

Rearing a Lamb

A lamb is a wonderful pet to rear at any age and is often easier for smaller children to handle. Lambs can be successfully reared on small sections while young as they do not require large areas. During spring many farmers have a few motherless lambs and are happy to give these away as pets. Many farmers will also take the lamb back once the child has completed their project. Ram, crypt orchid, ewe and wether lambs as well as long tailed lambs are all eligible to enter competitions organized at the Waikato A&P Show. If requested some farmers may dock the lamb when it is collected. There are local group days and school days that may or may not except entire long tailed rams or crypt orchid lambs into their events.

Recommended Materials

Lamb	A cover (optional – keeps wool clean)
Bottle and suitable teat that a lamb can readily suck on	
Milk – lamb’s powder or cow’s milk. Calf powder may be used after 3-4 weeks	
Plastic comb and brush (No wire brushes)	
Cloth	Collar and lead
Shelter	Pen
Bedding	Container of water

Early Days

If possible choose a lamb that is only a few days old and begin caring for it immediately. This helps to ensure that a strong bond is established between it and the child. Also only choose a lamb that has been fed colostrum¹ as it will have begun to develop a strong healthy immune system. The child needs to give the lamb a name and record its date of birth and breed.

It is most important that the newborn lamb is kept warm. Build a lamb’s pen in a sunny position and place a shelter in the pen so that the lamb can keep out of the rain, cold winds or hot sun. Some form of bedding should be used in the shelter. A large box lined with clean shredded newspaper, sacking or clean straw is ideal for shelter as this compensates for the warmth that a lamb receives from its mother. Keep the bedding clean by renewing it regularly. The lamb must be kept warm, dry and clean and the area free from draughts.

Saving Dates for Lambs

Early Lambs	01 st July – 19 th August
Late Lambs	20 th August – 20 th September

These dates can be adjusted by the organising school or group to achieve a better distribution of participants in the events. This helps to distribute the awards among more participants. However the above saving dates are never changed for those entering the Waikato A&P Show.

Daily Care of a Lamb

Feeding

A newly born lamb must have its mother’s colostrum or cow’s colostrum. Cow’s colostrum is the best alternative to ewe’s colostrum. Often dairy farmers have a good supply of this during the lambing period. If this is not available use the following home-made mixture of colostrum for at least four days.

Recipe for Lamb’s Colostrum

- 1 litre warm cow’s or powdered milk
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon of cod liver oil

¹ This is the first milk made by the animal’s mother and is high in energy and antibodies, boosting the newborn’s survival chances.

Two litres should be sufficient to start a lamb. Newborn lambs require six feeds daily. This milk must not be watered down. Feed the lamb small amounts and often for the first few days, after which the milk of choice can then be introduced. This may be a proprietary brand that is formulated to feed new lambs. Ensure that the instructions on the container are read, understood and that the milk replacement is suitable for lambs. After approximately six weeks the number of feeds can be reduced to four times daily until nearly weaned. For example 7am, 11am, 3pm and 7pm. Increase the supply of milk according to the lamb's appetite. An indication of 'fullness' occurs when the lamb's flanks are level with its sides. Lambs should never look bloated. The lamb will need to be fed for a minimum of twelve weeks and should never be weaned until after the final show day. If a lamb refuses a feed it must never be forced as this can indicate health problems.

Suggestions for a Daily Lamb Care Routine

- Feed the lamb regularly during the day and remove any soiled bedding from its shelter.
- Wash bottle and teat after each feed. This aspect of welfare is vital to avoid health problems.
- Clean the lamb daily with a warm damp cloth around face, ears and under the front and back legs. After docking when wounds have healed include the tail area. Brush daily, taking care around naval cord area and docking wounds. Brush lightly with a nylon or natural fibre brush but avoid the wool taking on a 'fluffy' appearance. ***Do not under any circumstances wash the lamb*** as this practice will remove all the natural lanolin from the wool.
- Take the lamb for a walk using a collar and lead with a snap hook on one end. The child should pat, cuddle and continuously talk to the lamb and reward it with praise after working together.

Preparing a Lamb for Show Days

Training and working with a lamb should start from an early age. The following events are the most popular and are the main events that the child will compete in during the Waikato A&P Show day. However they are not necessarily the only events that the Schools or the Boys and Girls Agricultural Groups may hold on their own days. These events are all designed to challenge the child as they work with their pet.

Events for Lambs

Call, Follow, Run

This is an interesting event and can indicate the quality of the relationship between the child and the lamb. To train a lamb for this event the child will need to have someone hold the lamb while s/he stands some distance away with a bottle of milk. The child calls the lamb's name. When the lamb comes to the child it receives a gentle pat on the head, then its bottle. Continue patting while the lamb drinks. Note: on show days the child will not be able to use a bottle of milk so ensure that during practice the use of the bottle is gently faded out. The stages in this event are:

Stage One: The Start. The steward holds the lamb. The child takes the lead off and takes it with him/her.

Stage Two: The Call. The child walks to the first peg, turns and calls the lamb. Stand back sufficiently to allow the lamb to move around the peg. It is very important to pat the lamb on the head.

Stage Three: The Follow. Child walks to the second peg with the pet following behind. Remember not to walk too fast.

Stage Four: The Catch. The child runs to the finish, turns and catches the lamb inside the ring. See Figure Two below.

