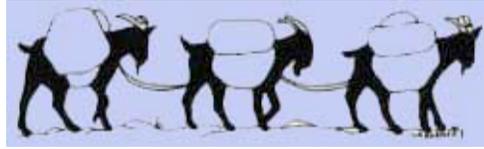


# Goat Tracks



## Journal of the Working Goat - Summer 2018

*Until You Have Loved an Animal, Part of Your Soul Remains Unawakened. --Anatole France*

*The indoor life is the next best thing to premature burial. --Edward Abbey*



**Cuzco, the one-horned wonder, waves goodbye...**

**Page 14**



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*Page 7: Land Use Issues... still trying to hold on to our access*

*Page 9: Goats. Not just a weed eater, Lauren Ruddell*

*Page 20: Rapid River, ID, early spring hike*

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## Goat Tracks

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# On Track with Goat Tracks

by Larry Robinson



Considering that it only seemed like a short while back that we were struggling with winter snow, waxing longingly about summer hiking, it is now hard to get a grip that we are almost to the point of the high country opening, and for hiking here in Idaho to begin.

I do have to note that I have already been able to get out into the woods with an early spring hike. There are two locations here in Idaho that are compatible with spring hiking, Hells Canyon, which I did in 2015, and the Rapid River which I hiked for the first time this year. It was certainly good to get out this early in the year, but the ticks were ever-present, to the degree that I had two sharing the tent with me at different times. *UGH!*

Land use plans continue to be center stage for goatpackers. We are objecting to some of the finer points in the Shoshone's plan, and the Idaho plan still contains a closure which we are in the process of appealing as we write this missive. More detail in the Land Use section of this magazine.

Don't overlook the great article from Nan Hassey regarding her boy Cuzco who recently crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Cuzco, who Nan refers to as her 'wonder goat', had quite a history and it is detailed in this issue.

Also, there will be a recounting of my spring venture along the Rapid River. Hiking rivers are not really my thing, lakes and photography are my primary thrust when I am out in the brush, but any hike is a good one, and not too many areas are available here in the northern tier during the spring months.

Another highlight is an article from the Ellensburg, WA newspaper where they did an excellent coverage of goatpacking with NAPgA member & supporter, Dick Carkner and his boys. You'll find some good pictures with that one.

=====

Remember that NAPgA exists to support you, the working goat owner. Like everything else, NAPgA's ability to make a difference depends on money. The amount of dollars necessary to fight the various land managers can add up to heart-stopping levels in a very short interval. Even if we have a large balance at any given time, be assured that the next time you look there will be a whole lot less. We have put back everything that we received as a settlement from the Shoshone into the continuing negotiations with that same entity regarding their attempts to still close part of the forest.

On top of that, the land use planners in the new Idaho wilderness' refused to listen to reason, and maintained the original proposed closure. There is absolutely NO justification for that, especially in view of the developments of Ms. Highlands research that Movi was virtually non-existent in our goats we pack with. Therefore, we have had to enlist the help of our legal guy, Andy Irvine, in appealing this senseless closure. Andy has been very easy on us financially, but it still adds up when he is preparing something like an appeal to a FS decision.



Maggie Highland, our goat disease specialist and potential savior for goat packing period, has caught the bug, and here is a picture of her first two Kiko boys, cavorting on the hill behind their pen. They were 5 weeks old on May 6th.



Recently, a Canadian lady sent the following message to the relevant Canadian officials:

Hi;

I use Pack Goats to carry my backpack and hiking gear as I have a bad back. I contacted the Nature Conservancy of Canada last year and got permission to use the Backus trails and a letter from my doctor to say I require the use of a weight-bearing goat for hiking. Would a pack goat be allowed to hike on the two trail systems you have and if so would you allow a group of people hiking with their goats? I'm looking at starting up a group for hikers with pack goats or just hikers with goats in Norfolk County.

Thank you for your time.

Regards  
Heather Walton

She received the following message in reply:

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The Ministry is of the opinion that Heather may use her pack goats on the trails at SWCR using her own discretion and risk (given the fact that some trails may be uneven and/or may be being used by other user groups).

At this time we will not be giving a definitive answer to the

use of the reserve for a group of hikers and their goats, but if this does come to fruition, we can address this request at that time.

Best regards,  
Jenny Fulton | Partnership Specialist  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Aylmer District

*And a response from a FB packgoat owner:*

Wooo, whooo! Another thumbs up for using pack goats as assistance goats and bringing awareness to it and opening the door for hikers with a mobility impairment to help them still explore and hike!!

I'm working hard to bring awareness to not only goats as assistance goats but the fun and enjoyment of just hiking with a goat with or without a pack!!

*And since we are talking here about assistance/service goats, here is a short piece about the career of Gracie the service goat. Gracie, on May 31, passed across the Rainbow Bridge at age 15years & 3 months. Gracie leaves behind a panoply of memories and friends.*



Sandra Pratt Amos

37 mins · 11

This wonderful little goat named Gracie made her passage to the Rainbow Bridge today, May 31. She was 15 years and 3 months old. She was certified with Delta Society as a Pet Partner and Animal Assisted Therapy Goat with Dove Lewis for 9 years. As far as we know she was the only goat to be certified for this work. She brought many smiles to people as she visited nursing homes, schools, libraries, and even prisons and many other events. Most of all she was my furry friend for all those years and I will miss her terribly. She was one of a kind.



## Found at Giant Springs State Park: two goats

By: MTN News, Posted: May 23, 2018



Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks found two “kids” at Giant Springs State Park in Great Falls on Wednesday.



*The goats, of course, noted: Hey! No hurry. We're doing fine!*

FWP posted this photo on Facebook at about 2:45 p.m. and said: “Are you missing your two goats? Blue and Princess are at Giant Springs State Parking waiting for you to pick them up!” (As an aside, Giant Springs is in Great Falls, MT, where I was stationed for 2 years. While I would be quick to say that Gt Falls was NOT exactly the high point of my military travels, the Spring in this picture certainly was. According to those who purport to know, it discharges 150 million gallons of pristine 54 degree water per day. An awesome sight and well worth the vist... just NOT in the winter!)

## You can spend the night with goats at this Maine Airbnb

By [Julia Bayly](#), BDN Staff, May 24, 2018

<https://bangordailynews.com/2018/05/24/homestead/this-maine-airbnb-lets-guests-commune-with-the-goats-of-ten-apple-farm/>



Not everyone who travels to Maine on vacation is coming for the lobster.

Some

come for the goats.

At least that’s what attracts guests to Karl Schatz and Margaret Hathaway’s [Ten Apple Farm Airbnb](#) in Gray, where people looking to get away from it all can get away with not only goats, but pigs, sheep, chickens and turkeys.

“We like to share what we do with other people,” Schatz said. “We offer the opportunity to participate in our farm lifestyle and to interact with the animals.”

## Goats on the lam: Paramedics get memorable call

Author: Brian Price, Published: February 27, 2018

<http://www.krem.com/article/news/local/goats-on-the-lam-paramedics-get-memorable-call/281-523901217>

A pair of goats tried following their owner into an ambulance. Lacey Fire tweeted out the “unforgoatable” encounter.



A team of paramedics responding to a medical call in Yelm got an unexpected surprise.

While loading a patient into the back of the ambulance on Monday, the patient’s goats tried following their guardian.

The two goats started climbing into the back of the ambulance.

A paramedic snapped a picture of the goats and emailed it to the battalion chiefs at the Lacey Fire Department.

One of the battalion chiefs saw the opportunity and struck, drafting a pun-tastic tweet that caught a lot of attention on Tuesday.

The patient was transported to an area hospital with nonlife-threatening injuries.

