

<http://AlaskaMiniGoatCache.com>

This issue is also available, in *full color*, online at



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A club specializing in  
creating a safe place  
for all miniature goats

## ALASKA MINI GOAT CACHE NEWS

A CACHE OF NEWS FOR ALASKA'S MINIATURE GOAT ENTHUSIASTS  
NOVEMBER 2010

*A late fall harvest of oat straw on Palmer's Inner Springer Loop System.  
Bill Krostek cut his certified weed-free oat straw in mid October.*

*Photo by Treasurer Heather Fair*





Are you ready for the holidays? Although the snow has been slower than usual to arrive, many of us are still feeling the pressure to prepare for winter, something we normally would have long done by now. Maybe we were distracted or perhaps we had other delayed tasks to complete. Some of us were even harvesting fresh oat straw in mid October this year, a good month or two later than usual! Likely we are still lagging from the cool, wet summer of 2010, longing for sunnier days and hoping the weather will continue to stay (relatively) warm. The animals know better, though, and despite our denial, they have already built luxurious coats.

So here's to a relaxing calm before the storm, when kiddings will soon bring late night watches and rewarding deliveries once again. With kiddings come more fresh milk and more joyous bundles to fuss over while we exchange good tidings and spend time around those we love. Hug your goats and enjoy the season of giving thanks to all those around us we cherish!

Heather Fair, Newsletter Editor

Please send club mail to:  
 Alaska Mini Goat Cache  
 c/o Laura Manary, President  
 4274 N. Farm Loop Rd.



**Can you lend a hand  
 (or a hat, a scarf, or even some yarn)?**

Secretary Tisa Witham's daughter, Mckenzie Willett, has started making scarves and hats for the homeless this winter. She came up with this on her own out of a love for people less fortunate, who deserve something both warm and nice to wear. Her goal is to give something to every person in need and any assistance is welcome.

the Witham's at 907-357-1737 or email [tisa@edgefieldalaska.com](mailto:tisa@edgefieldalaska.com). Thank you!



Mckenzie with Chelada (top) & Romp (bottom). Chelada is a doeling residing at Secretary Tisa Witham's Edgefield & Romp is a wether now residing in Soldotna.



**Mckenzie is asking for any unwanted or excess yarn to help offset costs in her quest to provide to those in need.** How about some fiber you spun yourself from your goats? **Do you knit or crochet?** Mckenzie is also encouraging us to contribute clean hats and scarves we make or purchase. **Mckenzie plans to take all the items she collects to the mission in Anchorage on December 4th! If you can help in anyway, or if you would like more information, please call**

Send your hot news to: [news@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:news@alaskaminigoatcache.com)

## KETOSIS: What is it Actually, and How Does it Happen?

By Sue Reith

(from <http://goats.wetpaint.com/page/Ketosis+-+What+is+it%3F>  
reprinted with permission)

(Please feel free to give a copy of this article to your veterinarian if you would like to do so.)

Ketosis is a word that indiscriminately, in my view, gets bandied about a lot, and it's incorrectly said to be the primary cause of a number of ailments. One that comes to mind, because I see it mentioned a lot, is "Pregnancy Ketosis". There's no such thing! There's pregnancy, which is one condition, and there's ketosis, which is an entirely separate condition. Ketosis *can* develop as a *secondary* condition under some circumstances during pregnancy or lactation, but it isn't limited to either pregnancy or lactation, and it can show up at any stage in the life of a goat. (By the way: ketosis happens to people, too.)

The word itself is not well understood, so I'll try to explain it: in technical terms, it's a condition brought on by a metabolic imbalance in the body. In scientific terms, it's defined as an accumulation of excessive amounts of ketone bodies in body tissues and fluids.

'Ketone bodies' are metabolic substances known as acetoacetic acid and beta-hydroxybutyric acid. Acetone, which puts off the peculiar odor associated with Ketosis, comes from acetoacetic acid. These substances are all normal metabolic products of 'lipid' within the liver. When they become severely imbalanced as the result of ketosis, the liver will fail.

**Cause:** By its very nature, ketosis has to be a secondary condition, because it's the direct result of a process that starts when the animal, for whatever reason, stops eating. *Why* the animal stopped eating is the primary question that needs to be answered quickly, because when that happens, the lack of an outside energy source (aka food) forces the animal to start living on its own reserves to provide the necessary energy. This is where ketosis begins.

These body reserves that the animal starts substituting for the food it's not getting are in the form of 'fatty tissue'. The process of

(continued on page 20)

## The objectives of the AKMGC shall be:

1. To function as an official club, with coordinated and organized efforts to provide reliable information on goats; to promote miniature goat breeds and goat products; and to educate the general public about the breeds, and their value beyond being novel pets.
2. To advertise the breeds more efficiently than is possible to do individually, and to publicly provide for and service the goat industry.
3. To support well-equipped and -managed miniature goat farms as one of the best means of introducing the goat and related products.
4. To promote good will and understanding among its members and to discourage destructive thoughts and acts. To these ends we pledge our greatest efforts.
5. To assist its members and others, whether show or pet breeders, in producing the best goats of their chosen breeds, and to breed for healthy, productive goats.
6. To study and encourage balanced rationing and the cooperative buying of suitable feeds at a reasonable cost.
7. To encourage all available assistance from City, County, and State, and to protest undesirable laws that would injure the industry.
8. To assist the "herdsperson" (politically correct) and breeders in dispersing of their products at a price that will tend to build up the industry through truthful advertising, and further, to reject and call attention to advertising found to be misleading or otherwise less than truthful.
9. To provide a means for a group of people who share a common interest in goats to come together in spite of geographic location, in order to learn more about the breeds, exchange ideas and knowledge about raising, maintaining, breeding, improving, and promoting goats and goat products.
10. Through the strength of a club to foster and support the development of miniature goats in 4-H, and State fairs, as a means of helping the youth of our communities.
11. Through the membership of a club, and fundraisers, to sponsor annual shows, where individuals will have a means of gauging progress in their own breeding program and thereby contributing to the continued overall improvement of goats as a whole.
12. And through the memberships of the club functions, to offer everyone ways to enjoy their animals.