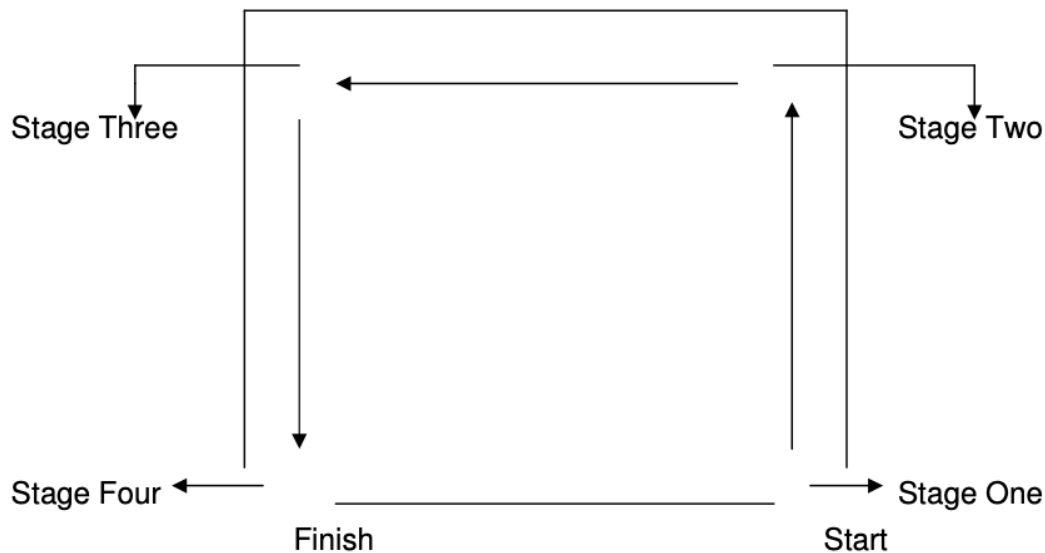


Figure Two: Four Stages that Constitute the Call, Follow and Run as the Most Obvious Pet Event.

Leading

Daily practice can result in a perfect lead on the show days. The lamb is led anti-clockwise around a 10 metre square. Left-handed children may lead clockwise. Each child leads their pet around the outside of the pegs and stops halfway to a count of three. See Figure Three below.

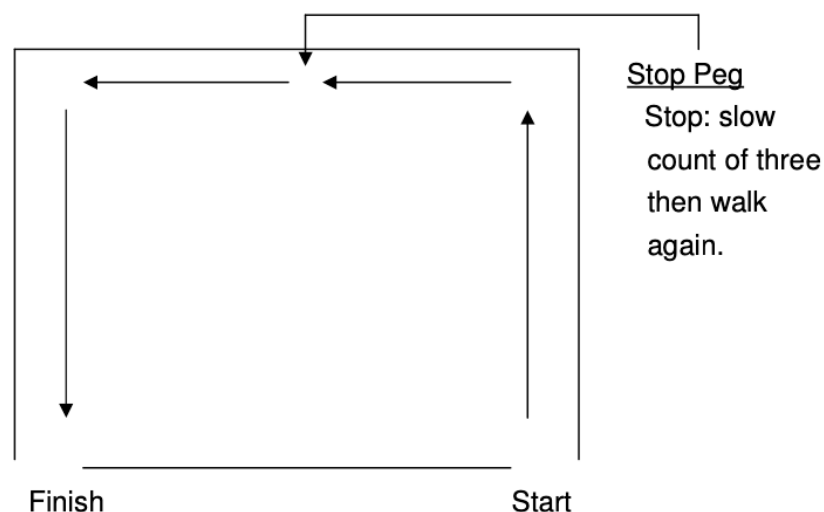


Figure Three: The Course Indicating the Stop Peg

Note: the lead must be held correctly. Form a fist with the right hand and grip the lead with the palm facing up. Leave a length of lead between the hands. The right hand must never be removed from the lead. The left hand should then grip the lead in the same manner but with the palm facing down. There should remain at most, 30- 40 cm of the lead hanging free from the left hand. If the lead is any longer it should be gathered neatly into the left hand with no fingers through any loops. All control should be exercised by the right hand on the lead.

Check that the collar is not too loose or tight. During the event the lamb should not be touched, hit or nudged and the lead must not be pulled or jerked. The only stop is made at the stop peg or if the lamb needs a toilet break. The child should stand upright at the lamb's shoulder and walk at the same pace as the lamb.

Rearing

This section of the competition is usually assessed under the following headings of care, condition and cleanliness.

Care

The child should know the name, breed and date of birth of the lamb. For older children it would be an advantage if they know about the Five in One vaccine given for Pulpy Kidney, Tetanus, Blackleg, Malignant Oedema and Black Disease. The older children will be expected to know whether their lamb has been drenched for worms, how often, what was used and whether it has been vaccinated for Scabby Mouth. All children should be able to explain about docking and what this means. They should be able to talk about their lambs with confidence, knowledge and to describe the strategies that they have used while rearing it.

Condition

This aspect of rearing involves the size for age and breed of lamb. The child should know what has been fed to their lamb, how much and how often. This aspect of rearing includes milk, grass, meal, hay, water and anything else the lamb has been fed.

Cleanliness

The lamb needs to be brushed daily. The wool should to be kept clean and therefore a cover is recommended. It is especially important to keep the tail area clean as the longer this is left the worse it gets and the lamb can become very unpleasant to be with. A warm damp cloth may be used to clean the lamb's underbelly, ears, face, mouth, eyes, legs, hooves, and flanks for 9 showing. After each feed wipe the lamb's mouth to avoid any build-up of dried milk. A well-reared lamb will be bright, clean, well grown and alert.

Health Problems and Some Solutions for Lambs

It has already been emphasised that a healthy lamb has the correct feed, clean bottles and teats, is given warm shelter and housed in clean conditions. However at times health problems do arise. Sometimes the child can take care of these but at times a professional such as a veterinarian (vet) is required. If a lamb does not respond to treatment immediately contact the vet as the lamb will have a better chance of recovering and the child will be happier.

A lamb that is refusing to feed may have scours (diarrhoea). This must be treated quickly to avoid dehydration and death. Use the following regime:

Scouring Lamb Regime

Feed one	replace milk with electrolytes (same as milk)
Feed two	same as above
Feed three	milk made from yoghurt (3/4 normal feed volume)
Feed four	electrolyte mix
Feed five	small feed of milk
Feed six	electrolyte

If the lamb responds and is well, use yoghurt for three to four more feeds then begin the normal feeding regime. If in doubt contact your veterinarian.

As has already been mentioned there is also the Five in One vaccine that can be injected to prevent Pulpy Kidney, Tetanus, Blackleg, Malignant Oedema and Black Disease.

Rearing a Calf

Although many children still have access to calves due to the significance of the dairy industry in the Waikato and King Country regions it is increasingly common for children who do not live on farms to borrow a calf to rear as a pet for showing. Many farmers are only too happy to loan a calf due to the extra care and attention that it will receive. It is preferable to choose a heifer calf but bull calves are also accepted into the Waikato A&P Show day. Children also are increasingly rearing beef calves for show. The beef section has grown in popularity over recent years. Some people have a concern about the size of a calf in relation to a younger child. But calves make great pets and respond well to all the love and attention that a child can bestow on them. Calves 'love' all the grooming, washing and regular feeding. With time and attention the calf will form a trusting relationship and enjoy 'hanging out' with its handler.

