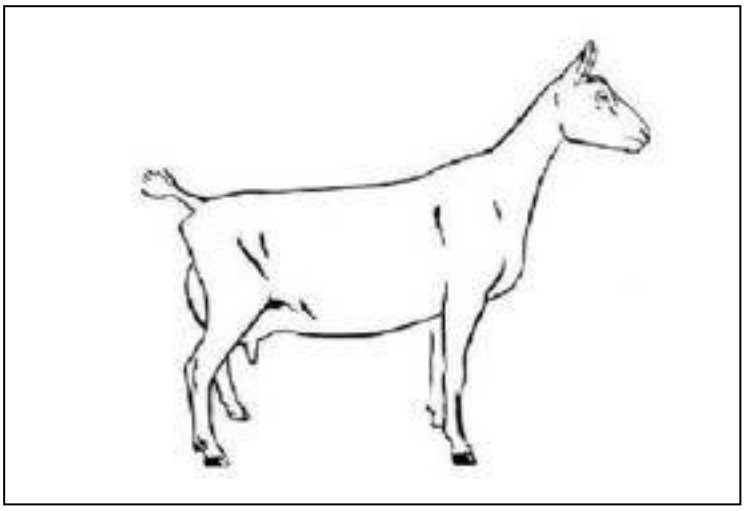
NZ Dairy Goat Farming

Editors: Janine Tasker / Kim Carter (janineandkim@gmail.com) Winter 2017
www.premierdairygoats.co.nz

From the Editors



Hi All,

Hopefully this finds you hibernating in the warm, fire on, something delicious in the oven and all your goats tucked up under shelter! This edition brings useful information related to foot scald, a winter warming recipe and an article about foetal or kid positioning during the birthing process – just to remind you about what's coming soon!!

Cheers,

Kim and Janine

Shirley's Goats Milk Soap

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Goat Curry

What You'll Need

- 2 pounds goat leg, cut into suitable bite-sized chunks
- 4 tablespoons vegetable/ canola/ sunflower cooking oil
- 2 large onions sliced thin
- 2 large tomatoes diced
- 2 tablespoons garlic paste
- 1 tablespoons ginger paste
- 2 teaspoons coriander powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1/2 teaspoon red chili powder
- 2 teaspoons garam masala powder
- Salt to taste
- Chopped coriander to garnish

How to Make It

1. Heat the cooking oil in a heavy bottomed pan, on medium heat.
2. When hot, add the onions. Sauté till the onions begin to turn a pale golden brown in color. Now remove from the oil with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Turn off heat.
3. Grind the onions into a smooth paste (adding very little to no water) in a food processor. Once done, remove into a separate container.
4. Now grind the tomatoes, garlic and ginger pastes together, in the food processor, into a smooth paste. Remove into a separate container and keep aside for later use.

1. Heat the oil left over from frying the onions, again and add the onion paste. Sauté for 2-3 minutes.
2. Now add the tomato paste and all the powered spices, including the garam masala. Mix well.
3. Sauté the resulting masala (onion-tomato-spice mixture) unitl the oil begins to separate from it. This can take up to 10 minutes to happen.
4. Now add the goat/ mutton pieces to the masala, season with salt to taste and stir to fully coat the goat / mutton pieces with the masala. Sauté till the goat/ mutton is browned well.
5. Add 1/2 a cup of hot water to the pan, stir to mix well, simmer the heat and cover the pan. Cook till the goat/ mutton is tender. You will need to keep checking on the goat/ mutton as it cooks and adding more water if all the water dries up. Stir often to prevent burning. The dish should have a fairly thick gravy when done.
6. When the meat is cooked, garnish with chopped coriander and serve with hot Chapatis (Indian flatbread), Naans (tandoor-baked Indian flatbread) or plain boiled rice.

   Tip: Use a pressure cooker to cook Goat Curry or Mutton Curry and it will be done in half the time it takes to cook in an open pot!

