

Canadian Goat Society

New Member Information Package

Welcome to the Canadian Goat Society

We appreciate your interest in becoming a member and entering the wonderful world of goats.

You have discovered that the goat has many aspects that can be utilized including milk, mohair, meat, as well as breeding stock.

This booklet was designed to introduce you to some of the goat breeds and acquaint you with the purposes of the Canadian Goat Society.

The Society is governed by a Board of Director elected by its membership.

The objectives of the Canadian Goat Society are the encouragement, development and regulation of the breeding of registered goats in Canada.

This is done by establishing breed standards and carrying out a system of registration under the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. We keep a record of breeding and origin of all registered goats and by using the data collected from our various programs. We also act as a vehicle for the promotion of goats and goat products in Canada.

On becoming a member you have the opportunity to take advantage of the many programs that the *Canadian Goat Society* offers. These programs will teach and provide you with some of the best goat management tools in evaluating your herd. Through milk test and classification you will learn the true value of your animals and how to improve through genetic evaluation. These tools are for your own information so that you can make informative decisions within your herd by selecting a breeding program that is for you. Through showing your animals in *Canadian Goat Society* sanctioned shows you will be able to compare your animals with others of the same breed; meet other breeders and make friends for life.

Once you have participated in the programs you might want to become a judge and the Society offers an opportunity to do so by providing judges training.

As a member you are entitled to special membership rates on registrations, transfers and other services. You will receive a Quarterly magazine with a once a year membership directory that lists all the members' names as well as your directors. This magazine also prints classification scores, official milk production records, show Grand Champions and there is always a space for your personal farm ad.

Once again thank you for becoming a *Canadian Goat Society* member and please take the opportunity to participate in what your membership has to offer.

TYPES OF GOATS IN CGS

DAIRY

ALPINE – The Alpine is descended from goat originally imported from the French Alps. They are a medium to large size breed. Alpines may be any colour or combination, however it is their characteristic colour pattern that make them easily recognizable. They are hardy and thrive in any climate while maintaining excellent production.

LAMANCHA – The LaMancha has unique short ears (elf or gopher), the result of a natural and dominant factor inherited from its Spanish ancestors. Any colour or combination of colors is acceptable. They have excellent production and milk solids.

NUBIAN – The Nubian is a large breed with long drooping (pendulous) ears and a very characteristic Roman nose. This breed may be any colour or combination of colours, often spotted. Nubians are known for their rich milk, generally having the highest butterfat content of the dairy breeds.

OBERHASLI – Another dairy breed from the Swiss Alps. Although relatively new to Canada, the breed has been known for hundreds of years in its native Switzerland. The Oberhasli is very distinctive red brown (chamoisee) in colour with black accents around ears, face, belly and legs.

SAANEN – One of the largest of the dairy breeds originated in the Saanen Valley of Switzerland. Saanens are all white or cream in colour. They are well known for their high milk production. Their docile temperament makes them an ideal choice for commercial dairies.

TOGGENBURG – This animal originates from the Toggenburg Valley in Switzerland. Toggenburgs tend to be overall the smallest of the dairy breeds. They are recognized by their colour of light to dark chocolate brown with white facial stripes and lower legs and a white triangle under the tail. Their smaller size does not preclude these animals from being heavy milkers.

FIBRE

ANGORA – These makers of mohair came from and were named after Ankara, the Turkish province where they have thrived for centuries. Angoras are shorn twice a year and produce a very soft fibre known as mohair. They are white in colour. They are very adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions.

MINIATURE

NIGERIAN DWARF – The Nigerian is a miniature dairy goat. They have erect ears and a straight face and can be any colour combination. A very productive goat in relation to their miniature size, known for multiple births.

PYGMY - Pygmies are originally from Africa. They are hardy, good natured and responsive animals. On average they stand about 20" tall when they are full grown. Their size makes them an easy maintenance animal and they make excellent pets. For a small family one or two could provide enough milk for the table. Their well-muscled carcass provides excellent quality meat.

CLASSIFICATION

Type classification is an appraisal of the conformation of an animal by an experienced classifier who classifies animals across Canada for the *Canadian Goat Society*.