Recommended Materials

Whole milk	Hay or straw
Meal, nuts or museli	Fresh clean water
Brush and soap (Two brushes are recommended, one being softer than the other. Never use nylon brushes as they are too hard on the calf's skin.)	
Bucket	Cloth
Halter preferably not rope	Lead
Shelter (warm, water proof draft free)	Clean bedding (if animals are housed)
Practice ring (optional)	Cover

Selecting a Calf

Select a calf that has been fed on colostrum for a minimum of four days as its immunity system will have been strengthened against sickness. However this is seldom a problem as most calves are selected at approximately three to four weeks of age. Encourage the child who is to rear the calf to participate in the selection process. This is an advantage as it is important for the child to have a calf that s/he likes and vice versa. The bond between the child and the calf will be instant and it can only be strengthened as they work and play together.

Saving Dates for Calves

Early Calves	10 th June – 26 th July
Late Calves	27 th July – 20 September

These dates can be adjusted by the organising school or group to achieve a better distribution of participants in the events. This helps to distribute the awards among more participants. However the above saving dates never change for those entering the Waikato A&P Show.

Some Recommendations for Selection

- Whenever possible select a calf from a cow which has good conformation. Often a calf chosen for calf club will be chosen by eye appraisal only as it is not necessary for the Breeding Worth (BW) to be known. This calf is a child's pet. However a calf from a cow that has good conformation and breeding is likely to inherit some of the parent's good qualities such as health and temperament. Always choose a friendly calf.
- Select a calf that has balance. For example, the calf has a very alert head, is bright, has fine shoulders and a straight back line.
- If possible choose a calf with a soft skin, fine coat and hair that sits flat as it is easier for children to groom.
- After selection it is recommended that the child should take over the responsibility of caring for the calf as soon as possible. The child needs to be part of the rearing programme in order to establish a strong bond with his/her calf.
- Give the calf a name and record its date of birth and breed.

It is recommended not to choose the calf too soon as boredom can set in for both. On selection the calf will require a warm waterproof shed with a clean, dry floor. Use dry shavings or straw for the bedding. The shed should be situated in a very sunny position so that the calf can enjoy the extra warmth. Frequently check that the calf's shelter is clean. Also cover the calf from the cold weather. The cover assists the calf to shed loose hair and promotes a shiny coat. On hot days the cover can be removed. Keep the cover clean and give it an occasional wash.

A cover can be made from a clean sack or can be purchased from an agricultural stock and station store. (Covers fashioned from plastic fabrics are not recommended.) To avoid chaffing ensure that the cover is not too heavy on the calf. Chaffing can sometimes be seen over the top of the tail and around the neck as these are the areas that the cover seam sits upon. It is in these corresponding areas on the cover that the belts are sown causing a constant pressure that may cause chaffing and discomfort. If necessary sow soft fabric over the cover seams where it sits across the top of the tail and the neck. It is also an advantage to line the cover with a blanket with one side covered with a silk fabric. Attach this blanket to the inside of the cover in such a manner that it can be removed and frequently washed. Ensure that the silk surface lies against the body of the calf. This helps to generate heat, assists in giving the calf a shiny coat and aids the movement of the cover against the calf's body. In placing the cover on the calf make sure that the front and back belts are not too tight to prevent any chaffing and remember that calves are continuously growing, therefore the cover needs to be adjusted frequently.

Daily Care of a Calf

An affinity between animal and the child can rapidly develop as a result of handling, grooming, leading and feeding. Has as already been mentioned the child should feed the calf as much as possible in order to develop a close friendship.

Feeding

Due to the calf's age it will have already begun a feeding programme to maintain its health. The following methods are recommendations that are useful to feed a calf:

Methods for Feeding a Calf

- Bottle and teat
- Drinking from a clean bucket or container
- Udder Mudders
- Calfaterias

Ensure that all drinking vessels are thoroughly washed and cleaned in warm water after each feed to prevent sickness. After each feed wipe the calf's mouth with a damp cloth to prevent any build-up of dried milk that can form a crust resulting in sores. Feeding methods are subject to frequent revision, so take any opportunity of help from an experienced parent or dairy farmer to plan a feeding programme. Sufficient feed should be given to maintain warmth and promote growth. Over-feeding can cause scours. If scouring occurs the child should consult an adult without delay. To avoid creating surpluses of stale milk make up only sufficient quantity for an individual feed. The calf should have access to clean fresh water and pasture at all times. Provide good meadow hay, barley straw and fresh meal, nuts or muesli in measured quantities.

The calf needs to be fed milk regularly, at least twice daily. Use whole milk or a proprietary brand. Try to make feeding time at approximately the same time each day and use the milk not only as a method to promote warmth and growth but also as a reward. This helps the calf to develop an expectation that after grooming and a walk there will always be a drink of milk. As the calf grows increase the supply of milk and expect to feed it for approximately 10-12 weeks. Although the supply of grass, hay and meal concentrates is increased during the rearing programme it is recommended not to eliminate milk from the daily feed programme. Milk retains the 'bloom' on the calf and is an advantage on show days. Dry feed such as meal should always be fresh and kept free of access by birds and rodents.

Handling

During feed times pat and brush the calf while talking to it in a gentle and friendly manner. Spend time with the calf as this all assists in the development of trust and loyalty. Trust is a vital aspect that demands time and determination if the calf is to feel secure and confident working with the child. When the calf has become accustomed to handling at feed times then introduce it to a halter. Initially the calf should be tethered for short periods gradually lengthening the time span. Always tether the calf in a safe environment. Never tie it to barbed wire or standing on concrete as in the case of being frightened the calf may be seriously injured. A calf should never be dragged or hit. If this occurs it will immediately pull back on the lead and resist all attempts to walk in a correct manner. Hitting a calf will only create mistrust and will associate handling with punishment. The child needs to begin working with the calf in a caring and friendly manner in order to create a lasting trust and bond.