## North Texas Teen Incorporates Goats Into ‘Promposal’

Published at 1:14 PM CDT on Mar 26, 2018

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/North-Texas-Teen-Incorporates-Goats-Into-Promposal-477952723.html>

A North Texas teen came up with a unique way to ask his girlfriend to prom.

Joshua High School student Mason Farley didn’t just want to simply ask fellow student and girlfriend Laney Freeman to prom.

So, he decided to add some goats - yes, goats - to his ‘promposal’.

Farley painted “will you goat with me to prom?” on t-shirts and put them on several goats at a friend’s ranch.

He asked some of Freeman’s friends to get her to walk into a barn on the ranch so he could surprise her and pop the question.

Freeman walked into the barn and saw Farley standing in a pen with the dressed up goats and asked “Will you goat to prom with me?”

Freeman laughed, then said yes!



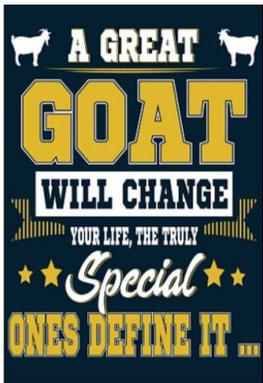
North Texas Teen Incorporates Goats Into ‘Promposal’

## Packgoat Breeders Corner!

Having beautiful bucks end up as packgoat wethers rather than meat is a breeder's dream. Yes it is hard to band the genetics of some of the best -- but the pack goat life is a glorious dream -- and the world only needs so many breeding bucks. We absolutely love living vicariously through the trail pictures that are sent to us.

And if it is so great - why isn't every breeder doing it?

Because it isn't easy. It is downright hard. Harder than any other breeding venture. Before going this route as a breeder, do you have the fortitude to disappoint someone? This year we had deposits and reservations before our goats were even bred. Some of the preferred does only gave doelings - hard news to deliver for someone anticipating the birth of their future trail buddy and companion for seven months.



Are you willing to hold to standards - even when it is heartbreaking? Tonka was reserved before he was born. At six weeks, he is an absolute tank - and it appears that he will continue on that trajectory. With this build, he would make an athlete for sure -- but a sumo wrestler -- not a pack goat.

Hard news to deliver to someone who has loved him since before he was born. Thankfully, we had a suitable replacement, but the news was hard on both sides.

Today, we offered a full refund because in good conscience, we cannot let our prospects go if they are not ready. We need another week with two that were scheduled to go to their new home in another state this weekend. The foundation is critical for their future success. Understandably, the packer has waited a very long time and is anxious - and also has a schedule that our timeline might not fit. They might be angry with us. They might say terrible things about us. Or they might understand and appreciate our commitment.

Nature is capricious - and breeding, birth and development is nature. Many variables are outside of our control - which is hard to understand in today's world. As a breeder, you cannot be afraid to disappoint your buyer from the outset. This is an enormous responsibility. Packers invest a great deal of time - four years - and their whole heart - into bonding and training their pack goat.

We cannot guarantee success - but we can lay the absolute best foundation possible for success, so that the heartbreak doesn't come as a result of a goat unsuitable for its purpose. A pack goat is not just a goat. Goats go to herds, pack goats go to homes.

If you are a breeder with goats that have great potential - I encourage you to look at this market.

...but do so with reverence and care. A great deal of trust has been placed in your hands.

Dale & Karen Kopf  
Kopf Canyon Ranch

*We raise registered purebred and percentage Kiko Goats for hardiness, meat and brush management*

[www.kikogoats.org](http://www.kikogoats.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/registeredkiko/>



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### Three of the world's Rarest goats born at Conner Prairie

POSTED 6:09 PM, APRIL 18, 2018, BY [FOX59 WEB](#)

<http://fox59.com/2018/04/18/pics-three-of-the-worlds-rarest-goats-born-at-conner-prairie/>

FISHERS, Ind. – Animal lovers can now visit Conner Prairie to take a look at an extremely cute species close to extinction.

Three Arapawa kids were born last month at Conner Prairie and their breed makes them some of the rarest goats in the world.

The Arapawa goat is critically close to extinction. It is estimated that there are fewer than 300 worldwide.

Although they eventually went extinct in America, the breed thrived on Arapawa Island, located off the northern tip of the South Island of New Zealand. They were first imported to the U.S. in 1993.

Animal enthusiasts can also see three other rare breeds of livestock at Conner Prairie in addition to Arapawa goats.

They also house English Longhorn cattle, Ossabaw Island hogs and Tunis sheep.



## Land Use Issues

Land use issues continue to dominate the NAPgA business agenda and this quarter is no exception.

**In the Shoshone:** We have appealed their revised land use plan on the basis of how they are still treating packgoats in view of their potential for disease transmission. We have demonstrated that the risk of them carrying Movi into the woods is negligible, and further, the risk of a packgoat leaving the group and joining with the Bighorns is not a realistic fear as well. So there is no reason, under NEPA, for them to continue to posture as if our goats were a clear and present danger of causing a disease event. Even Tom Besser made that remark.

**In the Hemingway-Boulders Land Use Plan:** In this plan, the land managers made some significant changes from the original plan, but left the closure of much of the White Clouds closed to Packgoats. Since there is little justification for that action, we will be appealing on the basis of the following: (Closure map, Page 8)

1) The closure is unnecessary and unsupported because packgoats do not present a risk of 'disease' transmission. Even if they did, our Best Management Practices are sufficient to negate or nullify that risk.

2) Under US Forest Service and NEPA science standards, the land managers MUST consider the research by Dr. Highland, indicating that Packgoats rarely carry Movi.

3) In this plan, the Land Managers have misrepresented the research of Dr. Besser and others, and greatly overstated the possibility that packgoats can transmit disease-causing pathogens to Bighorn sheep.

4) The Forest Service should eliminate the Big Boulder Basin closure to packgoats, and maintain the use of our Best Management practices as an educational component, and require adherence in order to access these areas.

5) The limitation of 3 goats to a single person is wildly unrealistic. If all you have is small boys, as I do, what this would mean is that I still have to carry a pack. That is why I began to use goats in the first place, so I could dispense with all but a small pack.

Further, I have 4 (small) boys. As you all know, I cannot leave just one home in order to access this area, so I would have to only take two. That is pure nonsense.

We have until June 22 to file our objections, and they are legally required to resolve these issues in 45 days from the close of the appeal filing period.

In other words, there should be an answer by the beginning of August.

Larry

## An Addendum:

An additional consideration...

In attempting to instigate these closures to goats, Land Managers are currently quoting Tom Besser's WSU research as their rationale for the closure. That is especially interesting since Mr. Besser himself made the following statement in WSU's issue of the Summer 2017 newsletter, to wit:

"This expected low prevalence of carriage of *M. ovipneumoniae* by pack goats is currently being tested through a program sponsored by the USDA Agricultural Research Service Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, WA. If that low prevalence is confirmed, and unless new information to the contrary arises, I believe that *M. ovipneumoniae* test-negative pack goats represent a negligible risk for triggering pneumonia outbreaks in bighorn sheep and that it would be reasonable to take this into account when setting public lands policies."

The result of Dr. Highland's research indicated that the prevalence of Movi was indeed 'low', and therefore even Dr. Besser has stated that the closures are not justified.

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*Yes, Virginia, there is bad news in the Whiskey Mtn Bighorns, and it has NOTHING to do with Packgoats.*

### Bad news in annual bighorn sheep report

March 3, 2018, [http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/bad-news-in-annual-bighorn-sheep-report/article\\_46981b11-ec3c-5976-bb15-8cc116794dec.html](http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/bad-news-in-annual-bighorn-sheep-report/article_46981b11-ec3c-5976-bb15-8cc116794dec.html)

DUBOIS — The National Bighorn Sheep Center in Dubois held its annual meeting Feb. 22. Over 50 people congregated at the Headwaters Center for the event.