Animal's classifying Good Plus, Very Good and Excellent are above the average of the breed and should be the seed stock of the future. Those classified Good, are useful animals that can be bred to top sires to raise improved daughters. Those classified as Fair may be good milkers but are not recommended as herd builders.

Class		Point Range
Excellent	EX	90 – 100
Very Good	VG	85 – 89
Good Plus	GP	80 – 84
Good	G	75 – 79
Fair	F	68 – 74
Poor	P	below 65

The *Canadian Goat Society (CGS)* Classification program is designed to help breeders identify the strength and weaknesses of individual animals. The program collects data for the genetic evaluation of sire, which provides information to the breeder that can improve the overall conformation of their animals, or on specific areas of improvement. Good conformation has a direct relationship with productivity, longevity and disease resistance.

Classification is the comparison of an individual animal and its parts with that of the ideal for that breed. Concerning ourselves with the traits that help an animal function successfully is the basis for classification.

This enhanced program evaluates individual type traits which affect the structure and longevity of an animal. The type traits are evaluated individually, considering biological ranges.

Use of this program is helping to develop a data base needed to determine the heritability of structural traits in the dairy goat as well as resulting in overall improvement of the Canadian dairy goat.

Milk

Milk

Milk

Ever want to know how:

Much milk your favorite doe milked in a year (officially).

What her butterfat was

What her protein was

How she compared in her production to the rest of the doe's in your herd or any other herd

How well her daughters milked compared to her

How much fat and protein they produced for the year compared to her

Just how much did your herd sire contribute to the amount of

Milk

Protein

Butterfat

Just what her lifetime amount of milk would she produce?

What was her lactation curve over the 305 days of being in milk?

How she compared to her mother, grandmother or sister?

How the weather or feed affected the amount of milk she produced?

How going to a show affects her production?

Well here's how you get the answer to these Questions and many more:

Milk Testing

The Canadian Goat Society

Has in place several ways that a herd can be on milk test. They are as follows:

Official *P (305 Day) Milk Recording Program Rules

CGS 305 Day Supervised (24 Hour)

A total of 6 - 24 hour supervised tests must be conducted within each rolling 12 month period is required. For each milking in the 24 hour period the following must be collected: milk weights and samples.

4 + 4 Owner/Sampler Option (24 Hour)

A total of 8 -24 hour tests must be conducted within each rolling 12 month period, alternating between owner one month (considered un-supervised) and sampler the next month (considered supervised) on a rotating basis

CGS Commercial Dairy Herds Open to Commercial Dairy Herds Only. **ALL** registered does in herd **MUST** be entered on milk test. All CGS general milk test rules and program rules must be followed for publishable records.

Lactanet Program

CGS Members may also use the provincial Cattle Milk Testing Services (Lactanet) and can apply directly to the agency.

*M Milk Test Program

This program is designed to allow the Herd owner to obtain information regarding the production and components (butterfat & Protein) qualities of their herd based on a one day test. There are two types:

- (a) Non-Selective One-Day *M test where you have to test all the doe's that are in milk the day of the test.
- (b) Selective One-Day *M test is where you may select only certain does that you would want to test for that day.

Benefits of Being on 305 Test

Each month you receive reports concerning the performance on your herd. Some of the information that these sheets provide you with is any changes you may have had within your herd, for example a doe drying off, a doe kidding, a new doe entering your herd and changes within an age group. They show-a projected lactation, which means an estimate of the amount a doe should milk for her lactation.

- An annual average representing the average quantity of milk produced per doe during the actual 365 day period.
- A current average of the 305 day projections for all the doe's in lactation on test day as well as for the completed 305 day productions for all other doe's present on test day that freshened in the past 365.
- A rolling herd average using the data from animals meeting the criteria during the 365 day, which are expressed BCA points. (Breed Class Average).
- Performance Record – Herd Summary reports which presents the herd performance of the previous 365 days. As well, it analyzes the current situation and the projected performance of the herd. These are done in statistic sheets and graphs using milk, fat and protein.
- Management Report – Goat Monitor report provides information on the performance of each goat in the herd. It is designed to provide information on management and production of each goat and compare them to the herd average, by using the BCA and the goat ratings.
 - Certificate of Production – is provided for all doe's on milk recording. It is printed when lactation is terminated or doe leaves the herd. All of the doe's lactations are on the certificate.
 - Goat Profile – her name, dam's name, sire's name along with their registration numbers.
 - Herd Profile – illustrates the curve of the doe's last lactation.
- Herd Profile – this report is the “control panel” of the herd. It gives important information, in graphic form, on trends observed in the herd during the past year.