Once the calf is used to the halter the child can begin taking it for walks. Remember just as people enjoy looking at a new environment, so do calves. Take it to as many different places as possible, introducing it to different sights, sounds, actions, people and other animals. As the calf grows lengthen the distance and have it walk in the manner that is expected in the ring to avoid it forming any bad habits. It is impossible to change a style of walking on or just before the show days. While out walking, the child should continue to talk to the calf as well as practicing turns, stops and the pigtail (turning clockwise). Before the child and the calf know it they will have practiced all the aspects of leading and developed competence in walking around the ring together.

The handling of any calf is greatly assisted with the use of a good halter that is both comfortable for the calf and safe for the child. The halter can be made from either soft rope or leather. It is preferable for the calf to have two halters one of which is used only on show day. However this is not necessary. A simple practice halter can be made by tying an eight-centimetre loop at one end of the rope and another eight-centimetre loop positioned a few centimetres away. See Figure Four, (page 14). The length between these two loops must fit comfortably over the bridge of the calf's nose. The long end of the rope passes behind the back of the calf's head and through the two loops and to pass under the calf's jawbone. See Figure Four below.

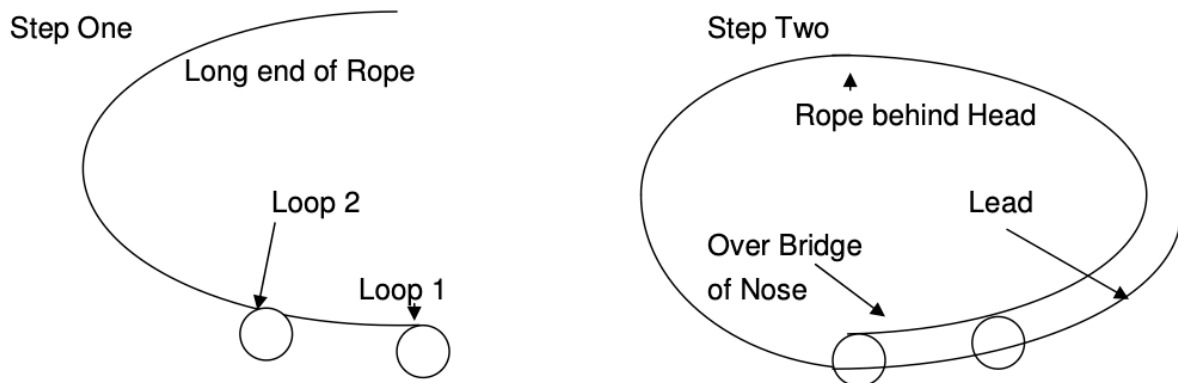


Figure Four: Practice Halter

Grooming

Daily grooming is a very important aspect of this project. The calf should be brushed all over. For example the legs, head, tail, tummy, neck and body. Special attention should be given to the uncovered areas. A comb for the tail and a firm brush and damp hands make good tools to remove the loose hair from the calf's coat. Never use a sharp object such as a hacksaw blade to remove loose hair as this practice will damage the skin causing the coat to look dull and coarse. Check that the cover is not too tight and adjust as required. Look very carefully for any lice under the brisket, between the front legs, around the jaw and nose, on the neck and between the back legs.

Before each show day it is an advantage to wash the calf as this enhances its appearance. Wash the calf approximately three days before show days to allow time for the coat to flatten down and the oils to return. There are many proprietary brands available but warm water and sunlight soap do an excellent job. Rinse off the soap with warm water in which a sprig of rosemary has been allowed to steep for a few minutes. This practice removes the soap from the hair and assists the coat to regain its soft shiny appearance. Rub the calf all over with a dry towel, concentrating not only on its back but also under the brisket and belly. Brush the calf and cover it immediately. To prevent any possibility of it catching a chill do not allow the calf to be standing wet.

Learning to Walk with a Calf

Leading a calf correctly is a great achievement in itself as it encompasses all the interactions between the child and the calf. A child and calf that can walk together with confidence helps to denote that many hours of work, care, attention and practice has been put into this project. Once the child and the calf have mastered leading they will always walk as a team. Leading also encompasses holding the lead safely and correctly. The following dangerous habits are to be avoided at all times as some of them directly compromise the safety of the child and the calf.

They are:

- Wrapping the lead around hands
- Fingers through rings on halter or lead
- Never release the right hand from the lead
- Never allow the lead to drag on the ground

Once the calf has accepted the halter, will tie up and relax it is time to practice leading (walking) every day. To prevent interference with the calf's vision the child should always stand behind the ear and in front of the calf's shoulder. The child should hold the lead firmly in the right hand as this hand acts as the steering hand and brake. At no time while walking should the child take the right hand off the lead. If a child is left-handed then these recommendations will need to be adapted. Hold the lead approximately 15-25cm away from the side of the calf's head as there must be a gap between the child and the calf. The lead should be held in the right hand that is clenched to form a fist with the palm facing up. There should be a length of lead between the hands. Take the lead firmly in the left hand, form a fist with the palm facing down. In short the right palm is always facing 'up' and the left palm is always facing 'down.' Ensure that the lead between the hands never hangs below the top of the child's knees to avoid tripping.

If the lead should be a little too long fold it into the left hand until the end hangs approximately 30-45cm. Ensure that the child's fingers are over the top of the lead. There must never be any fingers through loops to prevent the possibility of the child being dragged by a frightened calf. If the calf should become frightened and bolt then the lead will just unravel leaving the child standing. The child can use a slight forward flick or motion with the lead in the right hand to start the calf walking and a gentle backward motion with the lead to stop the calf. To prevent the calf from having to stop suddenly the child can anticipate the stop and very gently with a backward movement of the right hand stop the calf. It is frequent practice with the calf that will install knowledge of these commands. Commands need to be consistent to enable the calf to know what to expect. It is recommended not to practice leading in a formal manner until approximately three weeks before the first show day to prevent the calf becoming bored with the routine. Remember if the child has been walking the calf daily in the correct manner, when the time comes for a more concentrated effort most of the work has already been done.

Ring work

It is an advantage to erect a ring that is similar to the measurements and layout that is used for show days. Place the pegs to mark the course and use it daily, approximately a week before the first show day. If the calf is familiar with the work in the ring then its chances of success are enhanced. Familiarity leads to confidence and security between the child and the calf. With lots of practice and patience the calf will become used to changes and the show days will just be another interesting experience.

