



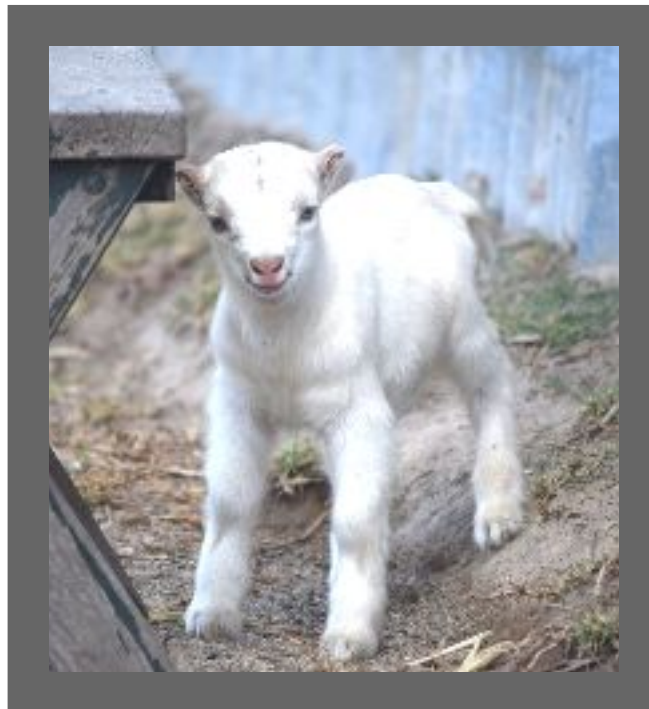
# PIPPINWOOD

MINIATURE GOAT STUD

## CAE & JD NEGATIVE TESTED HERD

Here at Pippinwood, we aim to provide new and existing owners with the knowledge and skill to care for your goats and live a long happy life together.

Our vision is to develop the Australian Miniature and Miniature Elf goats. Developing a genetically smaller goat, that has been bred by specifically pairing smaller sized goats that are of exceptional conformation and size to achieve a hardy, robust goat with lovely temperaments and personalities. We are now also developing our goats with eye colour and diverse coat colour combinations.



Please note: All information in this booklet is general information, for what works for us here at Pippinwood. I only offer my opinion and please understand we are not professionals.

## ***Did you know?***

Goats are very intelligent and curious animals. Each goat will have its own personality. Even from birth, you can see the variety in kids personalities.

Goats make great pets, they are used for companionship and also for their landscaping capabilities.

But they do have other uses too. Goats milk and goats fleece is highly sourced throughout the world. Having a goat that you can milk, you can make all sorts of things, from cheese, yogurt, ice-cream, candy, milkshakes, and simply drinking the milk. Then of course there is Goat soap and moisturisers, the list goes on.

### ***Goats HATE Water!***

At the first drop of rain, the herd comes running, straight into their pens/ shelter. You will never see a goat standing out in the rain. They absolutely hate it! This is why goats need a waterproof shelter in each paddock they have access to. They will also seek shelter in the heat or windy weather.

### ***A goat has 32 teeth, but not where you would think***

Eight incisors are on the lower front jaw, while the upper front jaw has a hard dental pad and no teeth. Six molars are on each side of both back jaws

### ***Goats are ruminants***

Goats have four "stomachs." Their food moves first into the rumen (from which it is periodically regurgitated for more "cud chewing"), then to the reticulum, later to the omasum, and finally to the abomasum (which is most like a more sensitive human stomach). It takes 11 to 15 hours for food to pass through a goat's digestive system.

### ***Goats are burpers!***

This is due to the role of their rumen. The rumen, which in a mature goat holds four to five gallons of plant material, breaks down cellulose and acts as a fermentation vat. Of course, fermentation produces gas, and this gas escapes in the form of loud, healthy burps. Our goats can frequently be heard burping in the barn.

### ***Goats have 60 chromosomes***

sheep have 54. (Humans only have 46 chromosomes.)