Benefits on a One Day Test

Gives a record for a day milk weight, butterfat and protein, which provides you with a *M

Let's go to the Show

How it's organized.

Shows are divided by breeds; Dairy, Pygmy and Angora. There are seven dairy breeds, one Pygmy breed and one Angora breed that are recognized by the Canadian Goat Society. The dairy breeds are Alpine, LaMancha, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Toggenburg and Nigerian Dwarf. The Pygmy breed is a miniature breed which has its own score card. The Angora breed has its own scorecard and is judged on body and fleece.

Not all breeds may be present at all show. When few entries are expected in some breeds, dairy shows combine two or more breeds into a division called All Other Purebred.

Another division found at many shows is Recorded Grade, for does less than 87 ½% pure. Which makes them ineligible to compete in the purebred classes.

Within each breed, does and bucks are shown separately and are divided into age classes. Thus, each animal competes against others of its own breed and approximate age.

First and second place winners from each class compete for champion and reserve champion. There may be junior champions, which then compete for grand champion. The Grand Champion is chosen from the first place row of animals.

Besides age classes, shows may have group classes in which animals are sorted by criteria other than age. Group classes commonly seen are "get of Sire" (all sired by the same Buck), "produce of Dam" (all having the same dam), "Dam and Daughter", "Dairy Herd" (all owned by the same person), "Breeders herd" (all bred by the same person) and "Best Udder". The final class of the day is usually "Best in Show", in which the judge selects a winner from the grand champions of each breed.

Some shows have showmanship competition in which the judge considers the appearance of the animal, the exhibitor as well as the actual showing, looking for the exhibitor who shows his or her animal to the best advantage without undue fussing and maneuvering.

What is the Judge looking for?

CGS provides all of its judges with a scorecard to evaluate Dairy, Pygmy and Angora Goats. The Dairy Scorecard for Doe includes General Appearance, Dairy Character, Body Capacity and Mammary System. For Dairy Bucks and Junior animals (kids) the scorecard is made up of General Appearance, Dairy Character and Body Capacity. For Pygmies the scorecard is made up of General Appearance, Breed Characteristics, Feet & Legs, Body Capacity and Mammary System. For Angora goats the scorecard is made up of Body 50 points and Fleece 50 points. In addition, the judge must see that each animal meets the breed standard for its breed. A Judge needs a separate license to judge the Dairy breeds, the Pygmy and the Angora goats.

On the *CGS* scorecard

For Dairy Goats

General appearance is defined as "Attractive and correlation of parts; impressive style and attractive carriage; graceful and powerful walk".

Dairy character is "Animation, angularity, general openness and freedom from excess fleshing, giving due regard to the period of lactation.

Body capacity is “Relatively large in proportion to the size of the animal, providing ample digestive capacity, strength and vigor and showing desirable length of body”

Mammary system, is “Strongly attached, well-balanced udder of good quality, indication ample production and a long period of usefulness”.

For Pygmy Goats

General Appearance is “Attractive individuality indicating femininity/masculinity, vigor, strength and healthy condition, with a harmonious blending and correlation of parts, impressive style and attractive carriage, graceful and powerful walk.

Breed Characteristics

Feet and Legs are “Legs strong and well-muscled; pasterns short, strong and resilient; feet well-shaped, deep heel, level sole, knees and hocks clean. Wide in the escutcheon with legs well apart when viewed from the rear.

Body Capacity

Mammary System in Bucks must have two single, normal, non-functional teats, each with one orifice; and normal testicles; both descended fully and equal in size. Doe – Teats symmetrical, cylindrical, functional; each with one orifice, free of obstructions. Udder balanced, firm, rounded and well attached with high wide rear udder and well extended fore udder.

For Angora Goats

Body points are “Size and Weight for Age, Constitution and Vigor, Conformation, Amount of Bone and Angora breed type.

