarians across the country.
- Primary sources are Dr. Gary Vannoy, Dr. Cole Younger, and Dr. Alan Cannedy.
- It is my advice that you always consult with your local veterinarian prior to treating any goat.
- Be aware of withdrawal times and extra-label use of products.

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**Health**

- **Common Digestive Diseases**
  - Enterotoxemia – Overeating
    - Cause – disturbance of normal bacterial flora
    - Prevention – Clostridium perfringens Type C&D vaccination – 1 time/month for 5 months
    - Symptoms – Diarrhea
    - Treatment – Clostridium antitoxin, Penicillin, Flunixin
    - Animals rarely recover

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**Health**, continued

- **Common Digestive Diseases**
  - Acidosis
    - Cause – access to too much starch and lack of roughage
    - Prevention – Feed a very small amount of leafy alfalfa
    - Symptoms – No appetite, Lethargic
    - Treatment – Antacids, Oral tetracycline, Probiotics, Thiamine, Lots of water
    - Animals can recover with early treatment

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**Health**, continued

- **Common Digestive Diseases**
  - Coccidiosis
    - Cause – feeding animals in dirty troughs or hay on the ground
    - Prevention – Coccidostat – Monensin or Decoquinat
    - Symptoms – Serious diarrhea, rapid weight loss
    - Treatment – Oral dose and water treatment using Corid
    - Animals can recover with early treatment

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**Health**, continued

- **Common Digestive Diseases**
  - Internal Parasites
    - Cause – Animals eating grasses/hay ingesting parasite eggs
    - Prevention – Fecal Egg Counts and FAMACHA
    - Symptoms – Decreased performance, fluid filled pocket under jaw
    - Treatment – Dewormer – Ivomec, Prohibit, Valbazen, SafeGuard, etc.
    - Animals will recover with treatment


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## Health, continued

- **Other Digestive Diseases**
  - Raising your own goats
    - Floppy Kid Syndrome
    - Ketosis – Pregnancy Disease


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## Health, continued

- **Diseases of the Nervous System**
  - Tetanus
    - Cause – A wound becomes infected with a certain neurotoxin
    - Prevention – Clostridium tetani vaccination with a toxoid
    - Symptoms – Stiffness and tetanic spasms
    - Treatment – Tetanus antitoxin at 500-750 units should protect for 10-20 days.
    - Animals will recover **ONLY** with very early treatment.


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## Health, continued

- **Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Diseases**
  - Soremouth – Contagious Ecthyma
    - Cause – Parapoxvirus
    - Prevention – Vaccine **ONLY** if you have had the disease on your premises – LIVE virus
    - Symptoms – Lesions around the lips, gums, and incisors OR on the teats and vulva
    - Treatment – NONE
    - Lesions will regress in 3-4 weeks with or without treatment


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## Health, continued

- **Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Diseases**
  - Ringworm - Dermatophytosis
    - Cause – Fungus infecting abrasions from clippers
    - Prevention – Bleach and Fungicides
    - Symptoms – Round, hairless lesion
    - Treatment – Topicals, injectables, orals
    - Animals will recover, but no instant cure
    - Do NOT go to a show with an infected animal!!!!

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## Health, continued

- **Other Major Diseases**
  - Urinary Calculi – Urolithiasis
    - Cause – Kidney stones forming in the urethra blocking urination.
    - Prevention – Ca:P ratio, Ammonium sulfate or Ammonium chloride
    - Symptoms – Straining to urinate, legs spread apart, kicking at belly, etc.
    - Treatment – Methigel, Snipping urethral process
    - Animals will recover if treated early


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## Health, continued

- **Other Major Diseases**
  - Pinkeye - Keratoconjunctivitis
    - Cause – Chlamydia or Mycoplasma
    - Prevention – ???
    - Symptoms – Red/Pink Cornea, Watering of the eye
    - Treatment – Penicillin, Vitamin A & E
    - Animals will recover


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## Health, continued

- **Other Major Diseases**
  - **Pneumonia**
    - Cause – Viruses, Mycoplasma species, Chlamydia, or Pasturella bacteria
    - Prevention – ???
    - Symptoms – Mild cough, elevated temperature, lethargy
    - Treatment – Oxytetracycline and Nuflor
    - Animals will recover if treated early

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## Session IV: Nutritional and Exercise Programs


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## Nutritional Program

- **Goal**
  - Keep kids growing to achieve maximum growth potential
  - Maintain gut health

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## Nutritional Program, continued

- **Water**
  - 70% of muscle tissue is water
  - Water can regulate feed intake
  - During the year, do not restrict water
  - Just prior to show, restrict water only to decrease rumen size and help achieve the proper class.
  - Animals should never be starved for water

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## Nutritional Program, continued

- **Protein**
  - Young, fast-growing goats require high levels of protein
  - Excess protein is used as an energy source, but is expensive.
  - Older, more mature goats require less protein for growth and more energy to maintain their body.