### ***Goats were one of the first domesticated animals***

They were first domesticated around 9,000 years ago

### ***Goats can live up to 10-15 years.***

They can start becoming fertile as young as 8 weeks. This is why Bucklings and bucks are separated from any does or doelings as soon as possible. They can then rejoin the herd as wethers or when it's baby making season.

## ***Common Goat Myths***

### ***Goats are just like sheep***

Not True. Goats require roughage and added minerals to stay in good condition. They browse around the lands, and pick through the variety of goodies on offer in their paddocks.

### ***Goats will eat anything!***

Not True. This I hear a lot. "Oh what about my clothes on the line?"

Some goats are so picky at what they eat, they can actually waste more food than they eat.

They are curious and will sometimes taste various things, but they won't eat your pyjamas that you left hanging on the line.

### ***Goats can be tethered***

I don't believe this is an option in today's culture with portable pens widely available, and very cost effective. Tethering a goat is harmful in many ways, what about predators?, Do they have shelter? The bottom line for me is...Is the goat Happy?

### ***I can just have one goat***

No. Goats are herd animals and require a minimum of 2 goats to live a happy life.

### ***Goats Smell!***

Yes! Some do. These are the Bucks (the big daddys of the goat world).

Bucks are smelly. That is because the smellier they are, the more attractive they are to the

doe. Bucks are quite different in terms of characteristics. Bucks will urinate on themselves, frequently spraying urine onto their legs and face to make them more attractive to the doe. Although this does not happen constantly. Only in breeding season, when the Buck is in "RUT" . A Buck is not a suitable pet.

Does and wethers (desexed males) in general, do not smell.

### ***All goats have horns!***

Most do, unless they are genetically bred with a 'pol' gene. Most Goat breeders will disbud their goats to make them safer to humans and their goat friends.

For more information on disbudding please just ask.

### ***Only male goats have beards!***

Nope both sexes can grow beards. Some of our girls have beards that can put the boys to shame.

### ***Goats jump fences!***

They can. But they are more inclined to lean on them. It is true you will need a good fence to hold your herd in. As goats do lean on fences, and if they are munching and can put their head through a hole, they will walk through the it. Then have a freak out, because they can't get back to their herd.

## ***Let's talk goat...***

Baby goats - Kids

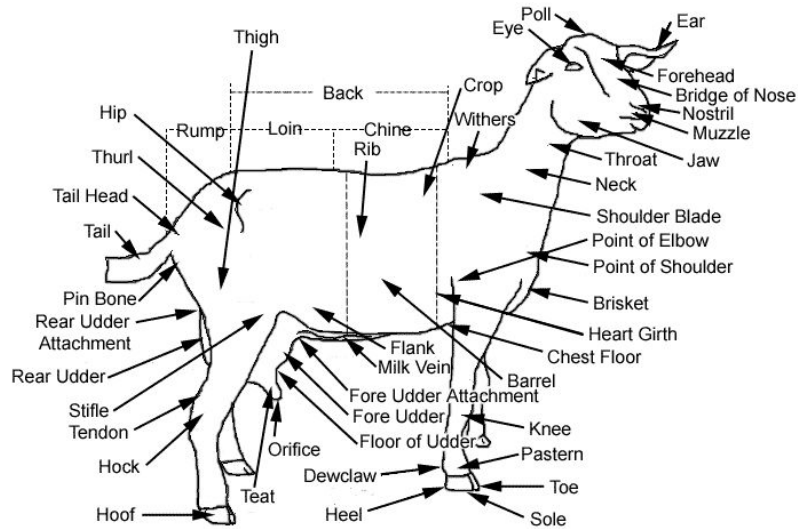
Female kids - Doelings

Male kids - Bucklings

Adult females- Does

Adult Males- Bucks

Desexed male of any age - Wether



## ***Rules and Regulations.***

There are some regulations and rules regarding livestock, and how much land you have. Talk to your council about requirements and make sure your fencing is secure.