Wyoming Game and Fish Lander Region Biologist Greg Anderson provided the annual update on the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd Feb. 22 at the National Bighorn Sheep Center's annual meeting.

After a decade of relative stability— in some years there were modest population increases— Anderson advised that lamb recruitment underwent a dramatic decline in 2017.

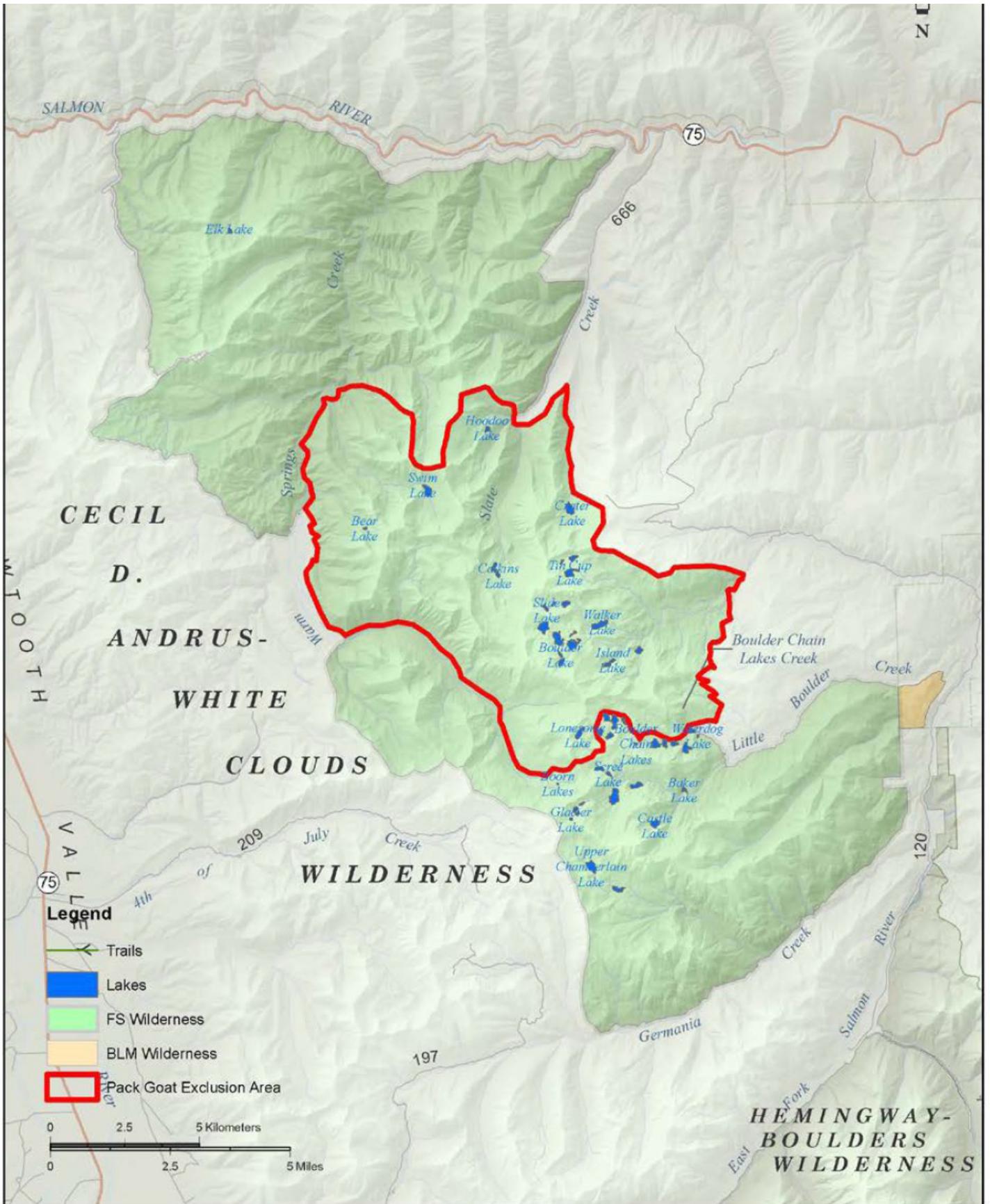
Recruitment is a term ascribed to those lambs or any wildlife newborn which survives long enough to be counted as a member of the population.

"Right now there are about 750 sheep on the hoof...and our objective is 1,350," Anderson said.

The population estimate work which is performed after the hunting season is based on those sheep actually seen and other gathered data as well. Anderson sadly reported that he counted this winter "the fewest number I have seen." He has been working with the Whiskey Mountain herd for almost 15 years.



—Contributed by the Wyoming News Exchange.



**Proposed closure to goats in the White Cloud Mountains Idaho**  
**Note how many of this area's lakes are encompassed by this unreasonable action**

## Not Just a Weed Eater!

Lauren Hall Ruddell

Throughout history, especially in Christian countries, and even more especially in this 'Christian' country, goats have gotten a bad rap. This is not a biblical libel, but rather a medieval one that can be laid at the feet of the Knights Templar. Occultists adopted the 5-pointed star, containing the horns, ears and muzzle of a goat as a popular symbol. Eventually more modern and conservative Christians believed that the intrinsic nature of the goat was somehow unholy, unclean, and perverted. In truth, goats in biblical times were treasured for their meat, milk, and fiber. No stigma was attached, except perhaps a little by Christ in inferring that goats were not great followers and therefore one must be more like a sheep or lamb to enter the kingdom of heaven. Since goats are more independent and intelligent than sheep (which modern research is now demonstrating), He no doubt felt that the best allegory for an innocent and trusting follower was the sheep and not the goat.

Like all mammals, scientists consider goats to be sentient animals. The definition of what sentience actually means, is currently hotly debated, but few would consider livestock animals not to be sentient. One definition of sentience is 'the capacity for feeling or perceiving; consciousness. It's the consciousness part of things that gets most academics in an uproar (and don't even think about suggesting that the ability to 'reason' might be involved lest Wittgenstein and several other philosophers be raised from the dead to chase after you with pokers, for your heresy).

One bold Canadian academic has gone so far as to say "Sentience is the ability to perceive one's environment, and experience sensations such as pain and suffering, or pleasure and comfort. An animal that is sentient will have the ability to receive internal sensation and information from its environment, and then interpret this as an emotion. The sensation may make it feel good, bad, or indifferent. It will determine how best to act based on this, and use responses in its body, or a behaviour, in order to fulfil its needs. Some species are also capable of more complex thought, such as reasoning, when making decisions about how to act." (Ruh Roh...here comes Aristotle right out of the ground wielding a lethal-looking bronze encased scroll).

For animal welfare advocates, the most pressing issue is that popularized by Jeremy Bentham, the English social reformer, who in 1823 stated, "The question is not, Can they reason? nor, Can they talk? but, Can they suffer?" The prevention of physical and emotional pain is plainly more relevant to the dignity of an animal's life than a deep understanding of their level of intelligence, although from a welfare standpoint, intelligence, memory and communication are plainly also relevant. We humans

having our significant prejudices in these areas, an accurate conceptualization of animal intelligence can only aid in protecting and promoting animal rights.

We goat packers know that our goats are smart, and we can keenly sense their emotions. We know that they can sense ours, and even anticipate certain human reactions from either naughty or nice behavior (on their part or ours!). That's why it can be so frustrating when strangers ask us on the trail or back at the ranch 'do they have names,' and almost as bad 'do they actually know their names'? Well Duh...Sheeesh.

Further, the prejudices against goats in this country seem to be standing in the way of relevant research into caprine cognition. Maybe American researchers are afraid that their fellows will ridicule them. This prejudice is not seen in the UK, where most of the cutting edge research on goat intelligence is being done. Australians, British and Canadian researchers are way ahead of the curve on the US, along with the Germans. German researchers have made advances in understanding a goat's ability in perspective taking, an advanced cognitive process, while British researchers are studying emotions and cognition in terms of learning and memory.