Foot Rot and Foot Scald

ALABAMA A&M AND AUBURN UNIVERSITIES

Foot Rot and Foot Scald in Goats & Sheep

Introduction

Foot Rot

Foot rot is a contagious disease of the hooves in goats and sheep. This disease is prevalent in the southern region of the United States. The South's wet and humid climate makes it conducive for foot rot and foot scald. Foot rot is primarily caused by the microorganisms *Dichelobacter nodosus* and *Fusobacterium necrophorum. Dichelobacter nodosus* can be found in contaminated soil.

Foot Scald

Foot scald, also referred to as benign foot rot or interdigital dermatitis, is an

inflammation between the toes caused by *F. necrophorum.* Persistent moisture on the skin between the toes can increase susceptibility to foot scald. However, foot scald does not seem to be contagious. A significant proportion of the herd will likely show signs of the disease under ideal environmental conditions. Foot scald often precedes hoof rot. Foot scald and foot rot outbreaks occur most often during persistent rainy weather along with high temperatures, when animals walk across wet pastures and muddy soil. If not treated, these animals can become permanently infected. During the rainy season, infected animals can contaminate the soil, which can increase disease transmission to other animals. Overgrown hooves will also predispose an animal to foot scald or rot. The disease causes stress to the animals and can affect weight gain, reproductive rates, and wool production. Foot rot and scald may incur additional costs for treatment and increased labor during an outbreak. Introducing an infected animal into a non-contaminated herd can create herd contamination. Foot rot microorganisms can also be carried to soil on visitors' boots. Keep visitors out of pastures or request them to wear disposable or rubber boots when walking through pastures. This is a biosecurity measure that can help minimize farm-to-farm transfer of D. nodosus and F. necrophorum. Reports indicate that direct transmission of foot rot can occur.

www.aces.edu/urban

Foot Rot on goat

Research has shown that genetic makeup helps determine whether an animal is resistant or susceptible to these hoof problems. Among sheep, the Merino breed is more susceptible, and the Gulf Coast breeds are more resistant. Boer goats are more susceptible, and the Spanish and Kiko breeds are more resistant to foot rot and foot scald.

Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention

Diagnosis

The first signs of hoof rot or scald are limping, holding limbs above the ground, grazing on knees, and reluctance to walk. Foot scald is characterized by interdigital inflammation. The skin between the toes is pink to white in color, raw, moist, and very sensitive to the touch. Foot rot can be mild or severe. The erosion of tissue between the sole of the toe and the hard outer hoof characterizes foot rot. Upon trimming the hoof, the outer shell of the hoof will be separated from the inner sole. Severe cases of foot rot may be accompanied by the presence of pus and a foul smell. Animals with severe foot rot might show fever, loss of appetite, with hoof deformity. Animals with chronic infections show a loss of body condition and decreased production, resulting in an unhealthy animal overall.
Although foot rot and foot scald are common in small ruminants, they should also be inspected for other foot diseases or injury.

Treatment

• Isolate affected animals for treatment and trim hooves. Inspect for signs of rot or scald and rule out other possible causes of lameness. • Treat the feet with a solution of 10 percent copper sulfate or zinc sulfate. Several products are commercially available. Use of 7 percent iodine on the feet is also effective.
• When a substantial number of animals in a herd are affected, the use of a footbath may be the best treatment option. Animals must stand in a zinc or copper sulfate solution to allow absorption into the hoof wall. Another option for whole-herd treatment is the use of absorptive pads saturated with the zinc or copper sulfate solution. The pad should be placed in a high traffic area that goats and sheep must pass through, such as a gate, lane, or water trough. When animals stand to drink at the water, hooves will be treated. Lameness is generally resolved within a couple of days after treatment.
• Antibiotic therapy, such as injections of long-acting penicillin or oxytetracycline, is effective.
• Keep treated animals in a dry environment for 24 hours after treatment. Hooves should be trimmed as needed to expose the infected tissue to oxygen. • Maintain clean pens and barns. Foot rot microorganisms can remain in the soil for several weeks. After animals have been treated, they should be transported to a clean pasture.

