



Meat Goat Project Training

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FAMILY PROJECT





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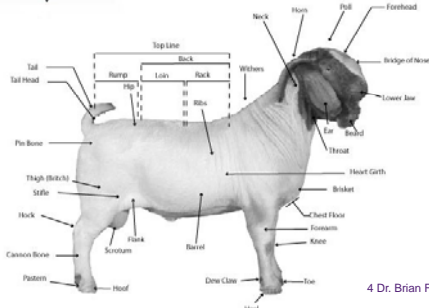
Session I: Selection

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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

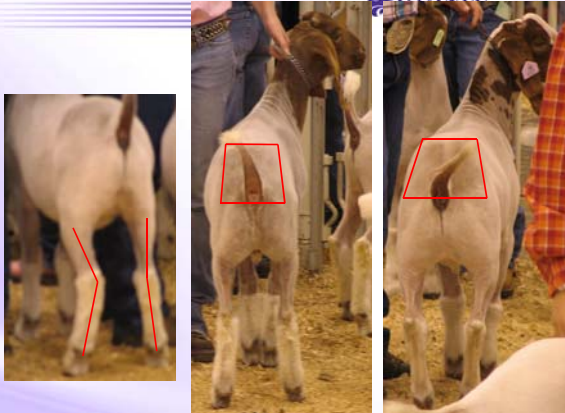
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Selection, continued

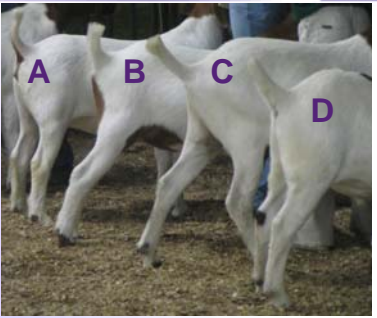
- **Muscle**
 - Broad, thick rack and loin
 - Firm and hard handling
 - Deep, heavily muscled leg and rump
 - Stifle should be the widest part of the leg when viewed from behind

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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**

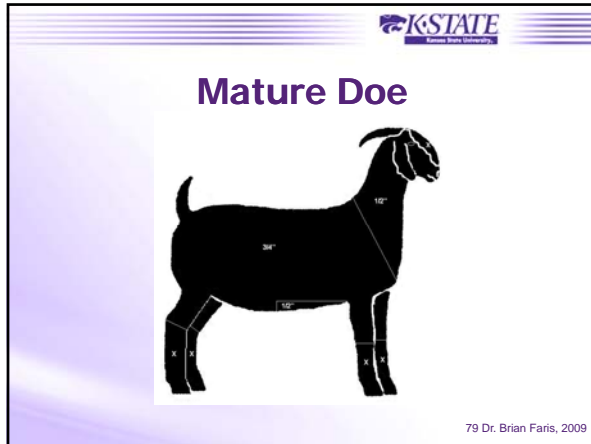
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Clipping/Fitting

- **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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