I have never known a fellow goat packer to be rude or brusque to other recreationists who expressed an appalling lack of awareness of the gentleness and intelligence of goats. We all deserve kudos for our patience and self-restraint. And for the sake of our caprine friends, the more promotion, accurate dissemination of information and hands-on demonstrations of these amazing creatures we can do, the better. For instance, a writer for the Smithsonian science blog thought she was being cute when she stated that current research out of the UK indicated that goats may not be 'as stupid as they look'. I ask you, what sort of a professional writer commits such an egregious act of journalistic idiocy. I sure hope she looks a lot smarter than she writes.

Anyway, for your edification and wow-factor moments when needing to impress the unwashed masses of goat know-nothings, here is a tidbit from researchers, such as Dr. Christian Nawroth, who frequently use the goats at Buttercups Goat Rescue in England for their research participants.

"To find convenient and noninvasive tools to assess emotions in goats, *Capra hircus*, we measured physiological, behavioural and vocal responses of goats in four situations: (1) control (no external stimulus, neutral); (2) anticipation of a food reward (positive); (3) food-related frustration (negative); (4) isolation away from conspecifics (negative). The situations were characterized by different levels of arousal, assessed a posteriori by heart rates measured during the tests. We found several clear, reliable indicators of arousal and valence. During

situations of higher arousal, goats had lower heart rate variability and higher respiration rates. They displayed more head movements, moved more, had their ears pointed forwards more often and on the side



Photo: by C. Nawroth, 2016

Dr. Christian Nawroth & Friend

(horizontal) less often and produced more calls. They also produced calls with higher fundamental frequencies and higher energy distribution. In positive situations, goats had their ears oriented backwards less often and spent more time with their tails up than in negative situations. Furthermore, they produced calls in which the fundamental frequencies were less variable. Our methods for assessing the effects of emotional arousal and valence on biological parameters could lead to more effective monitoring and understanding of animal emotions, as well as to a better understanding of the evolution of emotions through cross-species comparisons." Insert the fourth

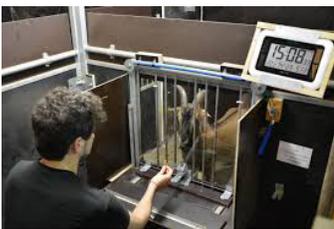


Photo: by C. Nawroth, 2016

Dr. Nawroth Begins Food Trials

To us goat packers, this is all a big yawn, but possibly earth shattering news to the rest of the animal behavior community. So plainly, we all need to keep on packin' and keep on yackin'.

IMHO,

Lauren Hall Ruddell

## Meet Faaabel the goat, Valero Texas Open's new unofficial mascot

Roxanna Scott, USA TODAY Sports, April 18, 2018

<https://www.usatoday.com/sports/>

"Everyone's loved her. The attention she's getting, there's quite a bit of attention. All the golfers take to her very well," Mellgren said.

"I'm kind of surprised at how fast this took off," Kneale said. "We had her for about a week out here leading up to the event. Some of our staff knew about her and she was friendly with the staff. Before we knew it, people just started asking about the goat. We heard you had a goat, and it snowballed. I think she enjoys all the attention."

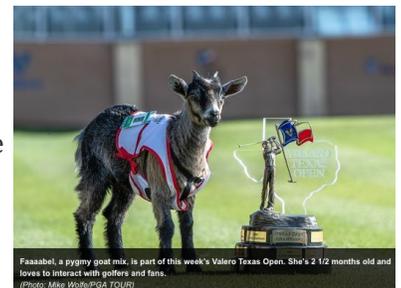
Neither Kneale nor Mellgren know of any mascots – official or otherwise – associated with other tournaments.

"We were just kind of half joking, the whole thing about it being a mascot," Kneale said. "We just kind of wanted something, funny and fun to hang out with us when we were working. Then we started calling her the unofficial mascot of the tournament."

There's a bit of a misconception that goats eat everything, but she doesn't try to eat golf balls. She does, however, help with the weeds and eats leaves (her favorite is oak).

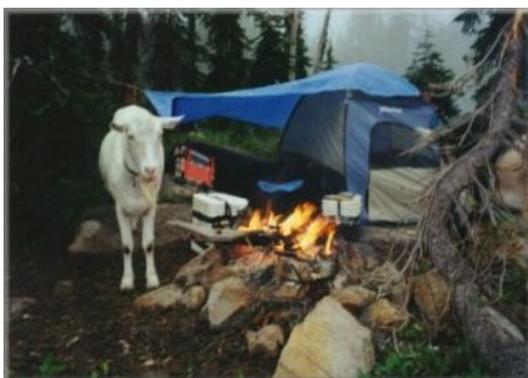
And her owners Kneale and Mellgren says she's more than happy in her new role.

"You can tell she's really excited by the way she's jumping," Mellgren said of Faaabel's starring role in videos shared by the Valero Texas Open and PGA Tour.



Faaabel, a pygmy goat mix, is part of this week's Valero Texas Open. She's 2 1/2 months old and loves to interact with golfers and fans. (Photo: Mike Walter/PGA TOUR)

**I am always looking for folks to describe their goat-travels here in Goat Tracks. I have a lot of my stories on backlog, but you are going to get real tired of just reading about me! Please consider sending me a narrative of your adventures. I can edit like mad, but can't describe your travels!**



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# 2018 NAPGA RENDEZVOUS

## JUNE 21ST- JUNE 24TH



### **Mark your Calendars, and please join us!!**

Bring the family out, including the goats of course! This area is a primitive camping area, so although portable outhouses will be available we must remember to keep the area as we found it. Saturday and Sunday morning Clay Zimmerman will be gracing us with his sourdough pancakes and coffee. Feel free to bring any additional food items to share during those mornings. We also will be having Campfire cookouts Friday and Saturday night, this is potluck style so we ask you to cook up your best campfire dish to share with others! There will be a lot of great resources, and knowledgeable people in the industry and we strongly encourage you to come check it out! There will be classes held both Friday and Saturday (Schedule attached on next page). Dogs are welcomed but they must be controlled at all times. Also friendly remind this is bear country so please keep all food/waste items stored safely.

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NAPgA Country Store/Auction—This is a good opportunity to support the biggest fund raiser for the NAPgA as well as get some cool items and pack gear for a great price! Saturday we will have the Auction, and the NAPgA Store will be set up all weekend for you to browse, remember all items purchased go directly to supporting NAPgA. Donations will be gladly accepted! To donate items, contact: [kentdaniels@msn.com](mailto:kentdaniels@msn.com)

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- Location: 11 miles north of Island Park Idaho, and 3.4 miles west off of Highway 20.

Cost: Free to NAPgA Members. A donation of \$10 is requested to help the organization.

Who: Pack goat enthusiasts of all ages welcome! Bring the family as there will be lots of camaraderie and knowledge to be shared!

\*You can preregister by contacting Kent Daniels at [kentdaniels@msn.com](mailto:kentdaniels@msn.com)

\*\*\*Please check out Rules of the Rendy at:

<https://www.napga.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Rendy-Rules-2018.pdf>

- OTHER LODGING OPTIONS: RED ROCK RV PARK (HOOKUPS), DRIFT LODGE, ISLAND PARK VILLAGE, MACKS INN, ALL WITHIN 10 MILES

GUEST SPEAKER: NAPGA'S PRESIDENT CURTIS KING WILL BE DOING A CAMPFIRE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES DISCUSSION AND COOKOUT FRIDAY AT 6PM!