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## Nutritional Program, continued

- **Carbohydrates and fats**
  - The most limiting nutrient in goat diets
  - Inadequate energy slows growth
  - Grains and protein supplements
  - Too much energy can be bad


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## Nutritional Program, continued

- **Minerals and Vitamins**
  - Na, Cl, Ca, P
  - Watch out for Selenium deficient areas
  - Completely balanced rations
  - Mineral supplements
  - Vitamin A
  - Vitamin B Complex


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## Nutritional Program, continued

- **Nutrition**
  - Ad libitum or Self-feeding (PELLET)
  - 0-6 months old
    - 16-18% CP
    - ~ 2.5-4% Fat
    - ~ 10-15% Fiber
    - Coccidostat
    - Urinary acidifier – Ammonium Chloride
    - Small amount of alfalfa hay


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## Nutritional Program, continued

- **Nutrition, continued**
  - Hand or Limit Feeding (PELLET)
  - 6-12 months old
    - 14-16% CP
    - ~ 2.5% Fat
    - ~ 10-15% Fiber
    - Coccidostat
    - Urinary acidifier – Ammonium Chloride
    - Small amount of alfalfa hay


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## Exercise Program

- Helps adjust finish on the goat
- Helps maintain a healthy goat at a healthy weight
- Increases muscle tone
- Hard and fast for a short time
- 300 to 500 yards
- 3 to 4 times a week
- Walking is NOT enough exercise

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## Session V: Hoof Trimming, Grooming, and Show Instructions

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## Hoof Trimming

- **Front feet**
  - Cut off end of inside toe, never remove the tip or point of the outside toe
  - Remove outside edge of outside toe at an angle
  - Level the inside toe and remove excess heels on both toes.
  - Remove any excess on the inside of the heels between the toes

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## Hoof Trimming, continued

- **Back feet**
  - Cut off end of outside toe, never remove the tip or point of the inside toe
  - Cut each toe level with the center of the hoof and heel
  - Remove excess heels on both toes.
  - Remove any excess on the inside of the heels between the toes

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## Hoof Trimming, continued


- **Every 2-4 weeks**
- **Sometimes it requires blood**
- **Do not wait until the show, instead trim at least 2 weeks before the show**

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## Slick Shearing

- **Wash & Dry goats (optional)**
- **Blade types**
  - **Fine – 0.06” – Up to a week before**
  - **Medium – 0.08” – Up to a week before**
  - **Cover Cote – 0.25” – Day before**
  - **Xtra Cover – 0.25” – Day before**
  - **Hog Blade – 0.5” – ???**

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## Slick Shearing, continued

- **“Sock” or “Cover” your goats to keep them clean and warm**
- **Waterless Shampoo can be used to touch up dirty spots before going into the showing**

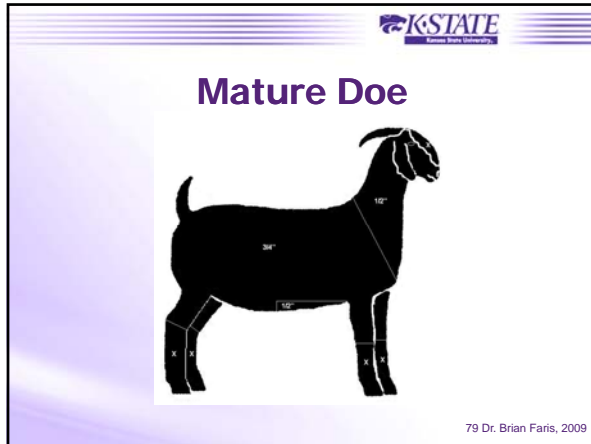
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## Clipping/Fitting

- **Wash & Dry goats (optional)**
- **#10 blade w/ guards**
  - **1” Guard**
  - **¾” Guard**
  - **½” Guard**
  - **¼” Guard**
  - **⅛” Guard**
  - **Freehand**

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- Show Instructions**
- Take your own water
  - Water your goats upon arrival
  - Walk your goats for at least 15-20 minutes every 4-5 hours
  - Weigh your goats
  - Feed and water accordingly
  - Allow your goats to rest
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**Session VI:  
Showmanship**