You will need to get a Property Identification Code or PIC number. You can get these through the DPI (Department of Primary Industries).

PIC numbers the basis of all livestock movements and your PIC number will be used when you buy and sell your animals, and any movements from one property (PIC) to another.

When you buy, sell or move an animal your PIC number is documented, along with the animals NILS tag. (National Livestock Identification System), on your waybill or NVD (National Vendor Declaration).

It's Easy once you have done it. ;)

## ***Registrations***

There are currently 3 miniature goat societies in Australia. The AABMGS inc, the MGBA and the MGA. Below are links to their webpages. There you can decide which society will be suitable for you. Whichever you decide, your goats should come with a registration certificate from one of these

AABMGS: <https://www.aabmgs.org.au/>

MGBA: <http://www.miniaturegoatbreedersassociation.com.au/> MGA:

<http://www.miniaturegoatsaustralia.com/>

We belong to...

**The Australian All Breeds of Miniature goats Society Inc.**

They are an amazing group of goat enthusiasts that continually work together to achieve higher standards of the Australian Miniature goat and other "designer Breed" miniature goats and sheep. The members are always willing to help and answer all questions and offer amazing advice.



## *Feeding*

### *Bottle Babies*

Bottle feeding goats can be one of the best experiences or one of the most trying. Never over feed a kid, no matter what they tell you. They will always insist they need more, but they do not. Overfeeding a goat can lead to scouring and bloat.

0-4 weeks

We feed 250-300ml bottles 4 times a day.

Our routine is morning bottle around 6am, then 4-5 hours after each bottle.

(No feeding of a night time).

4 -6 weeks -300 ml bottle- 3 times a day.

6-8 weeks - 300ml bottle- 2 times a day

8-12 weeks - 300 ml bottle 1 feed a day. We normally do this in the afternoon as they tend to sleep better on a full stomach. And we have more time for cuddles after work. But as long as it's the same time every day. They will be happy.

We use a full cream milk powder from Coles or woolworths. Whichever you do use, keep with the same brand. Or transition over time to your new milk replacer.

We use the ratio 250ml water to  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup of milk powder.

Always check the temperature of the milk on your wrist as you would a human baby bottle. It will feel a comfortable temperature on your wrist. Lukewarm is best, around 37 degrees.

Do not feed Water to goats via bottles.

We use Baby bottles from Coles or Woolworths, 3 pack of bottles is \$6. We simply enlarge the teat to get the flow similar to their mummas teat.

Solid Feeding: When your kids start nibbling on things, you should supply them with 2 parts - Chaff and 1 part- Steamed flaked barley with molasses. I also like to hang a very small bag of soft hay that they like to nibble on during the day. This will get their rumens developing nicely.

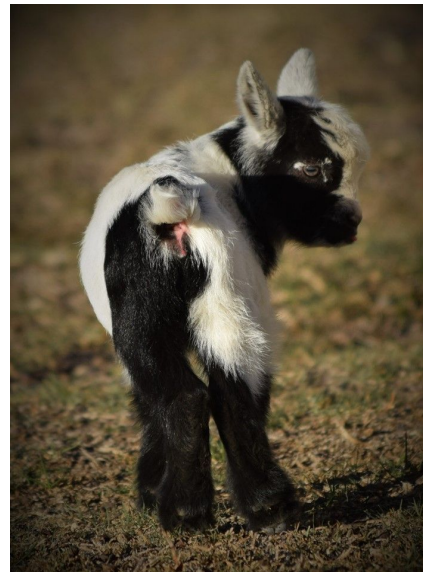
## *Kids*

Kids over 2 months old generally can leave their mums and go to their new homes without much interruption on their diets, providing they are eating and drinking water.

We recommend a mixture of stock pellets, steam flaked barley and chaff or soft hay.

When introducing new feeds, please do so gradually, as too much of a good thing may have adverse effects. And they may scour.

Kids require roughage to develop their rumens, having Chaff or soft hay ad lib is a good habit. They will also forage and you may find them chewing on a stick or eating some bark. This is fine as long as the tree is suitable for goats.