Fleece Points are “Length of Fleece, Uniformity, Character and Completeness of Covering, Luster and Softness of Fleece, Density of Fleece and Fineness of Fleece.

Disqualifications

For Dairy

There are a number of defects that may cause the judge to disqualify an animal, such as blindness, serious emaciation, permanent lameness, double teats or other permanent physical defects.

For Angora-Physical

All blue or black horns or hooves, deformed mouth, broken down pasterns, deformed feet crooked legged (including cow hocks), abnormalities of testicles, close set distorted horns, sway back. Characteristics of Fleece – Excessive Kemp, colored hair, sheepy fleece, and straight beard type hair in fore-top or on back.

How are Classes Judged?

Each class follows a set pattern. As the clerk calls the class, the exhibitor enter the ring leading their animals in a wide circle around the ring. The judge observes the animals as they move by.

Once the clerk announces that all entries are present, the judge begins the mental process of sorting out the animals according to merit. The judge then stops the animals, has them line up, and then proceeds down the line, checking each animal individually for smoothness, skin texture and other

qualities that can be detected only by feel. If an animal has a defect, this hands-on examination may reveal those as well.

With placings in mind, the judge may ask exhibitors to move into first place, second, third, etc. After the animals are lined up, the judge may still change a placing.

Having completed the process of placing the animals, the judge takes the microphone and gives reasons for each placing, telling why the animal ahead is superior to the animal behind. While the judge is giving reasons, winning exhibitors receive ribbons and/or trophies.

When grand and reserve champions are announced, the exhibitors of the winning animals bring them and their registration paper to the clerk's desk. The judge reads the animal's tattoos (in the ear or tail web) and the show secretary checks to see that they are the same as those on the registration certificate.

What is the Benefit of Showing?

Showing can be a valuable experience. You will have the opportunity to listen to the judge as she or he gives reasons for the placing. Often the judge will be willing to talk with you after the show if you don't understand the placings. You can also talk with the exhibitors and see the animals in their pens.

Besides the memories of the beautiful goats you have seen, we hope you will carry away with you a greater understanding of what makes a truly good goat.

Show Rules?

Call, write or look on CGS web site/ office for a complete set of show rules.

Hope we see you in the ring!

Goat Weight Chart

Below is a weight chart put out by Purina, to estimate with a reasonable degree of accuracy the weight of your goat. If you have no large animal scales, here is one method of getting the weight of your animal for such things as administering medications, selling meat kids by weight of keeping track of rate of gain. Use an ordinary cloth measuring tape, even a flexible metal one, around the body just in back of the front legs.

Inches	Centimetres	Pounds	Kilograms	Inches	Centimetres	Pound	Kilograms
10 ³ / ₄	27.3	5	2.27	26 ³ / ₄	67.9	66	29.93
11 ¹ / ₄	28.6	5 ¹ / ₂	2.49	27 ¹ / ₄	69.2	69	31.29
11 ³ / ₄	29.9	6	2.73	27 ³ / ₄	70.5	72	32.65
12 ¹ / ₄	31.1	6 ¹ / ₂	2.95	28 ¹ / ₄	71.7	75	34.01
12 ³ / ₄	32.4	7	3.17	28 ³ / ₄	73.0	78	35.37
13 ¹ / ₄	33.7	8	3.63	29 ¹ / ₄	74.3	81	36.73
13 ³ / ₄	34.9	9	4.08	29 ³ / ₄	75.6	84	38.10
14 ¹ / ₄	36.2	10	4.54	30 ¹ / ₄	76.8	87	39.46
14 ³ / ₄	37.5	11	4.99	30 ³ / ₄	78.0	90	40.82
15 ¹ / ₄	38.7	12	5.44	31 ¹ / ₄	79.4	93	42.18
15 ³ / ₄	40.0	13	5.90	31 ³ / ₄	80.7	97	44.00
16 ¹ / ₄	41.3	15	6.80	32 ¹ / ₄	81.9	101	45.80
16 ³ / ₄	42.7	17	7.71	32 ³ / ₄	83.2	105	47.62
17 ¹ / ₄	43.8	19	8.62	33 ¹ / ₄	84.5	110	49.89
17 ³ / ₄	45.1	21	9.52	33 ³ / ₄	85.7	115	52.15
18 ¹ / ₄	46.4	23	10.43	34 ¹ / ₄	87.0	120	54.52
18 ³ / ₄	47.6	25	11.34	34 ³ / ₄	88.3	125	56.69
19 ¹ / ₄	48.9	27	12.24	35 ¹ / ₄	89.5	130	58.96
19 ³ / ₄	50.2	29	13.15	35 ³ / ₄	90.8	135	61.22
20 ¹ / ₄	51.4	31	14.06	36 ¹ / ₄	92.1	140	63.49
20 ³ / ₄	52.7	33	14.97	36 ³ / ₄	93.4	145	65.76
21 ¹ / ₄	53.9	35	15.87	37 ¹ / ₄	94.6	150	68.08
21 ³ / ₄	55.3	37	16.78	37 ³ / ₄	95.9	155	70.29
22 ¹ / ₄	56.5	39	17.69	38 ¹ / ₄	97.2	160	72.56
22 ³ / ₄	57.8	42	19.5	38 ³ / ₄	98.4	165	74.83
23 ¹ / ₄	59.1	45	20.41	39 ¹ / ₄	99.7	170	77.10
23 ³ / ₄	60.3	48	21.77	39 ³ / ₄	101.0	175	79.37
24 ¹ / ₄	61.6	51	23.13	40 ¹ / ₄	102.2	180	81.63
24 ³ / ₄	62.9	54	24.49	40 ³ / ₄	103.5	185	83.90
25 ¹ / ₄	64.1	57	25.85	41 ¹ / ₄	104.8	190	86.17
25 ³ / ₄	65.4	60	27.21	41 ³ / ₄	106.1	195	88.44
26 ¹ / ₄	66.7	63	28.57				