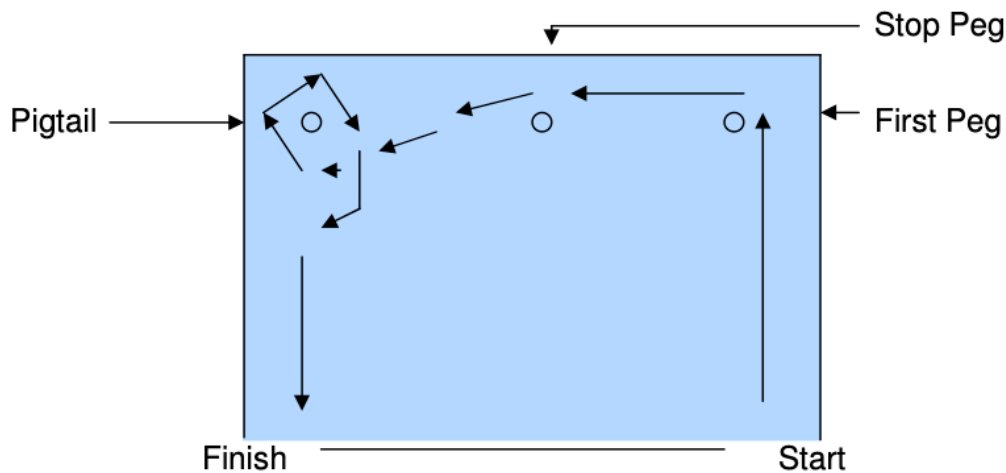


Figure Six: Layout of a Calf Ring

Calf Events

Leading

This event has largely been covered in the section, Learning to Walk with a Calf. The child and the calf will be expected to walk as a team around a ring. The judge will indicate to the child when to begin leading. The child will walk the calf around the first peg, turn left to walk to the stop peg and stop for a count of three. The calf and the child will then walk towards the pigtail moving around it in a clockwise direction and then to the finish. As the calf and child begin to approach the pigtail the child's step will be slightly forward (half step; this is almost unnoticeable) of the calf to encourage it to turn. The right hand may move only very slightly forward. At approximately half way around the pigtail the hand moves back (these two actions are almost unnoticeable) into its former position as the calf now knows that it is beginning to walk out of the pigtail. With plenty of practice a calf does not need to be 'steered' into the pigtail as it will already know what to do when turning in a clockwise direction. Practice is definitely an advantage for success. The calf is not expected to stop in the ring apart from at the stop peg or when it needs a toilet break. In the event of the calf stopping and the child unable to encourage the calf to continue then the judge or steward can assist. The child must ensure that the calf walks on the outside of the pegs. It is recommended not to walk the calf too close to the pegs as it has four legs and requires room to maneuver itself comfortably.

Rearing

This event focuses on the cleanliness of the calf, the rapport, understanding and knowledge that a child has. The focus is on the following aspects:

- Care
- Cleanliness
- Condition
- Knowledge about the calf, its needs and behaviour
- Name, date of birth and breed
- Type of food the calf has been fed and how it has been reared
- Diseases to look for and how to treat them
- Happy moments during the project

(The above aspects are only some that may arise.)

The child will be expected to present a calf that they have reared and worked with and is in excellent condition with have a very clean coat. The calf should be well brushed, show no evidence of chaffing and have very little loose hair. The legs, hooves, between the 'claws,' tail, belly, nose, eyes, and ears should all be clean. The inside of the ears should be wiped only to the 'crinkled' region to avoid any possibility of damage to the calf's hearing. This is a delicate region and should never be cleaned with cotton wool buds. A damp cloth on the end of the child's finger is sufficient to clean the inside of the ear. ***Clipping, oiling the coat or nugging the hooves is not permitted.***

Type or Conformation

This class is a great opportunity for children to learn basic discernment in selecting a sound animal. The focus is on structure and utility. Dairy type can be divided into heavy and light breeds (not necessary if numbers are low) and is applicable only for calves of dairy origin. Dairy calves are divided into light or heavy breeds due to the requirements of breed characteristics for specific breeds. The dairy breeds are classified into the following type:

Light

Jersey
Ayrshire
Guernsey

Heavy

Friesian
Shorthorn

Due to the number of crossbred dairy cows entering the national herd there are many calves that will display characteristics of either their dam or their sire. Check with the head steward if there is any confusion regarding light or heavy type.

Dairy Type (Conformation) (Female progeny only)

The focus is on the conformation or structure of a calf of dairy origin. In this event the judge will look for the positive attributes that make for a 'balanced' calf. This process can begin with looking at the calf's head, beginning with the jaw to check that it is not 'under or over shot' and that the eyes and ears are positioned to form an alert looking calf. The calf's legs should be checked to ensure that it walks in the correct manner and the brisket should be checked for width. Notice should be taken of the 'spring of the rib,' checking for ample capacity that will enable the heart plenty of room to pump oxygenated blood around the body. There should also be plenty of loose skin over the ribs and width between them to indicate capacity for future growth. The structure across the pelvis and pin bones should be checked to ensure that the calf has 'ease of calving' as a cow. The child will be asked to walk the calf towards and away from the judge so s/he can check that the calf walks freely and correctly. The calf should display an overall balance and femininity.

Beef Conformation (Type)

This event is for calves of beef origin and is judged in a similar manner to the dairy type. It is also suitable for animals that are not eligible for the Dairy Type event. It is often mistakenly believed that the biggest beef calf will be selected. However there is plenty of precedence to suggest that this is not so as the judge will look for an animal that has the potential to grow for an industry dependent upon marketing prime products. The beef animal not only has to have a 'sound' frame but must also be suitable for breeding purposes as well as the local or export trade.

Health Problems and Some Solutions for Calves

To rear a healthy calf it is important that the child and the parent/caregiver keep a check on the condition and habits of the calf. Frequently check for lice, particularly after show days. Infestation by those tiny creatures can cause a rapid decline in both general health and bloom. If lice is discovered it can be eradicated by using a proprietary lice powder. Read the manufacturer's directions carefully before application. Note: it is recommended that "pour-on" products not be used on calves that are being prepared for showing as these products require extremely careful application. If it is necessary to use one of these products the calf should be over six weeks of age and the application undertaken by an adult. There are many proprietary powders suitable to treat lice that are safer to administer and just as effective. The powder can be rubbed all over the calf's body or if it is used as a precautionary measure placed along the calf's back, under the brisket and between the back legs to ensure a good coverage. Another health problem is scours. This can occur in a calf whose feeding regime has been changed. However scours occurs more commonly in a calf that is drinking too much or has picked the bacterium up from the ground or another calf. This problem should be treated immediately to assist the calf to make a full recovery. Scours is often treated by feeding the calf a solution of electrolytes that is obtainable from a vet who will also supply instructions.