## *Adult Feeding*

We feed our goats a mixture of stock pellets with steamed flaked barley. We sometimes also add premixed grains suitable for goats. There are many produce shops that have pre-mixed goat pellets available.

We recommend having a salt lick block and mineral block available as lib at all times. They know when they are lacking in a mineral or vitamin and will lick it on occasion.

Grass or hay is the foundation that makes up your goats diet. We feed ours a variety of different hay, depending on time of year and what is available. Rhodes grass, Barley grass, oaten hay, Millet hay and Lucerne hay are our main choices. Be wary of too rich of a lucerne as it can make them scour. A mixture of grass and lucerne is best.

## *Treats*

Most fruit and vegetables are good for goats to eat, (watermelon, pears, peaches, bananas, grapes, carrots, lettuce, celery, pumpkin, squash, and spinach).

Sultanas are the best treats if you ask my goats. We use these in training and they work wonders. But dont over feed on treats.

Also a nice branch of a tree or similar is always well received if they do not have access to them. (please ensure you check that the tree is suitable for goats first) some trees goats love are, wattles, sheoak, pittosporum and other Australian natives. We often fill the ute with branches of pine trees and watch them have a feast.

## *Avoid*

Avoid giving your goats anything with animal matter in it such as dog/cat food. Goats are strictly herbivores. Also avoid Avocado and Rhubarb as they are quite toxic.

## *Water*

Fresh and clean water is a must. There are some great auto waters out there to ensure your goats have nice clean, cool water on hand whenever they want.

Avoid dam water if possible, as it can harbour deadly bacteria and parasites. Fluke worm is present in some dams and can lead to liver fluke which can kill your goat.



## ***Pens and Fences***

Our goats are penned at night, securely, so no predators can get in, and they can't get out. We have different sections, divided to accommodate does and kids. Birth pens etc.

All goats need is a safe and weather proof shelter. Ideally if you can give them something to sleep on or raise the floor, this will help avoid nasty ground borne bacterial infections such as hoof rot.

Fences need to be a minimum of 1.2 metres high, Chain link or chicken wire is the preferred material. The smaller the holes the better. Goats can go over, under or through a fence. So keep this in mind when fencing their paddocks.

Bucks may need more fencing options if keeping them close to girls. Taller, or dug down into the ground fencing. Or even a solar powered electric fence can be used.

If you have wild dogs, foxes or dingos in your area, many a goat herd has been protected successfully with Maremma sheepdogs, alpacas and donkeys. We have used alpacas before, but we now run donkeys with our herd. Without an incident since.

## ***Worming / Drenching***

Worming should be done at least every 2-3 months. After a worm count sample as been done and sent in.

Every time a drench is given unnecessary it helps to build a resistance to the drench.

<http://www.wormcount.com.au/>

A good worming system is instrumental in having happy healthy goats. Goats are susceptible to parasite and should always be taken seriously. Immediate action should be taken if you see any of the following signs.

- ❖ Cloudy eyes
- ❖ Pale gums,
- ❖ rugged coat,
- ❖ Loss of appetite
- ❖ Swelling of the jaw (bottle jaw is caused by fluke worm)

The best quick check is to pull out the lower eyelid and check its color. Worms cause anemia (low red blood cell count). You want to see a nice, rich salmon color or bright pink. If it is pale pink, or even worse, white, your goat most likely has worms.

We recommend Zolvix plus

Elanco Animal Health has recently launched Zolvix Plus in Australia; a new combination drench for sheep. Zolvix Plus combines monepantel (the active ingredient in Zolvix) with abamectin (a widely used macrocyclic lactone).

Zolvix (monepantel) as a single active has been available in Australia since late 2010.