Tattoo.... The Right Way!



Traditional La Mancha tail web tattoo. (R - PDX L-152)



Recently approved centre tail tattoo (must be noted as CT on registration form, and must read left to right as it appears on the form). I.e.: PDX 15Z is not the same as 15Z PDX. (CT - PDX 15Z)



Preferred correct tattoo: herd letters, right ear; number and year, left ear.

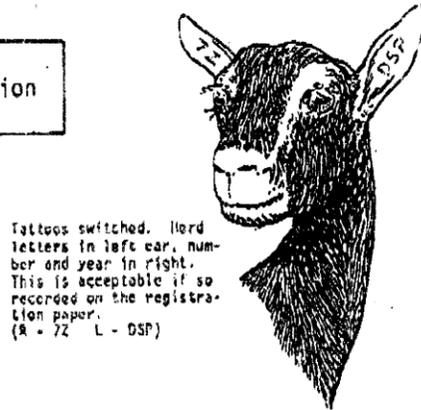
Note that tattoos must appear in the ears or tail exactly as they appear on the registration form.



DO NOT TATTOO BACK OR HAIRY SIDE OF EAR!



Inverted (or mirror image) tattoos. The tattoos were put through from the back of the ear. Notation required on registration forms. Cannot be read from inside of ear.



Tattoos switched. Herd letters in left ear, number and year in right. This is acceptable if so recorded on the registration paper. (R - 7Z L - DSP)



Tattoos are upside down but correct. No notation required on papers. (R - DSP L - 6Z)

Even if the tattoos are sideways, it's OK. As long as they read left to right and are in the correct ear.



- Clear.
- Readable but fading. (Consider applying for permission to re-tattoo.)
- Incomplete due to fading. Incorrect pressure of tattoo pliers, etc. Apply to re-tattoo.
- Part of another tattoo visible. This must be noted on papers or registration is invalidated.
- Double tattoo must be noted on papers or registration is invalidated.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
C. DILLON
©/910
(LINDA MUMF?)