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- Showmanship**
- Is showmanship important?
    - YES
  - What makes a good showman?
    - Hard work and long hours at HOME.
    - Concentration
    - Clean and neat appearance
    - Experience
    - Style and finesse
    - Attitude
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- Showmanship**, continued
- Hard work at HOME allows you to...
    - get to know your goat.
    - learn your goat's strengths.
    - learn your goat's weaknesses.
    - learn your goat's habits.
    - teach your goat to stand correctly.
    - teach your goat to walk with ease and style.
    - teach your goat to brace.
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## Showmanship, continued

- **Halter breaking your goat**
  - Use a light weight rope or commercially made halter
  - Tie goats to the fence
  - **NEVER** leave tied goats unattended
  - Increase the height you tie the goat until he stands at attention

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## Showmanship, continued

- **Chain breaking your goat**
  - Use a light weight chain to break your goats to lead (NO pinch collars)
  - Use a snap on the chain to tie your goat to the fence
  - Start with just getting the goat used to being controlled by the chain
  - Increase the height you tie the goat until he stands at attention

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## Showmanship, continued

- **Training your goat to lead**
  - Once the goat is used to being tied, start training them to lead
  - Pull slightly encouraging the goat to move forward
  - If needed, pull there tail slightly
  - Start by trying to take 5 steps or so
  - Stop and set their feet, rub their neck and become buddies

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## Showmanship, continued

- **Training your goat to lead**
  - Increase the distance you lead them from 5 steps to 10, 15, 20, etc.
  - Continue this training process until the goat leads easily
  - Work with your goat for at least 15 minutes per session

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## Showmanship, continued

- **Training your goat to brace**
  - Set the goat's feet
  - Apply slight pressure to goat's chest
  - If the goat steps backward, pull his tail and let him move forward a few steps.
  - Set the goat's feet and repeat the process until the goat braces
  - Only brace the market goats

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### Just right



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### Rear-view or Head-in



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### Rear-view or Head-in

- Just right



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### Front-view



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### Front-view

- Just right



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### Good leg and hand placement



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**A good brace  
can make a difference  
(same goat)**



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**Section VII:  
Show Ring  
Presentation**

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**Showmanship**, continued

- **Concentration on 6 points...**
  - The judge
  - The ring steward
  - Your goat
  - The goat in front of you
  - The goat behind you
  - YOU
  - **NOTICE: Parents are not one of these!!!**

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**Showmanship**, continued

- **Entering the ring**
  - Know what to expect – Early classes
  - Keep the goat's head up
  - Make eye contact with the judge
  - Watch where you are asked to go
  - Look back at the judge
  - Every time you stop, be sure to set feet starting with the back feet first.

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**Showmanship**, continued

- **Head-in/Rear view/Side-by-side**
  - Hold your goat's head up
  - Properly space your goats
  - Set back feet first
  - Brace... when the judge is handling or looking at your goat (wethers only)
  - Let the goat relax when the judge is not looking at your goat

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## Showmanship, continued

- **Head-in/Rear view/Side-by-side**



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## Right goat is too wide Center goat is over-crowding left goat



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## Correct Spacing



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## Showmanship, continued

- **Side view/Profile**
  - Hold your goat's head up
  - Properly space your goats
  - Set back feet first
  - Allow your goat to stand naturally or you may lightly brace
  - Brace if the judge handles your goat (wethers only)

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## Showmanship, continued

- **Side view/Profile**



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## Over crowding front goat



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## Correct Spacing



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## Showmanship, continued

- **Walking around the ring**
  - Hold your goat's head up
  - Properly space your goat
    - Do not crowd the person in front of you
  - Walk with goat beside you
    - Do not drag you goat
    - Pull on tail if needed
  - Nice, slow, steady pace
    - Allow the judge to study your goat


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## Showmanship, continued

- **Clean and neat appearance**
  - Sharp colors
  - Nice shirt and pants
  - Combed/Fixed Hair
    - Ribbons, bows, etc.
    - Haircut
  - Comfortable Footwear
  - Nothing Revealing

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## Showmanship, continued

- **Experience...**
  - will help you become a better showman.
  - will allow you to help others.
  - How?
    - Watch
    - Ask questions
    - Answer questions
    - Participate in clinics and other shows


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## Showmanship, continued

- **Style and Finesse**
  - You and the goat will become one unit
  - Movements
    - Slow
    - Smooth
    - Fluid
    - Relaxed
    - Patient

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## Showmanship, continued

- **No Chewing Gum**
- **No Hats or Caps**
- **Attitude**
  - No tempers
  - Pleasant
  - Have fun
  - Do not OVER smile
  - Relax

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## Showmanship, continued

- What is wrong with these pictures?



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