# 2018 NAPGA RENDEZVOUS SCHEDULE

**THURSDAY JUNE 21ST:** Arrival. Some will be still traveling, others will be arriving at Rendy location.

Make sure if you do not preregister, you check in, at the check-in station upon your arrival. We plan to have a check in station to greet you at the entrance. 📍

## FRIDAY JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>:

**9AM: Work Project-** Kent Daniels has organized some fencing we will be doing for the forest service as a work project.

**12PM: Lunch Break**

**1PM: Equipment and Transporting class** by Marc Warnke and Matt Lyon. This class will cover it all! From panniers to pack saddles, even down to the setups for goat haulers! Questions and Discussions to follow.

**2PM: Perfect Feet Class by Marc Warnke**. This class will demonstrate the best tips and equipment for all things hoof trimming. Marc has this down pat, and we look forward to his demonstration. Questions and Discussion to follow.

**6PM: Campfire Cookout** and our Guest Speaker NAPgA President Curtis King will be talking about Best Management Practices. You don't want to miss this great campfire discussion, and a very important one! Questions and Discussion to follow. **\*\*Remember please bring a dish to share for cookouts!\*\***

## SATURDAY JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>:

**8AM: Sourdough Pancakes and Cup of Joe with Clay Zimmerman** \*\*Feel free to bring a dish to share\*\*

**9AM: Goat Packing 101 & Saddle Fitting with Clay Zimmerman and Nan Hassey**. This class will offer all your basics for goat packing and will include proper saddle fitting for your pack goats by Nan. She will have saddles available to demonstrate so feel free to bring your goat!

**1PM: Nutrition, Parasites, & Overall Goat Health by Dwite Sharp**. FOLKS! You don't want to miss this one, Dwite has raised Pack Goats for several years, and if anyone knows all things goat health it's Dwite. This class will offer all his knowledge throughout the years. Don't miss out on this opportunity! Questions and Discussion to follow.

**6PM: NAPgA Auction & Cookout!** This is a great time to bid on some auction items, remember all proceeds go to supporting the organization, and guys we have fought hard these past few years, but for a great reason! The pack goat community siezes to amaze us everytime, and we are thankful to have all our supporting members and fellow enthusiasts! **\*\* Remember please bring a dish to share for cookouts!\*\***

## SUNDAY JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>:

**8AM: Sourdough Pancakes and Cup of Joe with Clay Zimmerman** \*\*Feel free to bring a dish to share\*\*

**9AM: Clean Up and Farewells!** We hope 2018 Rendezvous was everything you hoped for and you walked away with more enthusiasm and knowledge for goat packing and all things pack goats! We look forward to having you the next coming year, and we strongly encourage you to support NAPgA by becoming a member!

# Paradise Ranch

## Pack Goats

### Research & Development

Paradise Ranch Research & Development has over 130 kids on the ground, in 2018, with more yet to be born. If you are interested in the 2019 kids now is the time to reserve your "Boys". They are already being reserved and will go quickly. Don't let another year pass you by!

We have been breeding specifically bred Packgoats for over 20 years and offer 7 full blood breed, Alpines, Oberhasli, Saanen, Boer, Nubian, Toggenburg, LaMancha and a number of Hybrid lines like our 300 lb. Sabors.

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Our specifically bred-to-be **Packgoat** kids sell at a \$50 discount to NAPgA members. They each come with all vaccinations, coccidia treatment, wormings and a life time of support. All kids are hand raised, individually, with many hours of hands on personal training by the time you receive them. A percentage of the proceeds from our sales will be donated to NAPgA's legal fund.

The "Best is Yet to Come"! Phone: (620)767-7888 or eMail: [paradise27@tctelco.net](mailto:paradise27@tctelco.net).



Mudslide & Louis, Bridger-Teton NP, WY



You could be the proud owner of good-looking boys like these



These pictures are from a past years crop of Dwite's goats



## Daredevil goats found 50 feet above ground and clinging to highway bridge

BY SCOTT BERSON, [sberson@mcclatchy.com](mailto:sberson@mcclatchy.com), April 05, 2018  
[HTTPS://WWW.NEWSOBSERVER.COM/NEWS/NATION-WORLD/NATIONAL/ARTICLE208019549.HTML](https://www.newsobserver.com/news/nation-world/national/article208019549.html)



Life on the farm can get pretty dull. Or at least it did for these two daredevils.

Pennsylvania State Police were

on patrol when they suddenly discovered [two goats wandering around away from their farm.](#)

Police needed to get the goats home – that was clear. The only problem? They were 50 feet in the air and standing on the slim metal edge under a massive highway bridge near New Castle, [TribLive reported](#)

Police called the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, which provided a crane. Workers rolled it out onto the Mahoning River Bridge, then PennDOT, state troopers and Pennsylvania Turnpike employees worked together to help grab the goats and take them back home.

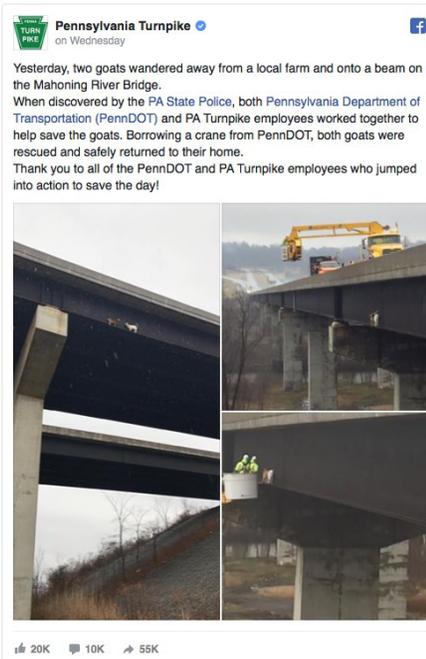
The Pennsylvania Turnpike posted about the dramatic rescue on Facebook, where the story [has been shared nearly 40,000 times.](#)

People are happy the goats got to have a little bit of adventure – and are happy rescuers were able to come together to stage the perfect extraction.

While the pictures of the two little goats stranded atop a huge bridge may make humans a little squeamish, the truth is the animals were probably doing just fine.

Goats (and especially mountain goats) are extraordinary climbers whose hooves are shaped to 'lock' on to any imperfections in rocky terrain, [according to Forbes.](#)

Goats have even been spotted [casually clambering up near-vertical dams and walls.](#)

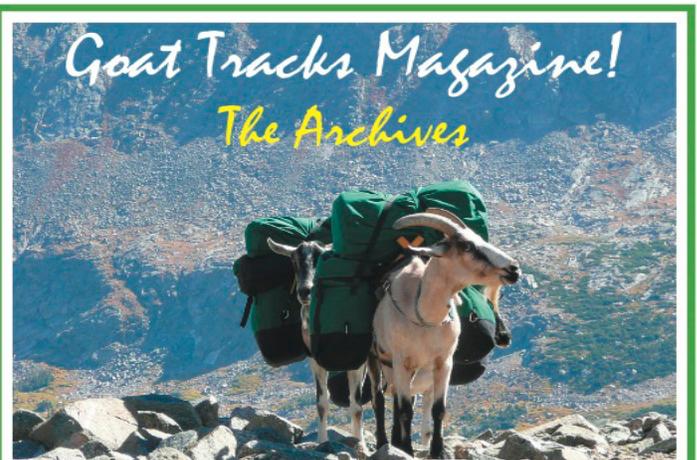


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<http://www.packgoatcentral.com/forums/>



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*In my frequent forays into the files that make up the GT Archives, I have come to the conclusion that the only reason that everyone doesn't have a copy of this information is that they just don't realize how completely entertaining lots of this stuff is. There have been some great writers for GT over the years!*

## A Great Story... about a Memorable Friend

### Cuzco, The Goat of Many Colors

It's been just over a year since we said goodbye to our friend Cuzco, and words come easier as time casts its mellow glow over the memories. "Cuzco the One-Horned Wonder Goat" was a central part of my life for fifteen years, but he had lived life fully and he had lived it well and he was ready to make his final bow. Sitting with him in his last hour, I thought back to the day Phil and I found the tiny, colorful goat with the huge parachute ears at a lovely little farm in western New York state during our college years.