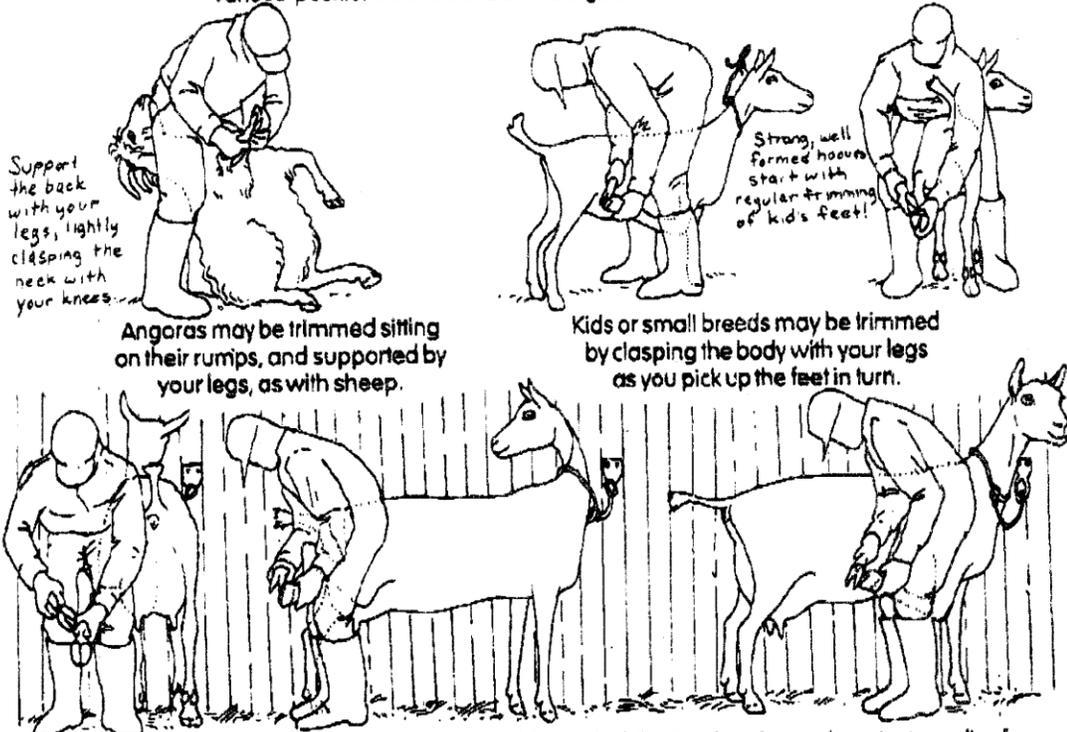
HOOF TRIMMING

BY LINDA DYDE, ©1996



Hoof trimming is one of the most neglected of chores, yet vitally important for the well-being of our goats. The hooves must be strong to bear the weight of the goat, its milk and kids it may be carrying. Overgrown hooves can lead to permanent structural damage to the hooves, feet and legs. Dirt, manure and bacteria trapped in untrimmed hooves can develop into nasty diseases and infections. Monthly hoof trimming will prevent these disasters from occurring!

Various positions can be used to hold goats for hoof trimming...



Dairy and meat goats are more amenable when held or tied while standing, braced against a wall or fence. Pick up each foot and hold it between your legs while trimming the hooves. Take care not to stretch the leg out too far to the back or side so as to be uncomfortable for the goat.

THE POINT OF THE MATTER... IS GIVING INJECTIONS THE SMART WAY

THE SYRINGE & NEEDLE...

need to be clean, preferably a new needle for each animal. If you must reuse needles & syringes, be sure to wash them thoroughly as soon as possible after use, then boil them for a few minutes in water to kill germs. There is no adequate, germ-proof way to store such needles, unfortunately. Please do not try to clean old crusty specimens you happen to find in the bottom of your tack box; dried material inside the barrel and needle may be almost impossible to remove. 20 gauge needles (my favorite size for goats) with 3cc syringes only cost 20c each; in my opinion, worth it for the safety and convenience.

IF YOU ARE AT ALL UNSURE...

think of it this way: is it clean enough that you would not mind a doctor using it to inject you? If not, throw it away, because it's not clean enough for your livestock either! Introduction of any foreign materials, rubbing alcohol (commonly used as a disinfectant) dried crud, dirt or viruses may cause so-called "sterile" lumps bacterial infection or disease.

NEW TO THE GAME?

Please ask a veterinarian or an experienced breeder to guide you through your first few injections. If performed correctly, with common sense, there is nothing to fear!



READ THE DIRECTIONS...

on the liquid you are about to inject. Be aware of the correct dosage. Your best insurance when treating your own animals is a good working relationship with your veterinarian, who can be relied on to provide accurate information and thereby save you from a possibly fatal mistake.