Find our club By Laws online at:

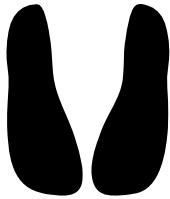
<http://alaskaminigoatcache.com/bylaws.pdf>

## Remember when...

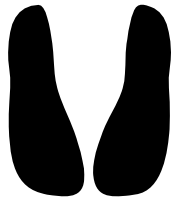
The first meeting of the Alaska Mini Goat Cache was called to order on November 18, 2003 at 1:05 PM at the home of Robyn McBride in Wasilla, Alaska, with the idea of creating a safe haven for all miniature goats.

Since then, we have continued to provide entertainment with our goats for public petting zoos at church events, Family Night with the military, and promotions at local businesses. We also hold shows at the Alaska State Fair annually and we have been involved in State parades. Occasionally, we sponsor health and testing clinics and strive to provide educational resources to our community.

**The Alaska Mini Goat Cache is open to anyone interested in miniature goat breeds. Breeders of registered and unregistered goats, show enthusiasts, and single pet owners alike, regardless of age, race, or creed, are all welcome.**



*Founding Member, Robyn McBride with Apache.*



## *Our thoughts go out to...*

Many of us have said goodbye to some wonderful friends. This space is reserved for remembering those that hold a special place in our hearts and memories. If you would like to pay tribute to any of those you've lost, please submit their names to the Newsletter Editor for inclusion here. We will withhold your name unless you specifically ask that we mention you. If you'd like to write a longer story, please contact us for guidelines.

If you enjoyed this newsletter, perhaps you would consider advertising in our next issue. To place an ad today, please contact our Newsletter Editor. Call Heather Fair in Wasilla at 232.5414 or in Anchorage at 441.1851 or contact her by email at [news@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:news@alaskaminigoatcache.com)

### Newsletter Advertising

<u>Half Page:</u>	1 Issue	\$7
	6 Issues	\$35
	12 Issues	\$60
<u>¼ Page:</u>	1 Issue	\$5
	6 Issues	\$25
	12 Issues	\$45
<u>Business Card:</u>	1 Issue	\$3
	6 Issues	\$15
	12 Issues	\$25
	Website only 6 mos.	\$10
<u>Classified Ads:</u>	20 words	\$1
	20 words + picture	\$2
	50 words	\$2
	50 words + picture	\$3

We aim to publish six or more newsletters annually. Deadline for new business or classified ads is the 20th of each month prior to the next publication. After this date, ads will be added only as space allows. To obtain discount on multiple issues, ads must be paid in full before first publication.

*A little purebred Nigerian Dwarf buckling recently born at Treasurer Heather Fair's Fair Skies at All I Saw Farm.*



### *Did you know?*

Members can advertise relevant sale items on the club's website **for free!**

[AlaskaMiniGoatCache.com](http://AlaskaMiniGoatCache.com)

**Are you online? We are! Follow us at**

<http://Facebook.com/akmgc> and <http://twitter.com/akmgc>



*Huck Daugherty with his sheep and two purebred Nigerian Dwarf goats, Yancey and Yo Yo. The Daugherty family are new goat owners residing in Juneau.*



## Calling all Pygmy fanciers!

You may have seen this in previous issues, but it's so important, we feel it's worth repeating (again)!

The Alaska Mini Goat Cache is an affiliated club with the National Pygmy Goat Association (NPGA). We would like to continue sponsoring pygmy goat shows, but participation in the events and planning has fallen to critically low levels. In fact, despite several attempts to garner sponsorships and encourage exhibitors, we were unable to hire and fly in a pygmy goat judge for the Alaska State Fair in Palmer in both 2009 and 2010. While we did manage to offer a pygmy goat show at our June 2009 Summer Solstice Show, due to low entry numbers, we failed to meet sanctioning requirements.

**We miss our pygmy friends and their fun-loving owners! We know you're out there and we'd really like to see you again!**



Please come to our meetings, renew your memberships, recruit fellow pygmy owners, and proudly exhibit your beautiful animals at our shows. While your goats make great pets, they also act as wonderful stewards to the public and we would love to see them more often, especially in areas beyond the petting zoo! We have all tremendously enjoyed the events focused on your breed over the last several years and we need your guidance and support to secure these events well into the future. Of course we'd also love to see your other goats at our events too!

*"Caring for your horse like no other place on earth."*

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## News!

Do you have news to share with the goat community? Make your submission today and we'll help you spread the word! Email [news@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:news@alaskaminigoatcache.com), snail mail 645 G St., Ste. #100-579, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, or telephone 907.441.1851 (Anchorage area) or 907.232.5414 (Mat-Su area).

### **Alaska goat milk soaper acknowledged at 2010 ADGA Bath Products Competition**

Secretary Tisa Witham and Member Karlene Brouillet traveled to Tucson, AZ for the American Dairy Goat Association convention in October. In addition to attending several soap making, cheese making, and training seminars, the two mingled with judges, breeders, and other ADGA enthusiasts. As "Bartender" to Lavish Me Soap Bar, Tisa also placed her first two entries in ADGA's annual Bath Products Competition held at their Convention. Although she didn't win this time out, Tisa earned lavish praise for her unique, high-quality creations.

### **Report from ADGA Board Meeting**

At their meeting at the 2010 Convention in Tucson, Arizona, the ADGA Board voted in favor of disallowing judges to sign any non-ADGA show forms shows only sanctioned by ADGA. This includes the widely used American Goat Society win acceptance forms. This may mean more dual-sanctioned shows are on the horizon for those with AGS-registered purebred dairy and pygmy goats working to earn AGS titles.