It was 2002 and Phil and I had just celebrated our third anniversary. College break had started and my mare was due to foal any time. We needed a companion for the coming colt and a young goat seemed the ideal choice. Phil had fallen in love with goats at a county fair two years before when he watched one devour the ribbon it had won at the show. Phil turned to me and said, "You know, I'm not much of a farm animal person, but goats are funny! I could get into goats!" I was into horses myself, but once a new foal came into the picture, our quest for a suitable goat companion began.

It wasn't easy. Goats, we discovered, could be expensive and our budget was extremely limited. We visited a few farms and looked at a few goats, but all of them (except Mr. "Free to Good Home") were outside our budget and none of them were very pretty. I was ready to give up the idea, but as we drove through the rolling green farm country southeast of Buffalo, NY a kaleidoscopic splash of vibrant color caught my eye.

"PHIL DID YOU SEE THAT GOAT?!?!?" I screamed.



*The baby Cuzo & the 'catch' rope*

Phil, who had been napping peacefully in the passenger seat, almost leaped from his skin with alarm at my outburst, and he snatched wildly for the dashboard as the car careened to the side of the road and screeched to a halt. I nearly got us into a wreck as I cut across traffic in an illegal U-turn back to the farm. I had to see if that goat was real! We pulled into the driveway and I ran to the pasture fence.

"LOOK! Look at that goat!" I was squealing and almost jumping up and down in my excitement. He was like a brightly colored patchwork quilt, with wild splashes of white on his brown and black coat. His speckled gray

ears flew out to either side like sails, and his white-tipped tail curled proudly over his back as he skipped playfully over the grass beside his mother and sister. He couldn't possibly be for sale, and he was far too pretty to be in our price range--but I had to ask.

I banged around the farm, shouting into a dozen or so empty barns and sheds. It was a nice day and all the animals were out to pasture. Maybe the farmer was working in the fields. I was about to give up when I found a man tending to a cow way in the back of the very last cavernous barn. The price for a baby goat? Twenty-five dollars.

Twenty-five dollars! My heart leaped. We could afford that price! But I would have to call back. The goats belonged to the man's wife and she was out for the afternoon. I took down the phone number and I called back that night. A week later the little polychrome goat was ours for \$25. He had never been handled and was wild as a hare, so I felt bad for him as he trembled in wide-eyed terror in the back seat of our Buick, but I felt confident we would become friends. I didn't know the first thing about goats, but I could tell that he was a bold and self-assured little character despite his current distress. He withdrew from our hands when we tried to touch him, but he cocked his tiny horns in a defensive posture and raised his little hackles in warning. He had attitude and he wasn't afraid to stand up for himself.



*Awww, c'mon Mom*

Before the end of our trip home, Phil and I had settled on the name "Cuzco" after the cocky, self-important llama in Disney's recent movie, *The Emperor's New Groove*. Yes, we were aware that our new goat was not a llama, nor even remotely related to one, but his lofty attitude was already beginning to show on the ride home.

It took time to bond with our new baby. Cuzco was only about eight weeks old and had never been handled until the day he was taken from his mother and sister, vaccinated, and banded -- not a good introduction to people! The poor little thing bolted at the sight of me, but luckily he took an immediate shine to my mare, Easter. Easter, heavily pregnant and grouchy with her foal due any day, was in no mood to entertain the newcomer and tried to stomp him to death a few times during the first day or two, but her aggression did not dampen Cuzco's enthusiasm. He would skip just out of reach of her hooves and then bounce happily back to her side.

For the first several days, I kept a twelve-foot catch rope tied around Cuzco's neck and locked him in a spare horse stall at night because there was no other way

for me to get near him. The rope worried me, but the thought of him being uncatchable worried me more. Several times a day, I caught him, reeled him in slowly, and then picked him up and held him on my lap for half-hour stretches, singing and talking to him. On the third day I shortened the catch rope to 18 inches, and within a week or two I was able to remove it completely. Our skittish goat had become my funny little shadow.

Easter's foal came almost three weeks late, and the wait began to be nerve-racking for me. Easter and Cuzco were boarded at a professor's barn over a mile from my apartment, and I began to wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat, wondering if she were foaling and needed help. I'd hurry into my robe and barn boots, grab a flashlight, and drive up to the barn at all hours, only to find her munching happily away in the pasture. It was getting ridiculous, so I finally slung a hammock in the spare stall and spent my nights there with Cuzco. It was during this time that I discovered the unparalleled joy of falling asleep to the soothing, rhythmical sound of a goat quietly chewing his cud. It is a calm, contented whisper that sent me into some of the deepest sleep of my life.



*Cuzco & Jet*

The foal came and I named him "Jet." He and Cuzco grew into good buddies over the protests of Jet's mother, who didn't approve of her precious son mixing with

the riffraff. It was a summer filled with high adventure as Jet and Cuzco both learned how to walk on leads, hike in the woods, cross creeks, and navigate the quiet college town streets with their humans. That fall the students returned and Cuzco immediately endeared himself to the scholars. His jaunty good looks and friendly manner cut quite a dash in that little college town and his popularity inspired Phil to run him for Homecoming King. Cuzco and Phil canvassed the campus. They distributed flyers, hung posters, took out an ad in the college paper, shook hands, and held press conferences. "Cuzco for King!" was the rallying cry, and the competition didn't stand a chance. Cuzco won a landslide election not only for Homecoming King, but for Homecoming Queen as well. Unfortunately the "powers that be" did not approve of having a goat for their royal court and all of Cuzco's votes



*On the Campaign Trail*

were tossed out. But Cuzco still enjoyed a prominent place in the Homecoming parade and the acting King swore him fealty throughout the weekend, much to the Homecoming committee's chagrin.

Cuzco and the horses moved with us to Lake City, Colorado in 2003. He became something of a celebrity as the only goat in all of Hinsdale County. He grew bigger than we ever imagined a goat could be, topping out at 38" at the withers and a little over 200 lbs. As Cuzco grew, I began to realize that he would soon be large enough to pull a cart or pack gear on hikes. As this revelation dawned on me, I discovered that others were using large goats for similar purposes. We bought a cart and harness and trained Cuzco to pull. I bought a used llama pack so Cuzco could carry our gear on day hikes around Lake City.

Cuzco also became my constant riding companion. Wherever I and my horse went, Cuzco followed. However fast or far or high into the mountains we rode, Cuzco kept up the pace and rarely flagged. He was strong, fit, and athletic, even keeping up when I galloped after a herd of elk on the Continental Divide.

In 2005, something happened that changed Cuzco's life forever. I was riding with some friends, and for once in his life, Cuzco stayed behind with a lone horse that was being brushed in the corral. The lady brushing the horse wasn't watching her dog. I was on a ridge overlooking the ranch when I saw a Cuzco streak across the pasture with the dog in hot pursuit. It wasn't the first time that dog had chased Cuzco, but usually Cuzco would run to one of his horse buddies for protection. This time the horses were gone and he was in a panic. I watched as they disappeared over a fence on the far side. The dog came back.

Cuzco didn't. I wasn't too concerned at first. I thought Cuzco had run down the draw and was afraid to come back. There was a highway at the bottom of the cliff and he was probably wandering along it, so I rode down to look for him.

I was not prepared for the pitiful sight that met me. Cuzco had not run down the draw. He had leaped in blind panic over a thirty-foot cliff and had landed in a rocky ditch next to the highway. Some people on a motorcycle saw him lying next to the road, and stopped to see if he was still alive. They rolled him over a couple of times and he slowly came to, but the ranch entrance was hidden from view around a corner so the couple didn't know where the goat had come from or how to get him back until I rode up on my horse.