INTRAVENOUS, INTRAMUSCULAR & SUBCUTANEOUS

are more than pretty words. Give the injection as instructed on the label! Intravenous means "in the vein", usually the jugular (requires expert instruction the first few times you attempt it!). Intramuscular means "in the muscle". Subcutaneous means "under the skin". If you inject incorrectly, results may vary from ineffectiveness to acute tissue irritation, to death.

IF A LITTLE BIT IS GOOD...

a lot may not be better. In fact, overdosing many substances may cause more harm than good.

DEADLY COMBINATION

Do not combine any medications without consulting your veterinarian for advice, or the results may be lethal. Record the times of the injections, remembering that a substance may be in the goat's system for several days or longer before giving a conflicting medication!

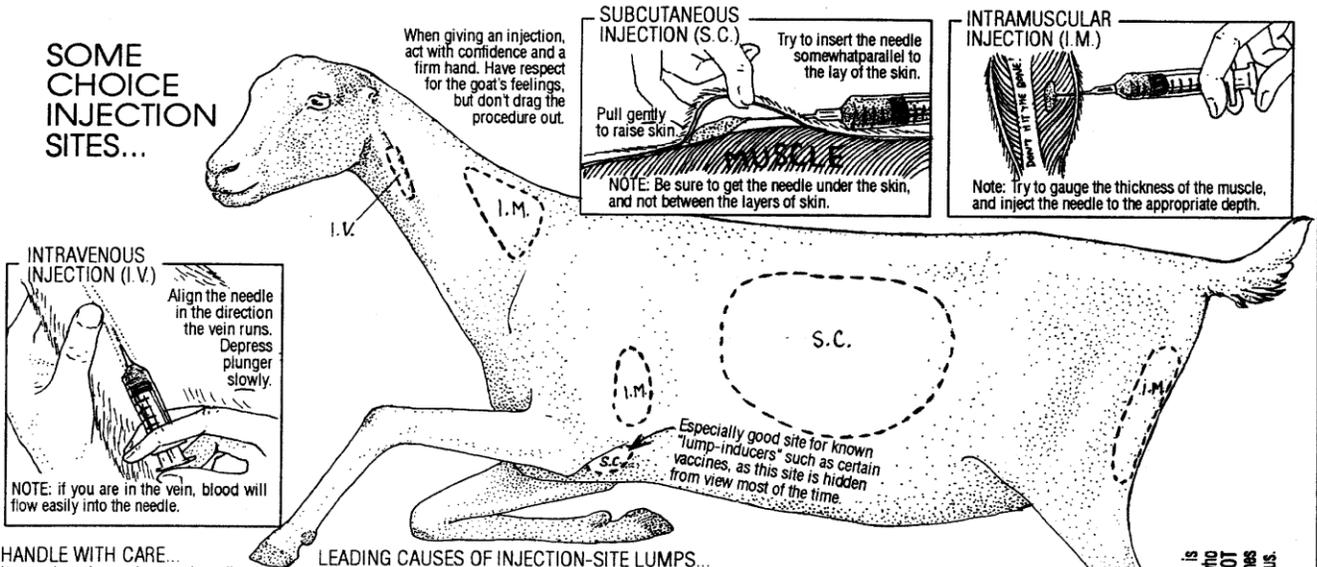
EQUINE, BOVINE, PORCINE, OVINE...

but "caprine" is not to be found on the label. Very few substances available have been thoroughly tested for use in goats, due to the high cost of such testing versus the low return expected by the company. The risk of side effects or tissue irritation (resulting in the dreaded lump) may be substantial in some products; again, the advice of a veterinarian should be sought.

STORE YOUR INJECTABLES CORRECTLY, FOLLOWING MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS...

A tack box, windowsill or coat pocket is not a suitable medicine chest. Many substances will be damaged by heat, light or freezing. After a time, all injectables will begin to break down and become less effective; check the expiry date on the bottle and abide by it!

SOME CHOICE INJECTION SITES...



INTRAVENOUS INJECTION (I.V.)

Align the needle in the direction the vein runs. Depress plunger slowly.

NOTE: if you are in the vein, blood will flow easily into the needle.