The Board also voted against authorizing the distribution of the Registration Committee's survey regarding ADGA-registered Nigerian Dwarf goats exceeding the breed's current height maximums (23.5" at the withers for bucks, 22.5" for does). Standing taller is currently a breed-specific disqualification, similar to AGS' Rules and Regulations. The Nigerian Dwarf Goat Association's current height maximums are 23" for bucks, 21" for does.



## Pumpkin Pie

A free recipe from <http://AmericasTestKitchen.com>

**Why this recipe works:** Too often, pumpkin pie appears at the end of a Thanksgiving meal as a grainy, over spiced, canned-pumpkin custard encased in a soggy crust. We wanted to create a pumpkin pie recipe destined to be a new classic: velvety smooth, packed with pumpkin flavor, and redolent of just enough fragrant spices.

Canned pumpkin contains moisture, which dilutes a pie's flavor. To maximize flavor, we concentrated this liquid by cooking the pumpkin with sugar and spices, then whisked in heavy cream, milk, and eggs. This improved the flavor and the hot filling let the custard firm up quickly in the oven, preventing it from soaking into the crust. For spices, we chose nutmeg, cinnamon, and, surprisingly, freshly grated ginger. Sugar and maple syrup sweetened things, but tasters still craved a more complex pie. On a whim, we added mashed roasted yams to the filling and tasters appreciated the deeper flavor. To streamline the recipe we switched to canned candied yams and cooked them with the pumpkin. To keep the custard from curdling, we started the pie at a high temperature for 10 minutes, followed by a reduced temperature for the remainder of the baking time. This cut the baking time to less than one hour and the dual temperatures produced a creamy pie fully and evenly cooked from edge to center. **Makes one 9-inch pie.**

### COOKING THE FILLING



Simmering the filling for pumpkin pie is an unusual step, but its benefits are three-fold. First, cooking the pumpkin and sweet potatoes drives off moisture and concentrates their taste. Second, cooking the spices along with the pumpkin allows their flavors to bloom. Third, heating the

filling allows it to firm up quickly in the oven, rather than soaking into the pastry and causing the crust to become soggy.



## Pumpkin Pie (continued)

A free recipe from <http://AmericasTestKitchen.com>

### KEEPING THE CUSTARD FROM CURDLING



**OVERCOOKED** A pie cooked at 425°F the whole time curdles and becomes watery and grainy.



**SILKY SMOOTH** Starting the pie at 400°F and finishing it at 300°F allows it to bake without curdling.

If candied yams are unavailable, regular canned yams can be substituted. The best way to judge doneness is with an instant-read thermometer. The center 2 inches of the pie should look firm but jiggle slightly. The pie finishes cooking with residual heat; to ensure that the filling sets, cool it at room temperature and not in the refrigerator. To ensure accurate cooking times and a crisp crust, the filling should be added to the prebaked crust when both the crust and filling are warm. Serve at room temperature with whipped cream. Vodka is essential to the texture of the crust and imparts no flavor; do not substitute.

### INGREDIENTS - Crust

- 1 1/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour (6 1/4 ounces)
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 6 tablespoons (3/4 stick) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/4-inch slices
- 1/4 cup vegetable shortening, cold, cut into two pieces
- 2 tablespoons vodka, cold (see note)
- 2 tablespoons cold water

### INGREDIENTS - Filling

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup whole milk
- 3 large eggs plus 2 large yolks



### Pumpkin Pie (continued)

A free recipe from <http://AmericasTestKitchen.com>

#### INGREDIENTS - Filling (continued)

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (15-ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 1 cup drained candied yams from 15-ounce can (see note)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon table salt



#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. **For the Crust:** Process 3/4 cup flour, salt, and sugar in food processor until combined, about two 1-second pulses. Add butter and shortening and process until homogenous dough just starts to collect in uneven clumps, about 10 seconds; dough will resemble cottage cheese curds with some very small pieces of butter remaining, but no uncoated flour. Scrape bowl & redistribute dough evenly. Add remaining 1/2 cup flour & pulse until mixture is evenly distributed around bowl & mass of dough has been broken up, 4 to 6 quick pulses. Empty mixture into medium bowl.
2. Sprinkle vodka & water over mixture. With rubber spatula, folding to mix, pressing down on dough until dough is slightly tacky & sticks together. Flatten into 4-inch disk. Wrap in plastic & chill at least 45 minutes, up to 2 days.
3. Adjust oven rack to lowest position, place rimmed baking sheet on rack, & heat oven to 400°F. Roll dough out on generously floured (up to 1/4 cup) work surface to 12-inch circle about 1/8 inch thick. Roll dough loosely around rolling pin and unroll into pie plate, leaving at least 1-inch overhang on each side. Working around circumference, ease dough into plate by gently lifting edge of dough with one hand while pressing into plate bottom with other hand. Chill 15 minutes.



### Pumpkin Pie (continued)

A free recipe from <http://AmericasTestKitchen.com>

4. Trim overhang to 1/2 inch beyond lip of pie plate. Fold overhang under itself; folded edge should be flush with edge of pie plate. Using thumb & forefinger, flute edge of dough. Chill dough-lined plate until firm, about 15 minutes.
5. Remove pie pan from refrigerator, line crust with foil, & fill with pie weights or pennies. Bake on rimmed baking sheet 15 minutes. Remove foil & weights, rotate plate, & bake 5 to 10 additional minutes until crust is golden brown & crisp. Remove pie plate & baking sheet from oven.
6. **For Filling:** While baking pie shell, whisk cream, milk, eggs, yolks, & vanilla together in medium bowl. Combine pumpkin puree, yams, sugar, maple syrup, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg, & salt in large heavy-bottomed saucepan; bring to sputtering simmer over medium heat, 5-7 minutes. Continue simmering, stirring constantly & mashing against sides of pot until thick & shiny, 10-15 minutes.
7. Remove pan from heat & whisk in cream mixture until fully incorporated. Strain through fine-mesh strainer set over medium bowl, using back of ladle or spatula to press solids through strainer. Rewhisk mixture & transfer to warm prebaked pie shell. Return pie plate with baking sheet to oven for 10 minutes. Reduce heat to 300°F & continue baking until edges of pie are set (instant-read thermometer inserted in center registers 175°F), 20 to 35 minutes longer. Transfer pie to wire rack, cool to room temperature, 2 to 3 hours. Cut into wedges & serve.