Of significance to the cattle industry is the incidence of Tuberculosis (TB) among the herds. In a move to eradicate TB from the national herd the Ministry of Agriculture has a strict policy on animal health which sets out regulations under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Calves from herds whose owners are registered with the Livestock Improvement Corporation's (LIC) MINDAID identification (ID) programme can continue to use that system. All other owners of cattle are covered by the regulations of the Animal Health Board under which it is compulsory for each calf over the age of one month to wear an ear tag that displays a bar code, the herd number and the calf's number. It is also compulsory that all calves must travel accompanied with a TB certificate, both to any show and on returning home. The certificate must be shown if an officer from MAF should ask to see it. For further information ring freephone 0800 437243 or 0800-ID SCHEME.

Rearing a Kid Goat

Kid goats are some of the most 'fun' animals to rear. Their intelligence, curiosity and 'quickness' of mind add to their cuteness. Kid goats will willingly explore their environment by climbing, sniffing and nibbling at anything and everything. There is little that does not interest or fascinate them. They are naturally explorative and love to play. Once a kid goat has begun to be reared as a pet they become very loving and loyal to their handler. Though the strategies used to rear a lamb and kid goat are similar there are some subtle differences.

In choosing a kid goat it is recommended that the child select a doe. If the child selects a buck kid it is preferable that it be castrated. Buck kids and crypt orchid kids are eligible to enter the kid goat section held at the Waikato A&P Show as they become more aggressive when they begin to grow. However some schools and Boys and Girls Agricultural Groups do allow buck and crypt orchid kids to enter their show days. A kid buck should be castrated at approximately one to two weeks of age. Often the farmer will do this task before the kid is taken home. As dairy and fibre goat farming has increased in popularity there are goat farmers who will either loan kid goats or give them away. Kid goats can also be reared on a small section and make wonderful 'lawn mowers' as an adult pet as well as providing good company in the garden. (Kid goats will be referred to as 'kids.')

Recommended Materials

Kid goat	Cover
Bottle with a suitable teat for a kid	Milk powder (suitable for kids or lambs)
Brush (no wire brushes)	Cloth
Collar and lead	Pen
Hay and meal or nuts	Shelter
Clean bedding	Container to hold clean water
Practice ring (optional)	

Early Days

On selecting the kid give it a name, record the breed and date of birth. Where possible choose a kid that has received its mother's colostrum and is about five days old. A kid at this age will quickly bond with the child. It is most important that a newborn kid is kept warm. When the kid goat pen is made choose a sunny position and put an A-framed shelter into the pen so that the kid can keep out of the rain, cold winds or hot sun. Sacking or clean straw is ideal for bedding as this compensates for the warmth that a kid receives from its mother. Keep the bedding clean by renewing it regularly. The kid must be kept warm, dry and clean and the area free from draughts. Kids are extremely susceptible to pneumonia and will die quickly if they lose the will to live.

If the kid has not had colostrum use the recipe below remembering to add one teaspoon of glucose for instant warmth and energy.

Recipe for Kid Goat Colostrum

- 1 litre powdered milk that is suitable for lambs or kid goats (read instructions)
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon of cod liver oil
- 1 tsp glucose

Two litres should be sufficient to start a kid. Gradually reduce the colostrum content after three days so that more powdered milk is mixed into the feed to prevent scours. Newborn kids require at least four feeds daily. For example 7am, 11am, 3pm and 7pm. **Feed in small amounts and often** for the first few days. Cows milk is not recommended due to its higher fat content. Ensure that the instructions on the container are read, understood and that the milk replacement is suitable for kids or lambs. After the first few days the milk of choice can be introduced. Kids begin to eat grass from approximately one week of age. At approximately six weeks of age reduce the number of feeds to three times daily and by approximately 12 weeks of age it will need only two feeds per day. Clean dry meadow hay, water and shelter from the rain, wind and sun should be available at all times during the rearing programme. Slowly introduce the kid to pellets after approximately four to six weeks of age. A kid will need approximately four to five months of feeding with milk and plenty of roughage if it is to develop into a well-grown and healthy goat. Roughage develops the rumen and helps to prevent scours.

Saving Dates for Kids

Early Kids	1 st July – 19 th August
Late Kids	20 th August – 20 th September

These dates are flexible and can be adjusted by the organising school or group to achieve a better distribution of participants in the events. This helps to distribute the awards among more participants. However the above dates never change for those entering the Waikato A&P Show.

Suggestions for a Daily Kid Goat Care Routine

- Feed kid regularly during the day and remove any soiled bedding from its shelter.
- Wash bottle and teat after each feed. This aspect of welfare is vital to avoid health problems.
- Clean with a warm damp cloth around face and ears and under the front and back legs daily and groom with a soft clean brush.
- Wash the kid before show days (optional but never fibre kids).
- Keep the hooves, the hair between the 'claws' and around the hooves trimmed. This helps to prevent scold.
- Check daily for lice and drench the kid for worms if necessary.

Take the kid for daily walks and introduce it to a variety of interesting obstacles such as walking a plank and jumping on to and over logs. Introduce one obstacle at a time and once the kid has mastered it move on to the next interesting challenge. Try to make any challenge 'fit' the size of the kid. For example, it is not recommended that little kids try to jump on to hay bales as these may be too high. While out walking the child should encourage the kid to walk beside him/her ensuring that the kid's front legs are in line with the child's legs and its head held high. This encourages the kid to become confident walking on a lead and close beside the child. Allow the kid to run and exercise freely each day. The amount of time that a child spends with his/her pet is generally reflected in the bonding between them.

Preparing a Kid Goat for Show Days

While the child and the kid have been working and playing together they will have plenty of opportunities to develop the skills that are required for showing as these can all be developed outside of the ring, making the entire process of rearing a kid both enjoyable and achievable. However practice in a ring can certainly improve the level of skill but do not begin ring practice too soon so as to prevent boredom. There are three main events that the child and the kid will be expected to master on show days.