NOTE:

Ceftiofur and Neomycin are the only two antibiotics approved for use in goats. The other antibiotics mentioned in this article are considered extra-label products for use in meat

Maria Leite-Browning, DVM, MS, *Extension Animal Scientist,* Alabama A&M University
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You're Kidding – Don't Panic

Your doe needs you to be calm and gentle. The vast majority of births will proceed in a normal and healthy manner, but it is good to know what to do in an emergency.

If you have small goats, you will need small hands in order to intervene. Extend your hand and try to compress the fingers as much as you can. If your hand is about the same size as a normal kid's head, you should be able to go in. Note that your hand will pass through the *very* bony construct of the pelvis, and will be heavily constricted. This means that you must work gently, but quickly, before the blood supply to your fingers is cut off.

You must secure the doe, preferably with a gentle handler at her head and shoulder, or tied to an immovable object, so that you don't have to chase her around. When entering the doe's reproductive tract, your hand must be CLEAN, well LUBRICATED, and move slowly and steadily.

It can be *extremely* difficult to determine what you are feeling with your fingertips. A pointy little rump can feel like a muzzle, for instance. I find it easier to visualize what I am touching by closing my eyes while I feel around.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT:

A nice, soapy disinfectant - we use Betadine. This is not to protect you, it is to protect the doe.
Fill a clean bucket with hot water and keep it in a place where it will not be knocked over. Before intervening in any way, scrub your hands and arms thoroughly (up to the elbows, please!) and dry them on a scrupulously clean towel or disposable paper toweling. Buy paper towel in bulk and you won't be tempted to scrimp on it.
Scrub again as needed if you are going in more than once or get dirt or bedding on your hands or arms.
Some prefer to use long latex gloves, but I find them awkward. I'd rather scrub!

Lubricant - available in any drug store. KY jelly works well - vaseline is too thick and goopy, and is not water-soluble, so I cannot recommend it. Buy ***lots*** so that you don't feel obliged to skimp when you need it.

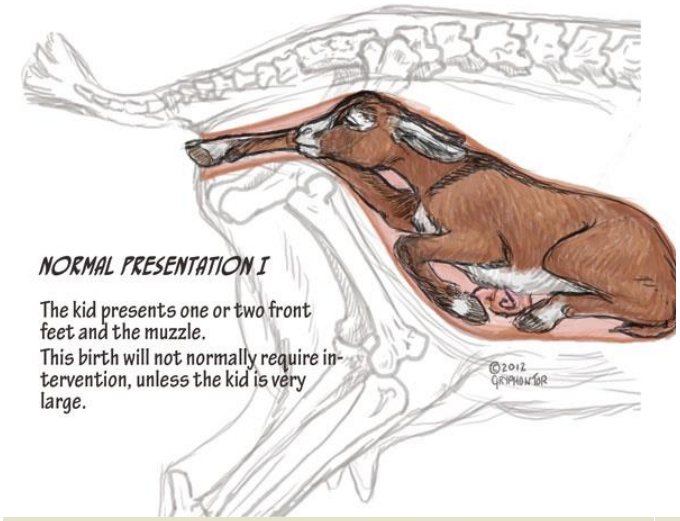
Appropriate **thin, soft rope** or "lambing snare" for pulling. Look for something with a fine, soft finish and good grip. I have used both with good success. .
In a pinch, baling twine or the familiar yellow nylon will do, but it is slippery, does not hold well in a leg noose and harsh to the touch (think of your poor doe if you have to use it internally!).