*Special thanks to Ellen Kane at Pioneer Ridge B&B, who graciously provided discounted lodging for our 2009&2010 Alaska State Fair judges.*

**Local Miniature Goat Websites of Interest:**

(\*\*as with all internet links, parental supervision is advised\*\*)

**Clubs:**

Alaska Mini Goat Cache

Club website: <http://www.alaskaminigoatcache.com>

On Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/akmgc>

On Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/akmgc>

On Yahoo Discussion Groups:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskamgc>  
(must be a member to join discussion list)

Alaska Dairy Goat Association

On Yahoo Discussion Groups:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/akdga>  
(must be a member to join discussion list)

**Other Local Sites of Interest:**

Alaska Livestock Sales: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alaskalivestocksales>

Craig's List Anchorage Farm & Garden: <http://anchorage.craigslist.org/grd>

Craig's List Fairbanks Farm & Garden: <http://fairbanks.craigslist.org/grd>

Craig's List Kenai Farm & Garden: <http://kenai.craigslist.org/grd>

Craig's List Juneau Farm & Garden: <http://juneau.craigslist.org/grd>

Alaska's List Farm & Garden: [http://alaskaslist.com/1/posts/14\\_Farm\\_Garden/0](http://alaskaslist.com/1/posts/14_Farm_Garden/0)



**National Miniature Goat Organizations of Interest:**

American Goat Society: <http://www.americangoatsociety.com>

American Dairy Goat Assoc.: <http://www.adga.org>

Nigerian Dwarf Goat Assoc.: <http://www.ndga.org>

Kinder Goat Breeders Assoc.: <http://kindergoatbreeders.com>

Miniature Dairy Goat Assoc.: <http://www.miniaturedairygoats.com>

National Miniature Goat Assoc.: <http://www.nmga.net>

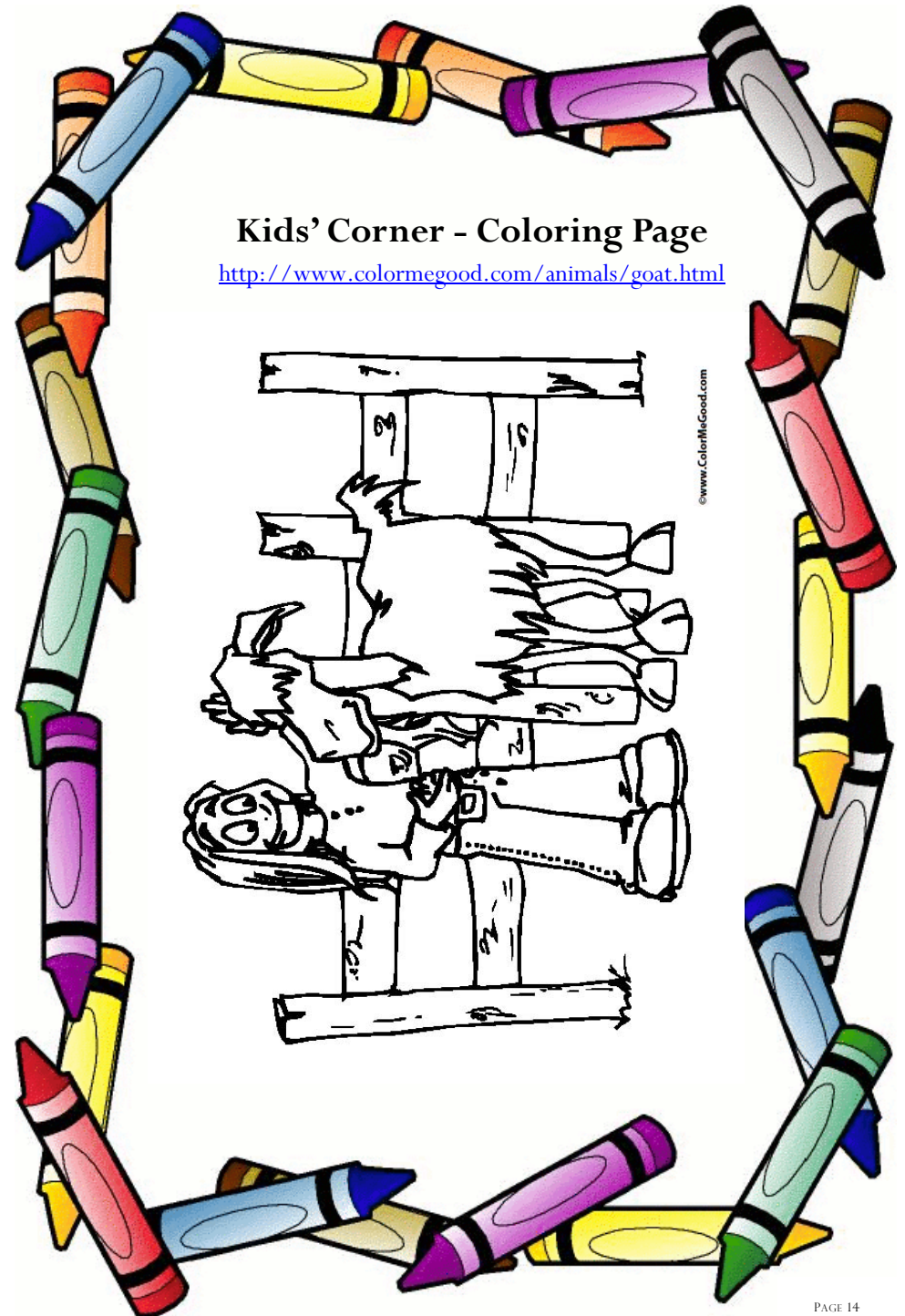
The Miniature Goat Registry: <http://www.tmgronline.org>

Miniature Silky Fainting Goat Assoc.: <http://www.msfgaregistry.com>

National Pygmy Goat Assoc.: <http://www.npga-pygmy.com>

Pygora Breeders Assoc.: <http://www.pygoragoats.org>

PCA Goat Registry: <http://www.pcagoats.org>





Left:  
Lowell Fair with  
Lost Valley C Mockingbird  
at Treasurer Heather Fair's  
All I Saw Farm.