HANDLE WITH CARE...

it may be wise to have a handler hold the goats you are injecting, particularly if the goats are apt to be very sensitive, it saves bent needles, injured tissue and peace of mind! If you are on your own, it is best to tie the goat's head as short as possible, against a solid wall, and use your leg and hip to restrain the animal. Of course, injections should be given away from the rest of the animals, to avoid unwelcome interference by nibbles, butts or leaps by other barn residents.

LEADING CAUSES OF INJECTION-SITE LUMPS...

- dirty needles and/or syringes (even a "little" bit dirty)
- injecting several goats with the same needle can introduce foreign material, bacteria and disease
- injecting wet and/or dirty animals (needle picks up germs on the way in)
- using a substance not tested for use in goats, esp. Glan-Vac and 8-way vaccines. As it is often hard to trigger an immune response in the recipient, irritating chemicals are added to the vaccine to initiate a stronger immune response. It works, but often triggers a lump.
- a goat may be unusually sensitive (allergic) to some substances tolerated by others. In extreme cases, anaphylactic reaction requires epinephrine to be administered immediately to avoid death.
- injecting a substance incorrectly (i.e. the very irritant Ivermectin given intramuscularly rather than subcutaneously) Many drugs can cause muscular breakdown, allowing clostridial bacteria to proliferate in the damaged tissue. Some irritant drugs have a maximum dosage per site (you may have to inject in two locations)
- inadequate restraint employed. If the goat leaps around, the needle may damage tissue or introduce the liquid into inappropriate tissue. In some cases, the handler may get the shot instead (see note at right)!

NOTE: The use of some drugs is restricted. For instance, women who MAY be carrying children MUST NOT handle the various injectable hormones available because of the risk to the fetus. Ask your veterinarian for advice.

**L. MCKAY
C. 1993**

Symbolism

The symbols used for advertising goats in Canada may seem more than a little confusing. In this article, we will explain the meaning in your extended pedigrees or sales list.

BUCKS – The ***S** designation is acquired by a buck of any age, provided that his sire is a *S or +S or ++S, and his dam must have earned her *P or *M award. This symbol does not necessarily mean that the buck is a superior animal. It recognises that the parents met minimum star requirements.

The **+S** prefix is awarded to a buck who has sired at least five daughters (out of at least three different dams) who have earned their *M or *P award, with at least 3.25% butterfat. A second “plus” is awarded when a buck has sired three sons who have earned their own +S, as described above.

DOES – A ***M** certificate is conferred upon a doe who successfully meets or exceeds the minimum production level for her age group at a One Day Milking Competition. At this type of test, a doe is milked out 12 hours before the first official test, and then twice twelve hours apart. The milk is weighed and samples taken for butter fat analysed. The age at time of test and stage of lactation are taken into account in the calculating procedure.

The ***P** award is given to does who successfully complete a 305 day lactation under official DHI testing procedures, meeting or exceeding the minimum production standards for her age group. The entire herd must be enrolled in the official program. The herd is tested morning and evening, for the duration of the lactation. Again, butterfat samples are taken. Does may qualify for their *P on the basis of either milk production or butterfat levels or both. The 305-day testing procedure certainly provides a more accurate picture of a doe's ability to produce. The 305-day program is the most useful method of milk testing for genetic evaluations. A number in front of a milking award is not official, but is generally accepted in Canadian advertising to indicate the number of generations in unbroken maternal line have earned their * awards. Hence, a doe who is a *P may have a daughter who may be referred to as a 2*P if she also earns a milk production award. The qualifying granddaughter may then be referred to as a 3 *P, and so on. It does not indicate any higher production, but rather pays tribute to a strong milking line of does.

The CH (Permanent Champion) designation is awarded to does and bucks who have earned three championship legs at a [CGS](#) sanctioned show, under at least two different licensed judges. The title Permanent Grand Champion (GCH) is accorded to a doe which has become a Permanent Champion and which also merits one of the milk production awards. A doe requires a *M or *P. A buck must have acquired a +S to earn the title of Permanent Grand Champion (GCH)

CLASSIFICATION scores are often appended to an animal's name in advertising or conversation. Type Classification is an objective analysis of conformation conducted by officials retained by the [Canadian Goat Society](#).