



Dairy & Meat Goat Showmanship

Showing dairy and meat goats involves being knowledgeable on the goat industry, presenting yourself and your goat in the best way possible, and most importantly showing you can properly handle your goat. The goal of goat showmanship is to demonstrate your ability to work as a team with your goat and show you have an understanding of what is important for the industry. You should study with an experienced goat showman on how to handle your goat in the show ring, what a judge is looking for in a dairy goat, body parts of a goat, and basic nutrition, reproduction, and industry questions. Be sure to practice handling a goat before the competition to be safe and comfortable working with the animal. Also be sure to note the similarities and differences between showing dairy and meat goats!

Handling Goats

Enter, leading the animal at a normal walking pace around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking on the left side, holding the collar with the right hand. Exhibitor should walk as normally and inconspicuously as possible.

- The goat should lead readily and respond quickly.
- Lead equipment should consist of a collar or small link chain, properly fitted.
- As the judge studies the animal, the preferred method of leading is to walk alongside on the side opposite of the judge.
- Lead slowly with animals' head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage and graceful walk.

Posing & Examination of Dairy Goats

The animal must always be shown so that it is between the exhibitor and the judge as much as possible. Avoid exaggerated positions, such as crossing behind the goat.

- Stand or kneel where both judge and animal can be observed.
- Pose animal with front feet squarely beneath and hind feet slightly spread. Where possible, face animal upgrades with her front feet on a slight incline. Neither crowd other exhibitors nor leave too much space when leading into a side-by-side position, ideally leave a goat and a half space between you and other exhibitors.
- When judge changes placing, lead animal forward out of line, down or up to the place directed then back through the line, finally making a U-turn to get into position.

To contact an expert in your area, visit msue.anr.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

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- To step animal ahead, use slight pull on the collar. If the animal steps badly out of place, return him/her to position by leading her forward and making a circle back through your position in the line.
- When the judge approaches to handle the animal, hold the head and collar of the animal.
- When the judge is observing the animal, if she moves out of position, replace her quickly and inconspicuously as possible.
- Be natural. Over-showing, undue fussing, and maneuvering are objective.

Posing & Examination of Meat Goats

Follow the steps mentioned above for showing a dairy goat. One extra step to be taken is when standing your goat for the judge to evaluate and when the judge approaches to feel your animal, make sure to place a leg in front of the animal so that it is braced.

Showmanship Questions and Answers

Questions:

1. What are the four (4) compartments of a goats stomach?
2. What is the gestation period of a goat?
3. What is a lactation period of a goat?
4. What is a female goat called?
5. What is an intact, male goat called?
6. What is a wether?
7. What is a kid?
8. What way do you walk around the show ring?
9. What are the recognized breeds of goats and their characteristics?

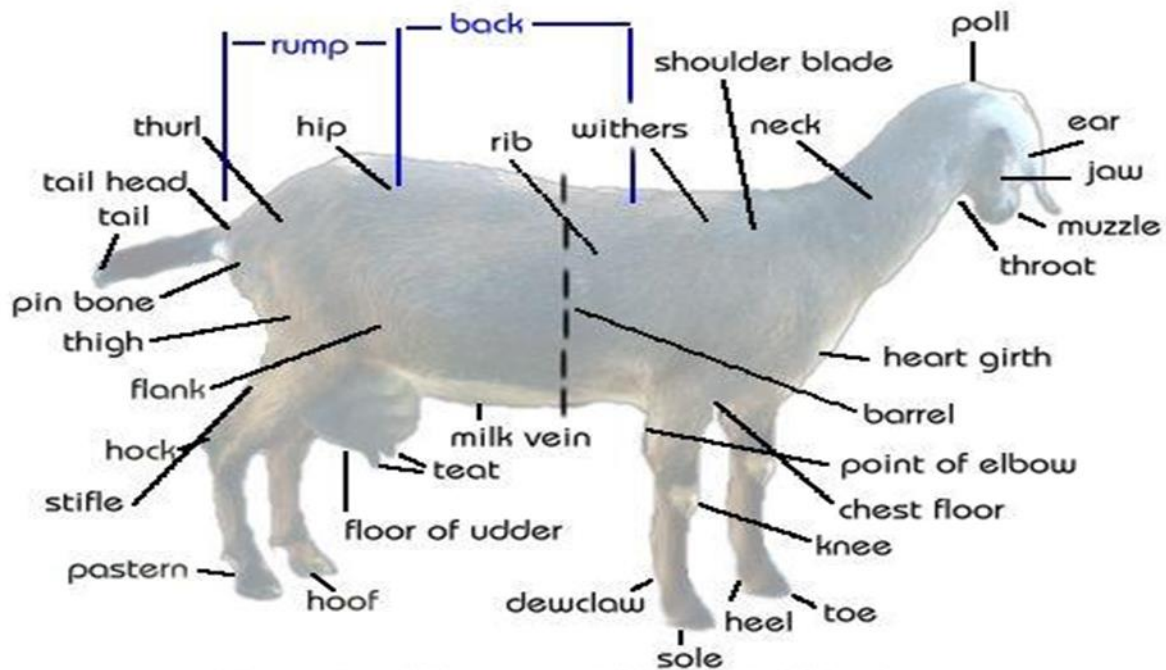
Answers:

1. Rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum
2. 145 – 155 days
3. The time during which milk is produced, usually about 10 months
4. Doe
5. Buck
6. A castrated male goat
7. A baby goat under 6 months of age
8. Goats are walked around the ring clockwise

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9. Breeds:

- Alpine -- Erect ears, long slender neck; all colors, usually two-tone; dairy goat
- LaMancha -- Very short ears or appears to have no ears; all colors; very docile; dairy goat
- Nubian – Roman nose, long droopy ears; black, tan, and shades of bay; somewhat restless; dairy goat
- Saneen – erect ears; all white or cream; dairy goat
- Toggenburg – Erect ears; shades of brown or gray trimmed in white; dairy goat
- Pygmy – Erect ears; miniature size; usually gray, blue, caramel or chocolate; non-dairy goat
- Boer- long droopy ears; thicker body type overall; traditionally white body, red head but can be all colors; non-dairy goat



Basic Dairy Goat Parts