Center: Two new Fair Skies bucklings recently born at  
Treasurer Heather Fair's All I Saw Farm.

Right:  
Fair Skies YZ  
Zvonari.  
Zvonari resides  
at Treasurer  
Heather Fair's All  
I Saw Farm.



# NOVEMBER 2010

**Sun**

**Mon**

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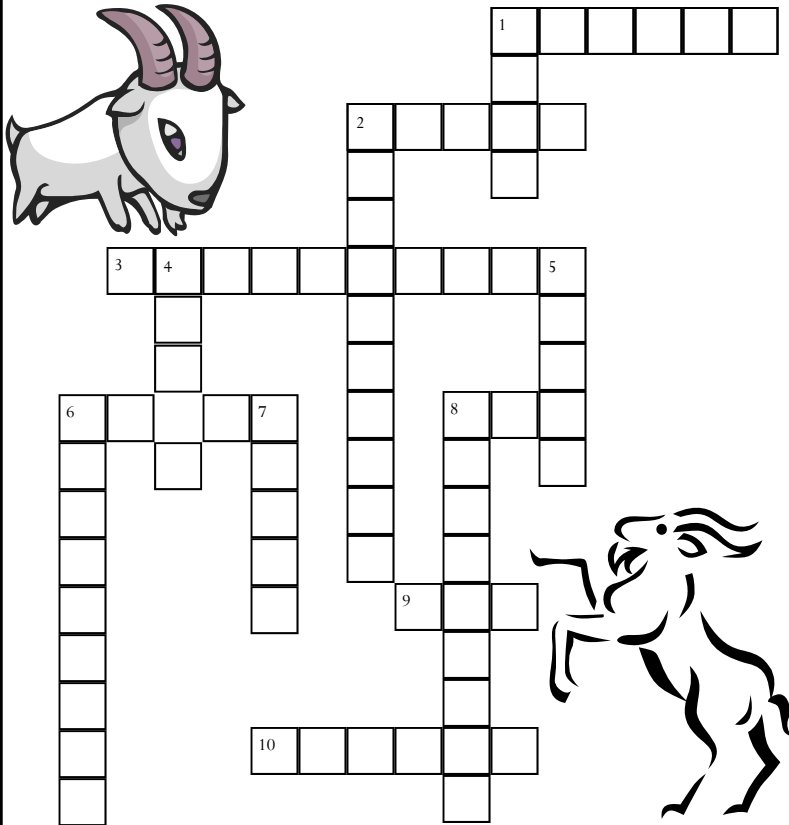
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## Crossword!

Be sure to pick up our next newsletter to see the answers!



### Down

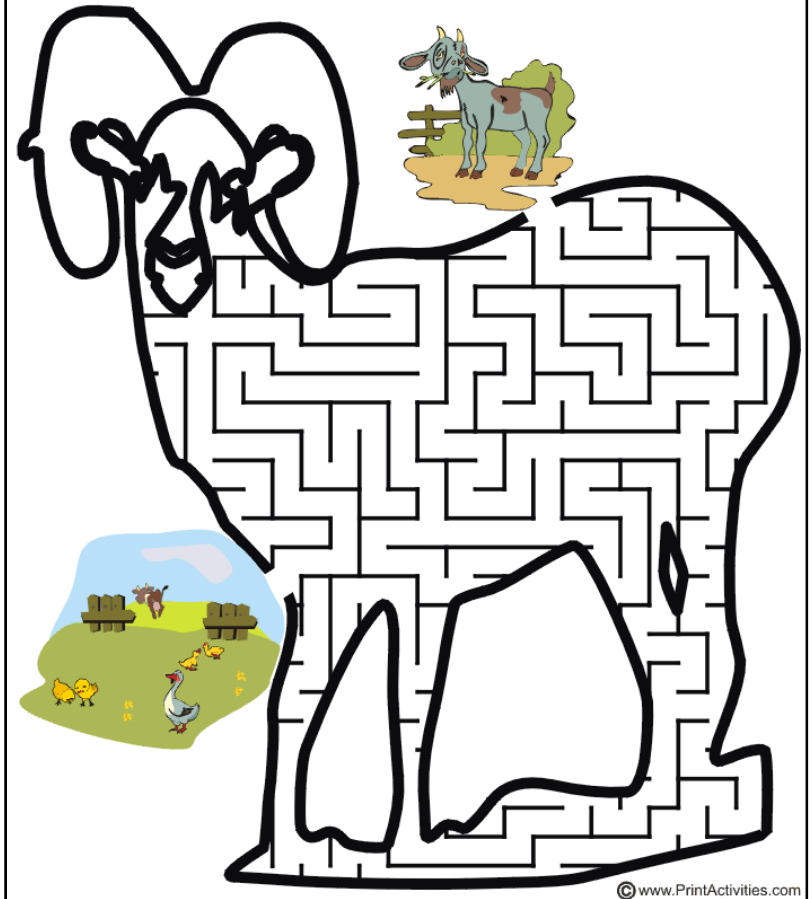
- 1 Not an antler, but a \_ \_ \_ \_
- 2 Offered all the time
- 4 Tummy
- 5 Unregistered
- 6 One of a goat's best skills
- 7 Milk "faucets"