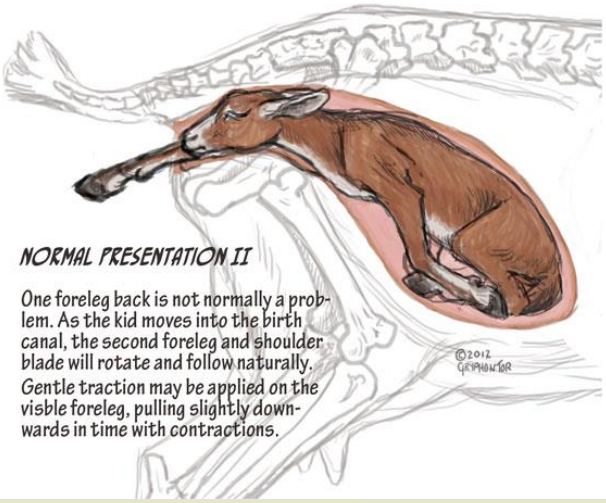
Your vet's number - preferably one that will make on-farm calls. While I've listed this last, it is THE most important tool at your disposal.
Every goat breeder should be willing to pay the cost to retain a professional when a situation is beyond our ability, and should possess the wisdom to know when to make that call.
Danger signs - STOP and call the vet if: the kid is really stuck, if you note bleeding (bright red blood), any prolapsing of the uterus, if a kid has died some days previous and has become necrotic ("off-smelling," pieces come off when pulling - sorry, I know it's gross, but it can happen), or any signs that the doe is in extreme distress. Know when to call. She is worth it. The kids are worth it. You are worth it.

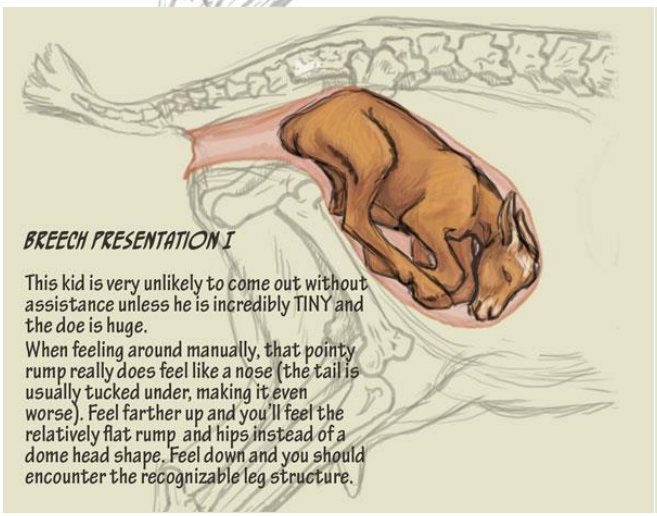
Too many times, we hear that the goat owner cannot afford an emergency vet call. Here's what I do. Every month I put a little money into a savings account. $25, $50... and then forget about it. It adds up, and chances are you may never have to use it, but when you do, you will be far less stressed.

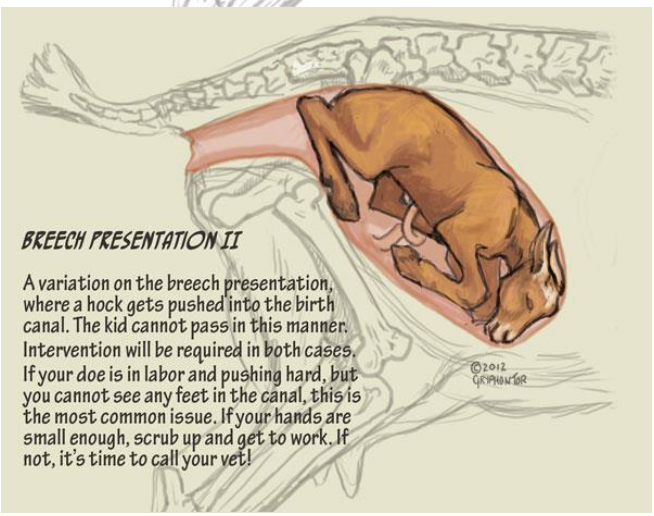
Let me repeat the most important rule: DO NOT PANIC.