Most Obvious Pet

To train a kid for this event the child will need to have someone hold the kid while s/he stands some distance away with a bottle of milk. The child calls the kid's name. When the kid comes to the child it receives a gentle pat on the head, then its bottle. Continue patting while the kid drinks. **Note:** on show day the child will not be able to use a bottle of milk so ensure that during practice the use of the bottle is gently faded out.

Leading

This event is now undertaken around an obstacle course. See Figure Seven and Eight below.

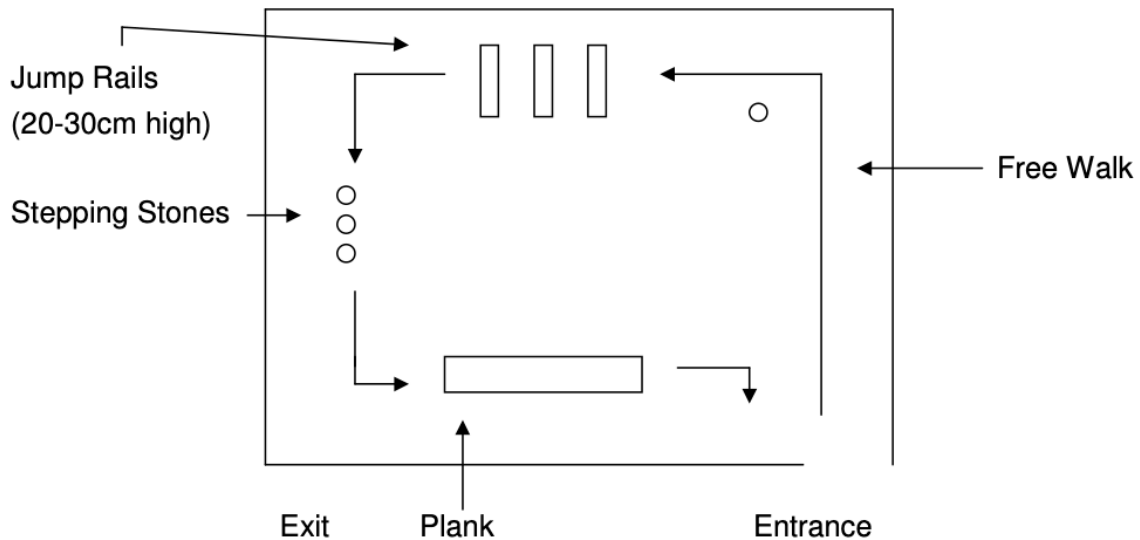


Figure Seven: Obstacle Course for Kid Goat

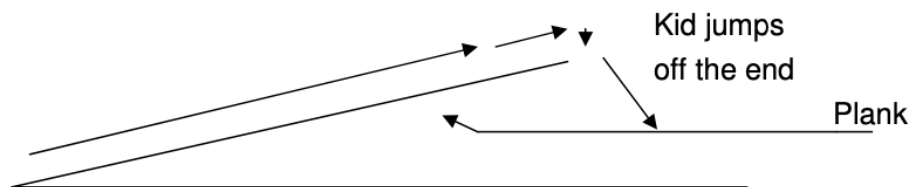


Figure Eight: The Plank

The child walks with the kid, staying on the outside of the obstacles. The child is not permitted to climb over the obstacles or to assist the kid on to them.

Rearing

This event is usually assessed under the following headings of care, condition and cleanliness. The kids entering this event should be presented with clean ears, eyes, mouth, legs, hooves, flank, under-belly and tail. The hooves should be trimmed and hair clipped around them.

The child should know the name, breed and the date of birth of their kid. The older children should know about health problems such as scours, footrot, lice and internal parasites and the treatments. Children should be able to talk about their kids with confidence, knowledge and to describe the strategies that they have used to rear it. The child should know which category his/her goat belongs to and their purpose in primary sector. Senior children should be aware of other breeds and their purpose. For example, what is an angora or a milking goat bred for?

Condition

This section involves the size for age and breed of kid. The child should know what their kid has been fed, how much and how often. This aspect of rearing includes milk, grass, meal, hay, water and anything else the kid has been fed.

Cleanliness

Washing kids (*not fibre goats*) before show day is optional as kids are extremely susceptible to pneumonia. If they need to be washed do it only on a sunny day and ensure that the kid is dried immediately, covered and kept very warm. A blow wave hair dryer is often used to dry newly washed kids. A cover is an advantage as it will assist in keeping the kid clean. See Health Problems and Some Solutions for Kids below. The kid's underbelly, ears, face, mouth, eyes, legs, hooves, and flanks need to be clean for showing. A warm damp cloth may be used for this. After each feed wipe the kid's mouth to avoid any build-up of dried milk. Although dairy goat kids can be brushed, Angora kids can be brushed only very lightly or plucked gently to remove any loose hair so as to retain the natural style and crimp in their fleece. A well-reared kid will be bright, clean, well grown, alert and explorative.

Health Problems and Some Solutions for Kid Goats

While keeping and caring for the kid there are health problems that can arise. One of the more common is that the kid can develop lice and will possibly need to be drenched for worms (parasites) that live in the gut and intestines. There are many proprietary brands of lice powders and sprays suitable for kids that are available either from the local vet or from a stock and station store. After the first treatment repeat the same dosage in approximately 10 days. Always be sure that the instructions on the container are fully understood before application. There are also drenches that will treat both worms and lice. Also kids may need a supplement of selenium. Check with a vet for the required dosages.

On selecting the kid enquire as to whether the doe (mother) has received a Five in One vaccine prior to kidding. If this has not been administered then it is recommended that the kid be vaccinated against pulp kidney, tetanus, Blackleg, Malignant Oedema and Black Disease. However be aware that some kids are from organic farms where other practices are undertaken.

Scold can be prevented by keeping the hair trimmed around the top of the hooves and in between the 'claws.' This condition can predispose the kid to footrot and can be identified by reddening and heat around these areas. If scold is unchecked open sores can develop. These will need to be treated by a vet who can offer powders and ointments. However prevention is better than cure as scold will cause distress to the kid and hinder its development.