### Across

- 1 Feet
- 2 The winter look
- 3 Kidding
- 6 Goat-speak
- 8 Not gum, but \_ \_ \_
- 10 Baby caprine

## Kids' Corner

[http://www.printactivities.com/Mazes/Shape\\_Mazes/Goat-Maze.shtml](http://www.printactivities.com/Mazes/Shape_Mazes/Goat-Maze.shtml)



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To contact your legislators, visit:

<http://www.ltgov.state.ak.us/elections/distcom.php>

To contact Dr. Gerlach, VMD at ADEC:

[http://dec.alaska.gov/divs\\_contacts/index.htm#vet](http://dec.alaska.gov/divs_contacts/index.htm#vet)

To watch for public notices from ADEC:

[http://dec.alaska.gov/public\\_notices.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/public_notices.htm)

See also: <http://realmilk.com>

# HEY!

IN  
THE  
NEXT  
ISSUE,

## YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

See page 6

for our **very reasonable** ad rates!  
Only \$3 for a business card ad!!



Edgefield As Good As Gold and Edgefield Awestruck (names pending). Purebred Nigerian Dwarf doelings, Goldie resides at Secretary Tisa Witham's Edgefield and Awestruck resides at Treasurer Heather Fair's Fair Skies at All I Saw Farm.

Need to stock up?

Here are some popular online suppliers:

<http://caprinesupply.com>

<http://hoeggergoatsupply.com>

<http://jefferslivestock.com>

<http://pbsanimalhealth.com>

## KETOSIS: What is it Actually, and How Does it Happen?

*continued (Reith)*

switching over from outside food to living on one's own tissue sets up a negative chemical reaction within the body. In the words of Dr. W. C. Allenstein, DVM, a cow vet that wrote for Hoard's Dairyman for many years, "*When this fat utilization occurs, free fatty acids are released into the blood stream and are used by the liver for energy. If this occurs at too fast a rate, the liver is bombarded with too many fatty acids, and there is an increase in ketone bodies released into the system. At a certain level the classic symptom of acetone odor on the breath and in milk [if the animal is lactating] will occur... The ketone bodies formed by incomplete fat metabolism by the liver create these symptoms.*" Dr Allenstein goes on to conclude: "*Today we know that anything that disturbs the body - other diseases, missed feedings, conditions disturbing feed intake, will create ketosis.*"

Lori Ward, then a student in Dairy Sciences at the University of Wisconsin, noted in an article that when the animal is forced, by lack of an external energy source, to turn to its own body for sustenance, "*The body fat is mobilized to supply needed energy. The mobilized fat is processed in the liver, and it tends to accumulate. In most fatal cases the post mortem findings reveal a fatty liver.* During fat mobilization, ketone bodies (one of which produces acetone) are produced and circulated in the blood, hence the names 'ketosis' or 'acetonemia'."

Lori notes that most of the accepted ketosis treatments attempt to raise blood glucose in some manner. This provides a quick energy source for the victim, ending its need to live on its own fat reserves to survive.

A classic example of how ketosis gets involved (and often is the *only* disorder that gets recognized and treated, the end result being the loss of the victim's life) is found in an article I wrote on Hypocalcaemia. [Editor's note: see the club's December 2009 Newsletter for this article, <http://alaskaminigoatcache.com/news.htm#newsletters>.]

When a pregnant doe is being fed a dangerously imbalanced ration and stops eating a large part of that ration to instinctively try to correct the imbalance, the loss of this external energy source forces

*(continued on page 27)*

## Starting Newborns Right: Birth to Weaning

By Maxine Kinne

(from <http://kinne.net/b2wean.htm> reprinted with permission)

The stork brings active, healthy kids most of the time, thank goodness. There are some basic things we can do to help them into the world and start them off right.

Be prepared! Kidding shouldn't come as a surprise. A healthy start begins in clean, dry, freshly-bedded privacy with supervision to make sure everything goes OK. If it doesn't, it is very important to intervene before a situation becomes critical. When a healthy doe gives birth easily, and in a good environment, most neonatal problems are due to chilling, starvation, and bacterial infections.

### Get Kids Breathing

Some fetal membranes are very tough, and the kid arrives like a gift inside a balloon. Break the membrane so the kid can start breathing as soon as it is born. Rub its face with a towel for stimulation, and stick a piece of straw up its nostril to make it sneeze. You can pinch an ear or the tail to get a few good yells out of the newborn. A little sneezing and hollering helps inflate the lungs. If a kid has trouble clearing its airways, pick it up by the hind legs and hold it upside down for a few minutes. A dark red or purple color of the gums is a sign that the kid has been oxygen deprived. This symptom resolves with time.

### Protecting Against Germs

As an extra hygiene precaution, I place a clean towel behind the doe for each kid's arrival. No kid is allowed off of the towel until its navel is dipped in 7% iodine. This helps prevent serious bacterial infections in early life. Iodine should be applied to the entire cord up to and including the belly wall. Use a small container for the iodine, like a plastic film canister or a baby food jar. Lower the kid's umbilical cord into the iodine, hold the jar against its tummy, and turn the kid upside-down to coat the umbilicus. I like to repeat this procedure when the kids are about one hour old.

### Chilling

Cold-weather delivery, dystocia, and hypoglycemia can all contribute to reduced body temperature in newborns. Chilled

## Starting Newborns Right: Birth to Weaning,

*continued (Kinne)*

kids won't eat, nor will the mother want them to. Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) can develop because the kid won't eat. These conditions are usually avoided if the kid eats soon after birth. Chilled kids are lethargic and depressed. Feel the temperature inside the kid's mouth with your finger. If it feels cool, artificial heat must be used to raise its temperature to 102°F.

