

Rocky Mountain Pygmy Goat Club

WINTER ISSUE 2011

Presidents Message

Hi Everyone,
We had a great meeting. Nice location, good food and great company. We had the ornament exchange and a door prize was given to a lucky Amanda Lee. Thank You Karen Colwell for setting it up. Sorry that some of you were unable to attend, but there is always next year. We have our show schedule worked out for next year, we are waiting on our show chairs to work out the Judges. We will continue to host our shows at the Idaho Expo in Boise, however a new location at the Gem County Fairgrounds in Emmett are still being discussed. Diana Dowdy is working with out current facility to possibly work out some issues that we have with security and camping. Until these issues

are solved, I suggest we all follow the rules and guidelines set forth by the Fairgrounds and manage the best we can. Jim Dowdy is working up a cost comparison between facilities. We not only need to look at cost, but also accessibility, and convenience for the whole. Jim Dowdy has chips available. The cost of club members has now dropped from \$ 8.75 to \$ 8.25 each. Non-members has remained the same at \$ 10.00 each. Shelle Farnsworth brought up a great idea to combine chip reader orders to help save money. If you're needing a chip reader, now might be a great opportunity to get one at a reduced price. Teasha Lee will be checking into the possibilities. Our current show tables are in poor shape

them for as long as possible. I will be checking into pricing on tables, and even possibly new plywood for changing the tops on the old tables. Dan Cecil has offered to repair the tables with his 4-H group if that is the route we decide to go. I would like to say congratulations to Sharon Johnson for being elected President and Karen Colwell for being elected Vice President. Give them as much support as you have given Dave and myself. I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your President for the last 2 years and for all of your support. We have a great group of people, and I thank everyone for dedicating do much energy and time into making this club a more family oriented and hostile free environment to be.

Sincerely,
President Scott Colwell

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New 2012 Officers
President- Sharon Johnson
Vice President-Karen Colwell
Secretary-Angela Murphy
Treasurer-Jim Dowdy
Web Master-Sharon Johnson
Newsletter-Diana Woodward

Flower Power

Everyone, at one time of another needs a boost in support, friendship, love or affection. A hug, smile, kiss on the cheek or a little note can do wonders to help them to feel good and make them smile. A bouquet of flowers can also do wonders for the soul. Here are a few suggestions.

Blue-Busting Bouquet

Chrysanthemum: Hope
Freesia: Calmness
Gladiola: Natural Grace
Jasmine: Good Wishes
Red Geranium: Comfort

You Lose Ten Pounds And Look Like A Goddess Bouquet

Bird of Paradise: Exotic
Delphinium: Swiftiness & Light
Heather: Passion
Pink Flowers: Perfection

Best Friend Forever Bouquet

Forget me not: Keep me in your heart
Periwinkle: Promise
Sunflower: Adoration & Strength
Roses: Love

Keratoconjunctivitis (Pinkeye) in Goats

Pinkeye is the inflammation of the inside of the eyelid. In goats, pinkeye is primarily caused by the microorganism *Mycoplasma Conjunctives* and *Chlamydia*. Pinkeye is a highly contagious infection that spreads through contact either with infected animals or face flies. Eye irritation must be present and is necessary for the development of this disease. Face flies, which look like houseflies, feed around the eyes and nostrils, causing an irritation to the eye and spreading the disease from one animal to another. The bacteria can survive on the flies for up to four days, so many animals may be infected by one fly.

Other sources of eye irritation are over-exposure to bright sunlight, blowing dust and dusty hay or straw. In addition, here in our region, we have to deal with a lot of blowing dust so wind blocks are essential to goat protection. Goat breeds which lack pigment on their eyelids seem to be more susceptible to pinkeye due to their sensitivity to sunlight and a decreased immune response in the eye. Pinkeye can also be brought on by stress. Stress from moving, stress from improper nutrition, stress caused by severe weather or stress from underlying illness. Stress reduces the immune system's ability to suppress an outbreak of pinkeye. The viral mechanism that causes the abortion disease *Chlamydia* often begins with pinkeye, and sometimes the first sign of an abortion is pinkeye.

While most cases of pinkeye happen in the spring, summer, and fall, pinkeye is an important disease in the winter as well. The risk factor during the winter are close confinement and feeding, UV light reflecting off the snow, irritation from feed, or infection with a virus. It is commonly thought that winter pinkeye is caused by an infectious virus that can cause red runny eyes, but not the ulceration seen with usual pinkeye. In winter, animals can develop other respiratory symptoms such as nasal discharge, fevers, coughing and, possibly, pneumonia, which are not associated with pinkeye. Winter pinkeye needs to be treated as you would for any other season.