It is recommended that hooves are kept trimmed to prevent footrot. Trimming prevents the hard surface of the hoof from forming a layer beneath the hoof itself, therefore trapping moisture and hinders the kid from keeping its feet dry. It is recommended to always provide an area raised off the damp ground that will enable the kid to stand on and dry its feet while it is resting. If the kid does develop footrot carefully trim the exterior of the hoof back to healthy tissue and treat with zinc sulphate ten percent solution. A bluestone and water solution can be used. However this remedy may leave a stain on the hair round the feet.

Always use a warm damp cloth to wipe any milk from the kid's mouth after each feed to prevent scale developing in this area. If scale occurs (milk spots around the mouth) dab some baby oil or Vaseline on it twice daily. After one to two days the scale should be lifted.

As there are several reasons for kids developing scours. It is recommended that a vet immediately treat this condition as kids can dehydrate and loose condition rapidly. Be sure to follow any instructions very carefully.

Due to kids being very explorative there are several plants that they should be kept away from to prevent sickness and in some instances death. The plants are:

Rhododendron	Deadly Nightshade
Rhubarb	Potato Tops
Tomatoes Tops	Daffodils or any plant that develops from a bulb
Oleander	Lantana
Ragwort	

There are others that are not identified on this list. As a safety measure it is recommended that kids have access to normal pastures that contain few weeds. For example, kids love to eat sour thistle. However this weed causes kids to develop diarrhoea.

Miscellaneous

There are three major show days in the Boys and Girls Agricultural Group's calendar year. The first day is held at the child's local school. School Day is usually organised by the Board of Trustees and the school principal. Schools can opt to arrange a variety of events. For example, some schools will arrange an obstacle course, or a fancy dress event that is based upon a theme in relation to a learning unit. The variety of events is limited only by the imagination. It is the first outing for the child's pet and in general follows the same events that will be held at Group Day. The judges for the school day are frequently from the local area.

The second show day is Group Day. Several schools within the same locality and a delegate from the Waikato King Country Boys and Girls Agricultural Group meet to organise the format for this day. Group Day is usually organised using similar events to those at the Waikato A&P Show, but will sometimes have a variety of other events incorporated. As there are a number of schools in a group the responsibility for the organisation is often rostered ensuring that each school has the opportunity to host this day. The judges are selected from an area beyond the locality of the competing schools. Judges are appointed by the convenor of the Waikato King Country Boys and Girls Agricultural Group.

The third show day is held at Waikato A&P Show. This day is organised by the convenor, chief stewards and delegates and is the responsibility of the Waikato King Country Boys and Girls Agricultural Group. The Waikato King Country Boys and Girls Agricultural Group establishes the rules for this day. The lamb, calf and kid goat sections are each assigned a Chief Steward who is responsible for their administration. This day is open to any child who has participated in a Girls and Boys event and details are outlined in the annual schedule. All judges and stewards are generally selected from the area covered by the Waikato King Country Boys and Girls Agricultural Group. However at times there may be some visiting judges from other agriculture groups.

Although the Waikato Show Day is often considered the pinnacle of showing for children, there are events arranged at other A&P shows that cater for children and are held throughout the spring and summer seasons. Again these are often organised along the same principles as the Boys and Girls section of the Waikato Show.

Strategies for Judging and Placements on Show Days

Although many schools and Boys and Girls Agricultural Groups will employ different strategies to select award winning animals and their handlers, in general the placing of award winners follows the same procedure as that used at the Waikato A&P Show. The procedure at the Show is as follows:

There are five place winners in each event.

All first place winners compete in the championship event.

The animal which is placed first becomes the champion.

The animal that was placed second to the champion will then enter the ring and be judged against all remaining animals.

The reserve champion will then be chosen.

There are several cups and trophies awarded annually at the Waikato A&P Show and these are explained on the schedule. Often schools will award cups and trophies and they are responsible for establishing their own rules. The Boys and Girls Agricultural Groups will also make such awards on group day. However the rules for group days are established by the local Boys and Girls Agricultural Group in association with participating schools.

Layout of Rings

It is important in planning the ring layout that there is a barrier between the events and the public. This assists the children and their pets to participate without hindrance from unnecessary distraction.

Ring Sizes

Calves	18 x18 metres
Lambs	10 x10 metres
Kid Goats	10 x10 metres

These measurements may be adjusted to fit the area provided that the rings are not too small and therefore do not sufficiently challenge the children. The above measurements are always used at the Waikato A&P Show.

Materials for Constructing Rings

Calf Ring

It is suggested that the calf ring be constructed using rope, waratah standards or electric fence tape and standards. Place the first peg, stop peg and pigtail to allow plenty of room for the child and calf to walk around them safely. The first peg and pigtail are placed approximately two metres diagonally from the corner. The stop peg can be placed on the children's left hand side and approximately half way between the first peg and the pigtail. Rope off an area around the ring that prevents the calves from being distracted by the public. The grass where the calves will walk should be cut very short and all evidence of cutting removed to prevent distraction.

Lamb Ring

The lamb ring is usually constructed with scrim supported by electric fence standards and waratah standards on three sides. Use short stakes indicating the first peg, the stop peg and the third peg. Mow the grass in the entire area very short and remove it from the ring. This prevents lambs stopping to nibble.

Kid Goat Ring

This ring can be constructed using either scrim or wire netting supported with either waratah standards or electric fence stands. The placement of pegs is similar to the layout used for the lambs. However there is no stop peg in this ring during the leading event. If the equipment shown in Figure Seven is not available use alternatives but keep in mind that kids are small animals and require equipment that they can manage safely.

Role of Children, Parents/Caregivers and Schools

Children

Children should select a lamb, calf or kid that they like and spend plenty of time grooming and playing with it. Treat the pet with as much kindness as possible ensuring that it is well fed and warm. To create a lasting and trusting bond it is recommended that the children do as much of the work as possible. This project belongs to the child and it is his/her work that is expected to be shown in the ring. Create interest in the pet among other members of the family by frequently keeping parents/caregivers informed about the progress that is being made. Most of all children should enjoy all the activities between them and their specially chosen pet.

Parents/Caregivers

Always encourage the child to undertake all the work and to spend as much time as possible with their pet. Smaller children will need assistance in order to develop confidence. However assistance does not equate with taking over the child's project. Ensure that the child uses safe work practices when handling their pet. It is recommended that parents administer any products and undertake procedures that are required to maintain the health of the pet. For example, children would not be expected to administer drenches, lice powder, trim the hooves on the feet of a kid.