You are only 98.6°F, and it's impossible to warm a kid sufficiently inside your coat. Place the kid in a cardboard box and wrap a heating pad (medium heat setting) around it. If you can't get the pad around the whole kid, lay the kid on top of it. Cover the kid with towels to retain the heat. Thirty to sixty minutes of supplemental heat should do the trick. When the kid's temperature approaches normal, it should become more active and alert and display interest in finding something to eat. Electrical cords are very hazardous - don't leave the mother goat alone in the same area with the heating pad, or she may bite into it and electrocute herself.

### Hypoglycemia and Starvation

Kids are born with very limited energy reserves in the form of brown fat. They must eat soon after birth - the sooner the better. Without food in the tummy, body temperature goes down and the kid becomes hypoglycemic. Without your help, the kid's condition will advance to depression, lethargy, coma, and death. The best way to prevent this is to make sure the kid eats as soon after birth as possible.

A keratin plug in the streak canal of each teat is nature's way of protecting the udder against bacterial invasion. Remove the keratin plugs by milking one or two streams of colostrum out of each teat to be sure milk is readily available.

Colostrum is the thick, yellow "first milk" present in the udder when the doe gives birth. It is rich in maternal antibodies that protect kids against disease during the first few weeks of life. Kids absorb colostrum antibodies through the intestinal lining. The body's ability to assimilate these antibodies begins to decline within two hours of birth. By the time a kid is 24 hours old, the gut can no longer absorb the large molecule antibodies.

## Starting Newborns Right: Birth to Weaning,

*continued (Kinne)*

### After Day One

Because goats are relatively independent at birth, kids need to be socialized within the first four days to be tame and friendly. You will need to have their trust before you do all the rotten things to them listed below. The down side of friendly kids is that kids constantly swarm you and become proficient at untying shoelaces, or at least slobbering all over them, at very early ages. Handle them gently and often in those first few critical days.

**Vaccinations** need to be given at appropriate intervals, depending on your style of herd health management. *Clostridium perfringens* Types C & D and tetanus toxoid are the most essential of these. Some manufacturers combine these two, and that type of combination is called CD/T. Kids may need additional vaccines if the dam was not given prenatal shots three to four weeks before delivery.

#### Timing Basic Vaccinations

##### Pregnant Does (30 days before due)

1 dose CD/T

##### Kids from Immunized Does

1 dose CD/T @ 4 weeks

1 dose CD/T @ 8 weeks

1 dose CD/T @ 12 weeks

##### All Adult Goats (annual)

1 dose CD/T

##### Kids from Non-Immunized Does

1 dose Tetanus Antitoxin @ birth

1 dose CD/T @ birth

1 dose Tetanus Antitoxin  
@ disbudding

1 dose CD/T @ 4 weeks

1 dose CD/T @ 8 weeks

Talk with your veterinarian about giving injections of selenium if you are in an area of the country deficient in this trace mineral. Additional vaccines can be given for specific problems within a herd.

**Disbudding** is much easier on kids from 7 to 14 days old than on older kids. The success rate, defined by regrowth of

## Starting Newborns Right: Birth to Weaning,

*continued (Kinne)*

scurs, is very good when they are disbudded at this age by someone who is proficient at it.

**Castration** method and age varies with the herdsman's personal preference. I like to castrate at 10 to 12 weeks old, giving the plumping a little extra time to grow, which may help to avoid urinary calculi. If you have success neutering at other ages, you have found the right answer for your herd.

**Coccidia and worms** can be very harmful. Young kids are very susceptible to these and external parasites because their internal and external tissues are tender and succulent. It is a good idea to deworm the doe on the day she gives birth to reduce the number of oocysts in the barn and on the premises. Toward the same objective, it is advisable to treat does in late gestation for coccidia.

Length and timing of coccidia treatments in pregnant does depends on which product you use. As the kids grow, monitor coccidia and worms with fecal analysis and treat them as needed. Regularly examine young kids for biting and sucking lice. Louse and tick powder labeled for cats is safe to use on young kids.

### Food and Water

When there are too many goats for the amount of feeder space available, kids are the first to suffer. A separate area, called a creep feeder, can be situated in a corner with a feeder inside so the

kids don't have to compete with adults for food. Kids often begin to pick at fine hay within a few days of birth and should have the best. A very small amount of grain can also be offered in the creep feeder or individually.



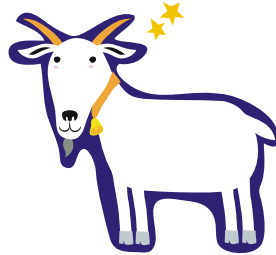
- \* Registering Miniature Dairy Goats
- \* Shows, including online Virtual Show
- \* Milk testing, One-Day & 305-Day Test

**The Miniature Dairy Goat Association**  
PO Box 7244  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
(509) 591-4256

## Starting Newborns Right: Birth to Weaning,

*continued (Kinne)*

Like all goats, kids like to jump up on things, and they don't recognize the danger of a water bucket or trough. The first jump into one may well be the last. Use water troughs with vertical walls under 10". If they jump or get pushed in, they can get out. A death like this is a tragic and unnecessary loss.



### Weaning

Kids should remain with their mothers until they are a minimum of 10 weeks old. The kid is born without a functional rumen and must be eating enough to sustain itself before weaning time. In these first weeks, the kid also begins to learn how to function within the herd. The stresses of weaning are great, as the kid is removed from her mother and the nutrition her milk has provided up to this point. Keep a close eye on internal parasites, as the kid can be quite prone to them during this stressful time. I never wean kids - they nurse until the mother gets sick and tired of them.

Many kids that seem to do poorly within the first few critical hours can be saved with a little extra attention. For their first three months of life, a good herd health program aimed at prevention paves the way to a darned good chance at a long, healthy life.