Cuzco was in bad shape. His left horn was cracked in the middle and broken along the base. It was pushed all the way back onto his neck. Blood streamed from his nose and mouth and he had a huge gash in his neck. He was

sore all over and was having trouble walking. His pupils were dilated and I could tell he was concussed. He knew enough to follow my horse, however, and was able to limp his way up the mile-long driveway to the ranch. He collapsed in exhaustion when we reached the corrals. We drove him to a vet who amputated his left horn. It was too mangled to save. The skull was broken and there was a hole into the sinus cavity. Cuzco stayed in hospital



*Recovering*

for three days before I could take him home.

But goats are very resilient. When Cuzco was released from the vet, I put him in a small corral with one gentle horse as a

companion. His poor head was all wrapped in bloody bandages and I was sure he would take many weeks to recover. Wrong! He took about three days. When I came to check on him the second day, he was very unhappy to be in the corral and wanted me to let him out. I did not relent so Cuzco took matters into his own hooves! He discovered that with one horn missing, he could turn his head sideways and squeeze through the corral bars to escape. The width of his horns used to prevent such possibilities! On the third morning I found the horse lonely and whinnying in the corral while Cuzco was enjoying himself in the pasture with the other horses. I forgot about trying to keep him contained after that, and he healed faster than I thought possible. In no time at all, the hole in Cuzco's head closed over and the huge area of exposed tissue where his horn had been was covered in fine, new hair. He soon became known as the "One-Horned Wonder Goat", and from that time on he became an extraordinarily talented escape artist. If he could slip his head sideways through any hole, his body would soon follow.

The loss of the horn was devastating at the time, but in hindsight it became Cuzco's most distinguishing feature. It set him apart, made him unique, and was the central focus of most conversations about him. Wherever Cuzco went, people remembered him. Few could recall his name or say it correctly, but everyone remembered "the one-horned goat". His impressive size, his flashy coloring, and his aristocratic presence attracted people to Cuzco, but the single horn ensured they never forgot him.

Cuzco had many travels and adventures in his fifteen years and was able to meet people all over the country. When we visited Utah, we met tourists from around the world! Cuzco was an excellent representative for

packgoats -- strong, handsome, athletic, and well-bonded.

He also had a tendency to show off and pose any time he saw a camera.

Once I was walking down a street and realized that Cuzco was no longer behind me. I turned

to look and he was standing in the middle of the road, blocking traffic as he struck a regal pose, because someone on the sidewalk had stopped to take pictures of him. He refused to budge until the tourist put her camera away. I'm not sure how he knew, but I'm convinced that Cuzco was perfectly aware of what cameras were for because he nearly always stopped and struck a pose when saw one.

Cuzco had impeccable manners when out in public but at home he was known far and wide as our personal guard goat. He menaced visitors, chased children, and did his best to intimidate anyone who dared set foot on "his" front porch! He grew increasingly cranky in his old age and he never forgave Phil and I for buying a couple of doelings in 2012. Cuzco had spent ten years as an "only goat" and he was outraged when I brought other caprines into his life. But we learned how to manage Cuzco's curmudgeonly ways and he continued traveling and hiking with us until he retired in 2016.

In 2015 Cuzco attended the NAPgA Rendezvous in Island Park, ID. He was 13 years old by then and arthritis was fast catching up to him. But he was still game for an adventure, and when he saw me getting the trailer ready the day before our trip, he hopped in and refused



*2015 Rendy Work Party*

to leave. Cuzco packed 35 lbs. on our work project hike and ended up having to tow a balky yearling goat behind him for much of the trail as well. Despite having spent the previous two days

in the trailer, he did not tire on that hot, steep hike. The highlight of the Rendezvous was when John Mionczynski fixed his long gaze on Cuzco and quietly stated, "That is a very fine animal."

We put Cuzco to rest on April 19, 2017. He was almost exactly fifteen years old. He'd led a full, happy life and he was ready to depart. Cuzco "put his affairs in order" when he passed his leadership baton to Finn, the next goat in command. Finn did not have to battle Cuzco



*The Adult Cuzco*



*Violin Connoisseur*

for top position--Cuzco handed him the throne and then abruptly stopped eating his regular meals. He was certainly happy to chow down on junk food of all kinds--donuts, popcorn, cookies, chips, candy, cheesy garlic bread knots from the local pizzeria -- these he devoured in toothless zeal, but I could not persuade him to eat anything healthy. He was too old to care about health

any more and only wanted to be happy, so we indulged him. During his last week we held a special campfire in Cuzco's honor where I allowed him to raid the hotdog buns, eat a whole Hershey's chocolate bar, and devour a package of graham crackers. I even made him his own personal s'more. He'd never been allowed to eat a s'more, although he'd often begged for one. He loved it and spent the rest of the evening trying only somewhat successfully to lick a big glob of melted marshmallow off his chin.

On his last day, Phil and I gave Cuzco a final grooming. We put the other goats away so Phil and I could take him for a short walk with us all to himself as he'd always preferred. He couldn't go far. He was so tired. He had a wonderful last day. He ate four powdered donuts and a bowl of buttery cheese popcorn. He ate many peanuts and animal crackers on our walk, and he finished up with almost an entire can of cheddar Pringles. He was a happy goat right up to the end. It was truly a sign when we came back from our walk that Cuzco stopped at his own graveside and waited there while Phil and I went on across the pasture and up to the house to retrieve a few things for his burial. I'm sure he knew, but he was ready and, true to form, he wasn't afraid. Cuzco cheated death many times in his fifteen years and had nothing left to prove. He reminded me of "The Tale of Three Brothers"

in the book *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* -- "And then he greeted Death as an old friend, and went with him gladly, and, equals, they departed this life."



*Final Portrait*

The vet came out to administer the final rites. I had Cuzco lie down on a blanket with his head in my lap. He leaned his face against mine, and when the vet gave him the injection he closed his eyes and went peacefully to sleep just like in the movies. I felt his last breath hit my cheek and he was gone. Cuzco is laid to rest under our totem pole. His baby portrait is carved at the top. When we look out the window or come up our driveway we'll see his marker and be reminded of all the wonderful, happy times we had together. I'll never forget my "Cuzco the One-Horned Wonder Goat". He'll always be larger than life, like the goat version of John Wayne. It was very hard to let him go, but it was the right thing to do. He was ready, and as he gently passed from this life I could almost hear him whisper "Thank you."

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### **Pet eat your pot? It might cost you**

Kevin Yarr, CBC News, Posted: Apr 18, 2018

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-pets-marijuana-1.4624909>

#### *Detox for pets costs hundreds of dollars*

The Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown is preparing to receive more calls from pet owners whose animals have eaten marijuana.

Heather Gunn McQuillan, director of the teaching hospital at AVC, said the school is receiving more calls from people wondering what to do if their pet ingests marijuana.

Symptoms of marijuana intoxication in animals are similar to those for alcohol, including poor coordination, panting and frequent urination.

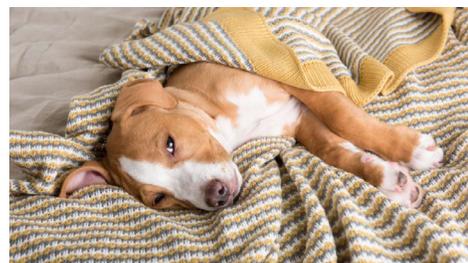
The costs of treating a stoned pet can add up quickly.

"You've got emergency fees and after hours fees and exam fees and fluid therapy and hospitalizations and exams," said McQuillan.