The release of the dual-active combination Zolvix Plus, will provide better drench resistance management. Combination drenches slow development of drench resistance because each drench group has an independent mode of action and there is little evidence for cross-resistance between groups.- Wormboss.com.au

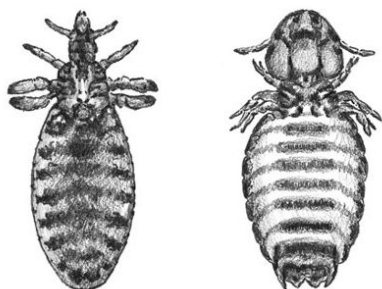
We also have used Q-Drench, Capprimech and Panacur

## ***Lice Treatment***

Goats can get two kinds of lice: sucking lice and biting lice. Biting lice eat dead skin cells on the goats and make them itch. Sucking lice are more serious — they not only cause itching, but they suck the goats' blood, which can lead to anemia.

Lice tend to take up residence on a goat in winter months. You can usually tell that a goat has lice because it shows signs of itching. It's coat may begin to look rough, and the goat will rub on fences (more than usual), have dandruff, lose patches of hair, and chew on itself.

You can see the lice or their grayish eggs (called nits) by inspecting the top of the goat's back with a magnifying glass. You need a microscope to determine whether you're dealing with sucking or biting lice. Sucking lice have narrower heads, and biting lice have wide heads.



We use Nucidol 200EC- Which is widely available through local produce stores such as Landmark and CRT.

Another option is Noromectin- it is a backline spray.

We have not used it yet. But i know many people who recommended it.

For younger kids, Pesticide powder is recommended.

## ***Vaccinations***

Our goats are vaccinated with Ultravac 5 in 1 vaccine or higher. We give all our goats boosters twice yearly.

Ultravac is a fridge stored vaccine and needs to stay cold. We use a 20 gauge needle and inject under the skin on their neck.

## ***Hoof trimming***

Depending on the ground your goats are walking on, trimming should be done every 6-12 weeks. Hoof trimming is quite easy once you have the hang of it. You can buy hoof trimmers from most produce shops and online. It makes it a lot easier if you have the right tools to begin with. We are happy to help with hoof trimming or any inquires, just ask.

## ***Breeding***

Miniature goats have a gestation period of approximately 145-150 days.

Most first time does will have a single kid. After that, twins are quite common, triplets are common too.

Does cycle every 21 days subject to the seasons.

Some signs your doe is looking to mate:

- ❖ More vocal than usual
- ❖ discharge
- ❖ Swollen and red rear end
- ❖ Showing interest in the buck/s
- ❖ Wagging her tail / tail flagging
- ❖ Difference in her normal behaviour
- ❖ Urinating in front of the bucks
- ❖ Mounting other does
- ❖ Going off her food
- ❖ Bucks showing interest in the doe.



- ❖ Letting the buck mount her

### ***A buck in season is called in 'RUT'***

Rutting bucks will urinate on themselves, spraying urine over their front legs and face, this is to attract the doe. The smellier the buck, the more the doe may like him. Bucks also will become more territorial of their does. And appear more aggressive. They will also display flehmen lip curling, as they analyse the scents of the does. They will also 'hump' their paddock mates. Making for a yellow, stinky and loud group of boys.

### ***But I just want cute kids...***

Breeding goats can be extremely rewarding, and having bouncy cute kids is always fun. But there is a more serious side to breeding goats. It's not as simple as putting a doe and buck together and waiting 145 days.

Bucks should be of exceptional quality and compliment the does strengths and reduce her weaknesses and vice versa.

Questions to ask yourself: do you have the time to care for a pregnant goat and if bottle feeding, are you going to be there for every feed for the next 3-4+ months? Do you have the knowledge and skill to step in if needed? What purpose do you have planned for the progeny? Can you house more goats? Do you have someone to call upon in times of need or if you can't be there for some reason?

Goat kids are totally adorable. And if you have the skill and knowledge to do so, you will find it both a challenging and rewarding experience.

If you have any questions or queries on anything in this booklet or in general, please do not hesitate to call or message us. We are happy to help in any way we can.

Thank you  
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