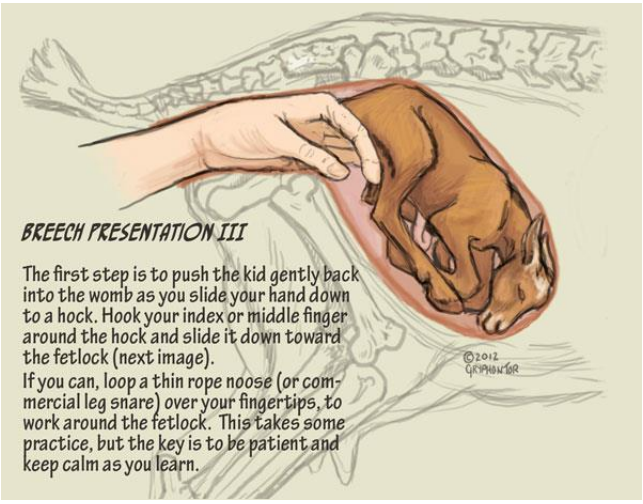
Now, a series of drawings that I've done to illustrate various presentations that you may encounter, and a few ways that I have dealt with problematic presentations.
Note: I am NOT a veterinarian, and you must use my suggestions at your own risk. Again, do NOT risk the health of your does and kids - call a vet right away if things get rough.

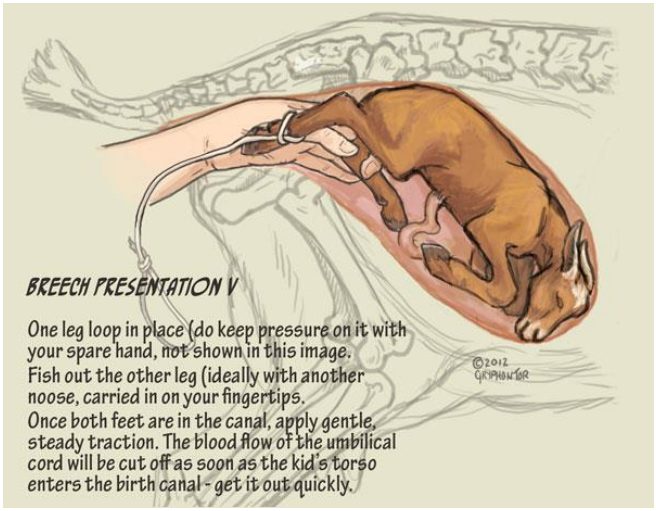


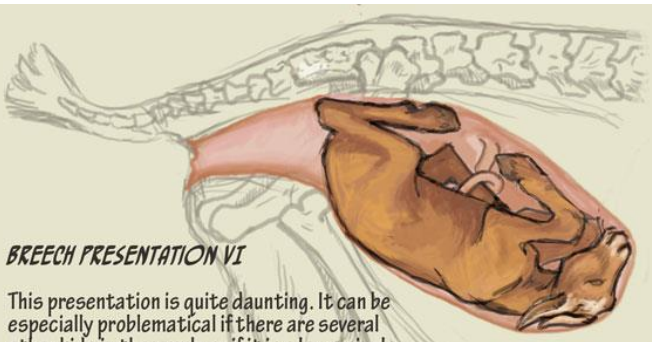








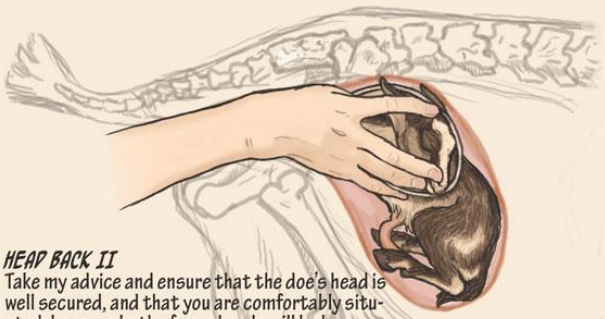




BREECH PRESENTATION VI

This presentation is quite daunting. It can be especially problematical if there are several other kids in the womb, or if it is a large singleton. Some try to turn the kid in the womb.