**Disclaimer:** *The opinions and advice given in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions and advice of the editor and/or club as a whole, nor is any advice meant to replace proper veterinary care.*

*Bill Krostek harvested oat straw on a field he share-crops on the Inner Springer Loop System in Palmer.*

*Photo by Treasurer Heather Fair.*



## Quick Tip

**Chill milk faster!** According to America's Test Kitchen, wine chilled in a small container of salted ice water chilled half an hour faster than wine chilled in the freezer, and an hour faster than wine chilled in a small container of plain ice water. "When ice cubes are placed in plain water, they will absorb heat from their surroundings until they melt at 32°F. When salt is added to the mix, the freezing point and temperature decrease, lowering the ice's melting temperature (which is the same as its freezing temperature) to well below 32°F. The result is a brine significantly colder than plain ice water that can rapidly chill or even freeze liquids (such as cream for ice cream).



"To find out just how quickly an ice brine works, we chilled three bottles of 75°F white wine in three different environments: in the freezer (the usual desperate approach to quick chilling); submerged in a 50-50 mix of ice and plain water; and submerged in 1 quart water mixed with 4 quarts ice with 1 cup table salt stirred in. We checked the temperature of each wine every 5 minutes to see how quickly it reached 38°F (the typical temperature of chilled beverages in the fridge). The wine in the ice brine took 34 minutes, compared with 67 minutes in the freezer and 105 minutes in the plain ice water.

"The next time we need to transform a drink from lukewarm to icy cold, we'll reach for the salt."

<u>CHILLING METHOD</u>	<u>MINUTES TO REACH 38°F</u>
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Salted Ice Water	34 minutes
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Freezer	67 minutes
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Plain Ice Water	105 minutes
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from <http://www.cooksillustrated.com/howto/detail.asp?docid=25557>

**Try applying this great quick tip to chill milk faster!**

**Do you have a quick tip you'd like to share?** Submit your tips for the next newsletter to [news@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:news@alaskaminigoatcache.com).

## KETOSIS: What is it Actually, and How Does it Happen?

*continued (Reith)*

her to turn to her own body's reserves for survival. Since the babies are still growing in her, it's very important to fix the original nutritional imbalance, which in this case is a diet-induced calcium deficiency. The fetuses inside of her are draining her of her own calcium, which is essential for muscle tone. So without calcium she becomes very weak. She has weakened muscles, including the heart muscle, and at the same time is living on her own body reserves because she has stopped eating (and soon is too weak to eat) her imbalanced ration. When a pregnant doe becomes hypocalcaemic and is misdiagnosed by a veterinarian who doesn't understand the nutritional dynamics involved, he fails to replace her lost calcium at the same time that he is reversing the ketosis with energy replacement substances such as propylene glycol or Nutridrench. The result is a drained and weakened system *despite* the treatment for ketosis, and she inevitably dies either of 'unexplained' causes, or of what the vet labels 'milk fever', or 'pregnancy toxemia', or 'pregnancy ketosis', or 'parturient paresis', all of which are misnomers. Then if he does a necropsy he will generally label the cause of death 'liver failure'. I don't agree that liver failure is the actual 'cause' of death. I see it as the 'result' of the animal's not having been diagnosed and treated for *both* the *primary* cause, hypocalcaemia, and the *secondary* cause, ketosis, because of which she dies. The liver failure, then, is not the cause of death, but simply the end result. Ketosis is the *secondary* condition involved. The survival of the animal is dependent upon the discovery and correction of the *primary* condition.

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**Disclaimer:** *The opinions and advice given in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions and advice of the editor and/or club as a whole, nor is any advice meant to replace proper veterinary care.*

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## It's a terrific time to become a member or renew your membership in the Alaska Mini Goat Cache!

It's just \$20/yr for an individual (one vote) or \$25/yr for a family (two votes). Members get free online classified ads, a subscription to the newsletter, and an opportunity to network with like-minded, caring people that know how to have fun with their goats!

### You can now join or renew in one of three ways:

- 1) **Fill out the form** on the facing page (printable form also available on our website at: <http://alaskaminigoatcache.com/membershipform.pdf>) **and mail it in with a check;**
- 2) **Bring the form to one of our events** and pay in person; or
- 3) **Fill out the online form** at our website at: <http://alaskaminigoatcache.com/joinonline.htm> and use our online payment form at: <http://alaskaminigoatcache.com/joinpay.htm> to pay with PayPal (major credit cards and direct bank account drafts accepted).

**And bring a friend to our next meeting.**

**It's time to nominate 2011 officers!**

**Watch for announcements on meeting dates.**



*The herd at Cal's Pals, Clyde & Peg Lee's home on Lazy Mountain near Palmer. Plum (Xtreme Love) & Lovey are purebred Nigerian Dwarf goats in the foreground, with friends, Cardemon (Nubian), Missy (Saanen), & Cherish (Alpine) in the background. Earlier this year Member Clyde donated \$50 for 2010 shows. Thanks, Clyde!*

## Alaska Mini Goat Cache Membership/Subscription Application

The Alaska Mini Goat Cache is open to anyone interested in miniature goat breeds, breeders of registered and unregistered goats, show enthusiasts, and single pet owners alike, regardless of age, race, or creed, all are welcome.

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your first and last names for membership:  
(you may include farm or herd name) \_\_\_\_\_

Your mailing address:  
(this is where you will receive ballots and club news) \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Your email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your website: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed(s) of goat(s) you have: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you offer buck service? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

May we add you to our website's member list? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

### Annual Membership Fees:

Individual Membership (one vote): \$20

Family Membership (two votes): \$25

Your membership includes a subscription to our newsletter and free online classifieds on our website. If you would like to place an ad in the next issue, or if you have something to share, please contact the newsletter editor at [news@alaskaminigoatcache.com](mailto:news@alaskaminigoatcache.com).

### Please send this form and your payment to:

Alaska Mini Goat Cache c/o Laura Manary, 4274 N. Farm Loop Rd., Palmer, AK 99645

Phone: 907.745.6010.

*Membership will not be processed until payment is received.*

Make checks payable to **Alaska Mini Goat Cache** or **AKMGC** or pay online with PayPal at <http://alaskaminigoatcache.com/joinpay.htm>.