The best approach to preventing pinkeye in a herd is management practices that reduce the risk factors associated with the disease. With a lower chance of the disease, the overall concentration of a bacteria will be lowered and reducing the risk of the disease. Fly control is essential with farm animals to help prevent the spread of all sorts of diseases, but sometimes can

be difficult. Adult flies do not stay in one place for long periods of time so attacking the eggs and larvae are more effective. I have found an incredible product to do just that. They are fly parasites that feed on the eggs of flies in animal waste. This product is delivered to you on a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly basis, whichever fits in with your pest prevention program. A company called "Kunafin", is located in Quenado, Texas, and has been in the pest control business since 1959. One call and they can discuss what your needs are, how big the area you have to control and all the cost of an individual pest prevention program to fit your needs. This is the best product I have found to eliminate flies and control them in the future.

When pinkeye has been found, to eliminate as much damage as possible, remove the animal to its own pen immediately. The pen should be clean, cool, and dry with good ventilation. It should be small and out of direct sunlight. If the animal has lost some of its vision, it may need time to find its food and water. Usually the first thing I do after removing the animal is sprinkle a small amount of fly dust on its forehead to eliminate fly contact. If I have animals within a small area of an infected goat or adjacent to the pen, they will also get fly dusted. Pinkeye in goats and pinkeye in cattle are not the same microorganisms, so the vaccine used to prevent pinkeye in cattle is useless in goats.



However, the treatment I have used successfully for many years was taught to me by an animal nutritionist that works with dairy farms and cattle ranches.

For the best treatment, after separation of animal, I flush the eye with clean water and remove any dries discharge from around the eye. For grown goats, I use 3cc of Dura Pen or any long lasting Penicillin and inject it into the goats' temple, the indent right behind the infected eye. The needle needs to be inserted straight and the goats head needs to be held secure with no movement, so not to injure the eye during injection. Believe me, this is a two-person job! The goat will feel the needle as with any other injection, but the medicine injection itself does not cause pain. Most goats do not fight the injections as much as they will fight having there head held secure.

One treatment is all that's needed to cure the pinkeye unless it is at the stage of protrusion. If the eye has started to protrude out from the center, you may need another injection within 4 days. After the injection, watch the animal to see if the cloudiness recedes and the discharge disappeared. If you still want to treat the animal while you wait for the penicillin to work, spray Vetericyn in the infected eye, 2 times daily. You should see the cloudiness disappear within 2-3 days. If you work on the control of pests, watch your herd for pinkeye, and treat as soon as possible, this disease is fairly easy to control.

Aces Publications-Leite-Browning, Virginia Co-op Extension, Rude Dogg Estates, Diana Woodward.

All information provided in the club newsletter is either from personal experience or researched publication and it is the sole Responsibility of the reader to obtain veterinary service or advise before using any of the included information.



Legend of the Candy Cane



Legend of the Candy Cane

Along with candles, wreaths, stars, bells and mistletoes, another ubiquitous decorative item for Christmas which is also a favorite with children, is the candy cane. In fact, the candy cane is so popular that it is one of the most visible items in any decoration, for Christmas or not. The candy cane is simple, eye-catching, and what's more, it's tasty. Though candy canes come in many flavors, the most popular and common flavor is peppermint and cinnamon. Candy canes can be hung with colorful ribbons and can be used to decorate almost anything, from an entire room to a cake or a Christmas tree, they add a very playful touch to everything. And like all other facets of Christmas, this J-shaped, red and white candy also has an interesting story, legend if you may call it, behind it. As so, the origin and symbolism of candy cane is steeped in myth.

The Legend

It is widely believed that the candy, which earlier was straight as a stick, was given its distinctive J-shape by a German choirmaster. It is said that during service one evening, the children were being very loud and noisy, creating quite a ruckus and not paying any attention to the choirmaster. To keep them quiet and still for the nativity ceremony, he gave them a long, white, sugar candy cane stick. Since giving chocolates and candies at church was considered sacrilegious, he bent these sticks at one end to make them look like a shepherd's cane and thus, attached a religious significance to them. In Christianity, Jesus regarded as the Good Shepherd and so, the staff is considered to be a sacred symbol. The staff also represents the shepherds who came to visit the infant Jesus. The candy cane became popular when, in 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant in Wooster, Ohio, who liked candy cane a lot, decided to string them on his Christmas tree as decorations. The idea soon caught up became quite a fashion in no time. By 1990, candy cane, which were earlier only white, in red stripes, and with peppermint and cinnamon flavoring. Of course, now it's a popular tradition everywhere.

Symbolism

Traditionally, the only symbolism that was associated with the candy was that of the shepherd's staff. But now, there is a modern allegorical interpretation of the candy cane. It that since the candy cane, when inverted, becomes J-shaped, it is a direct representation of Jesus Christ. The white color of the candy denotes the purity of Christ while the red represents his sacrifice and the whipping he received at the hands of the romans and the color symbolizing his blood. It is believed that even the peppermint flavor of the candy, because it is similar to hyssop which, according to the Old Testament, symbolizes purification and sacrifice.

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