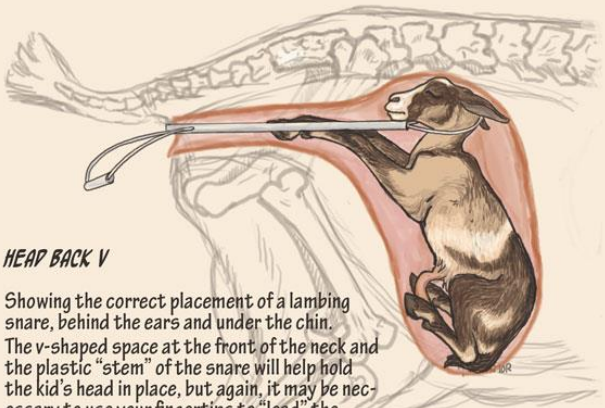
I will normally follow the steps in the previous images, and when I have string around both hind feet, I pull gently in a twisting path to right the kid before the ribcage enters the narrow birth canal. Again, time is an issue because of the bloodflow cutoff of the umbilical cord.



HEAD BACK II

Take my advice and ensure that the doe's head is well secured, and that you are comfortably situated, because both of your hands will be busy.

Because of the tendency for the head to flip back the wrong way, it is a good idea to use a thin rope or snare to loop around the head. After you turn the head, you can keep it pulled around in the right direction with gentle traction on the rope/snare with your external hand while you use your fingertips to guide the muzzle into the birth canal.

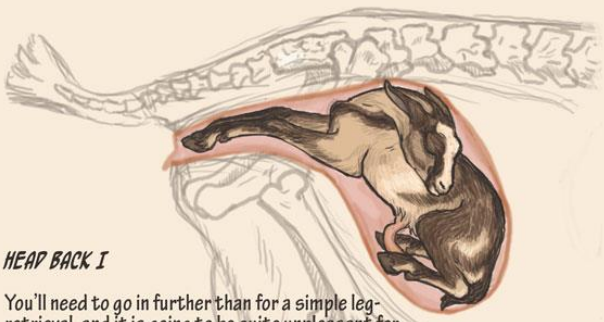


HEAD BACK V

Showing the correct placement of a lambing snare, behind the ears and under the chin.

The v-shaped space at the front of the neck and the plastic "stem" of the snare will help hold the kid's head in place, but again, it may be necessary to use your fingertips to "lead" the muzzle into the birth canal.

Ensure that at least one foreleg is in the canal as well, then use gentle, steady traction.



HEAD BACK I

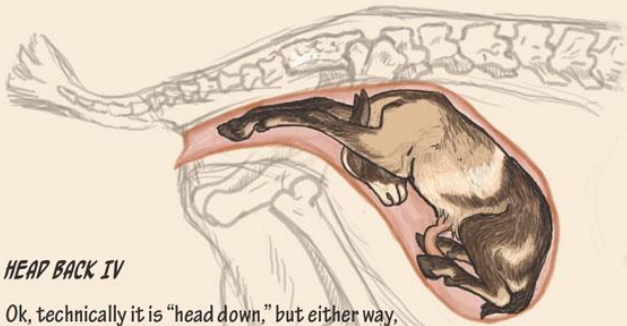
You'll need to go in further than for a simple leg-retrieval, and it is going to be quite unpleasant for the doe. If there are additional kids behind this one, things will be very tight indeed.

The head acts as if on a spring-loaded neck, and always wants to return to its original position. This is a case where a lambing snare (or thin rope) is useful, but you may have to guide the muzzle and head back into the birth canal...while pulling.

HEAD BACK III

Showing the positioning we are looking for in a successful "exit strategy." As with any birth, two forelegs in the canal is ideal, but one foreleg will do at this point.

If you have a leg snare or thin rope around, it can help to add that to the visible leg(s) to help ease the kid out.



HEAD BACK IV

Ok, technically it is "head down," but either way, this kid *really* has it in for you. It is going to take a lot of work to raise this kid's chin up. Patience!

In most cases, I end up having to gently push the kid well back in, then use a snare or thin rope to help me guide the head and at least one foreleg back into the birth canal. In this case, the snare's handle under the chin helps a lot. You will still wish you had three hands.

Date Letters

2015 – P, 2014 – M, 2013 – L, 2012 – K, 2011 – H,
2010 – G, 2009 – E, 2008 – D, 2007 – C, 2006 – B,

2005 – A, 2004 – Z, 2003 – X, 2002 – V, 2001 - T

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Year Letter for 2017 – T