"In 2015, one of the pet insurance companies stated that the average fee at that time was about \$500 U.S. I expect it's much higher now, and given our exchange rate, it's a pretty hefty bill."

As a regional centre of expertise, AVC has access to lipid emulsion therapy, an intravenous treatment that helps protect the animal from the effects of THC in extreme cases.

But McQuillan said prevention is the best cure, such as by keeping marijuana stored in an airtight container away from where your pet might get into it.



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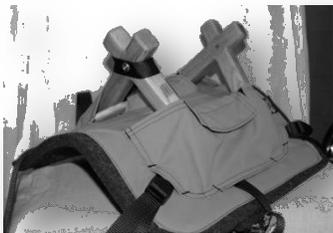


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## Rapid River or Bust!

Well, it actually didn't start out that way. From the point in 2017 at which there was no more hiking here in Idaho, the plan, and that plan was in stone, was to begin the 2018 hiking year with a déjà vu-all-over-again spring hike in Hells Canyon.

I thought about it all winter... *and*, I thought about it all spring. So what happened??

Weather happened.

You see, I am intense about taking pictures, and 'documenting' the environs, everywhere I go. And I had no intention of heading 52 miles into the 'big ditch', without a reasonable assurance of good picture-taking weather.

So I waited...  
and waited...  
and waited.  
For a 'weather window' that never arrived...  
until the last week in April.

And even then, the one that appeared,

threatened to be a bit on the short side. With the reality in mind that Hells Canyon requires a minimum of 6 days, and with our weather window looking like 5 max, maybe its time to go to plan 'B'.

Which I did. Rapid River had been hanging back on the periphery of my consciousness since I was originally there with Marc Warnke in 2015. We didn't get too far into this drainage that time, and so I was wanting to do a bit more exploring further up this trail.

So off we go April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Since Rapid River is north on Hwy 95 just before Riggins, it was somewhat past noon before we arrived at the TH.

We lost no time in getting going on the trail, and arrived at the junction of the West Fork of the Rapid River late afternoon. Hiking partner thought that we outta go a little further, so on we went.

The error in that decision became obvious as we motored on up the trail. The 4 miles or so up to the West Fork had been maintained the week before we arrived. It was in super condition. The miles



*One of many nice bridges making river crossings much easier. In reality, crossing these raging streams on foot would not have been possible without great risk to life*

after that? Not so great. There were not any trees blocking the way, but it was very brushy. And as we were to discover as we progressed, the tick population was out in full force, and so brushy was NOT the ideal.

Since the brush (and the climbing away from the river) slowed us down, we ended up in that unenviable situation of needing to 'plant' somewhere, and 'somewheres-to-plant' were in pitifully short supply.

Eventually we came upon a locale that had been previously used as a horse camp, and we began the scramble to get the tents up, highline rigged, dinner over, and food hung, all before dark. We were only marginally successful at that one.



*Waiting for panniers and hiking to begin*

April 24<sup>th</sup> dawned bright and beautiful, and since we had camped at the point where the trail, at least this section of it, 'topped out', it was an easy wander down to the point on the map called Wyant Camp.

Wyant Camp apparently had been a historical encampment, as there wasn't much there except a wide and flat spot in the trail, but it made a spiffy place to engage in a little by-the-trail snacking.

On we go towards what would be our next night's resting place, and that was at Paradise Cabin, which was located at the junction of Paradise Creek and Rapid River. Paradise Cabin was apparently a left-over from gold prospecting days, and was in somewhat of a state of disrepair.

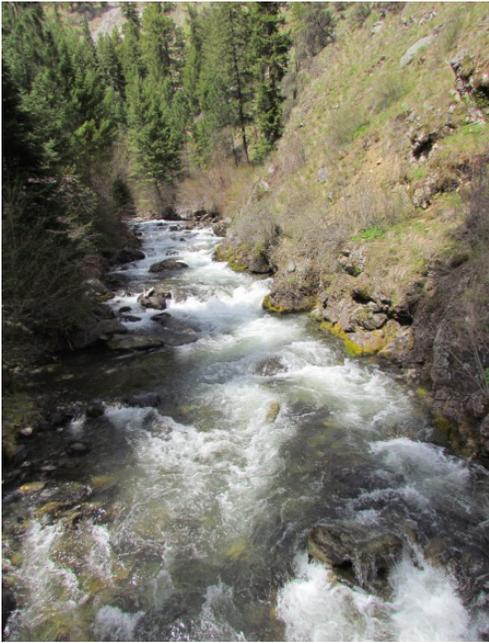
But next to the creek was a good, if not a bit noisy, place to camp and so became this night's resting place.

Thinking about the potential for weather on Friday, I made the agonizing decision to begin wandering back from this point.

Going another day up the drainage would have put us 3 days & 21 miles into the brush, and I just



*Paradise Cabin*



didn't want to take the chance of having to hike in the rain.

April 25<sup>th</sup> took us back as far as the West Fork, and the hole-in-the-wall camping area there, and Thursday dawned bright and beautiful for the hike out.

In retrospect, it appeared like we could have

gotten away with the longer version of the hike, but because we didn't get that far, Rapid River has to remain on the so-called 'bucket list', and a future 'weather window'.

<http://www.boiselarry.com/recent/2018/rapidriver/rapidriver.html>



*At the last night's RON -- Tired boys*



*It's over? No more hiking? GREAT!!*

## The Greek beach where goats are in charge

Debby Waldron, 6 NOVEMBER 2017

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/greece/articles/swimming-with-goats-beach-greece/>

We hear the goats before we see them; our backs are to the shore, swimming across clear Greek water towards the brown lump of Albania. We've been in the sea for just minutes when the bells reach us through the calm morning air – distant at first, but getting closer.

Turning, we spy a pair of horns just above the horizon; then another, and another, until the low cliffs at the end of the beach are a mass of jostling creatures.

It's at this point that we focus on the pile of clothes, watches, and flip-flops we've placed oh-so-carefully on the sand – right in the path of the steadily encroaching flock.

We'd been alerted to the beach by shopkeeper Dennis while buying fruit and yogurt for breakfast.

"It's the best," he'd promised, drawing a rough map on the back of a postcard. "Go early."



So we had, setting off in the perfect post-dawn temperatures of an August morning, before the sun rose too high and the other holiday-makers stirred from their beds. We'd greeted the taverna owner as he splashed his vibrant patio plants with water, and the boat-hire man as he prepared his craft for another busy day on the main village beach. We'd crossed the rickety bridge onto the peninsula, and followed the rough red track, skirting rocks and herb-scented scrub until, upon rounding a corner, our efforts were rewarded with the sight of a deserted crescent of pale sand.

Now, that beautiful beach is filling up fast – with goats.

We begin to swim back towards the shore, all the time observing their steady progress towards our belongings. As we plough through the water – desperately slowly, it seems – I count. There are upwards of 40 animals on the beach now, from huge grand-daddy goats with impressive beards, to tiny kids on wobbly pipe-cleaner legs, in shades of brown and black and something in-between.

*Cont. Pg23, Col 2*



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## Hauling Wood with Blackie

Paul Malovrh

This past winter I had a firewood-cutting project located 100 yds from my wood shed. I needed to cut the wood in the winter when it was very cold due to the trees falling in a pothole that usually has about 2' of water in it. I do not own a four-wheeler other than my goats, so I decided to try using my goat Blackie to pull a small sled loaded with firewood. My wife had bought me a \$50 goat harness for Christmas so all that was left was to put the harness on the goat and hook it to the sled. My goat Blackie was 21 months old at this time and weighed 190 lbs. I did not like the way the sled pulled when I hooked it up directly to the harness but after three tries I developed a system involving two poles that can spin 360 degrees and swivel up and down. My poles are actually handles for a rake or something. I got them from Fleet Farm for a few bucks. The harness gets hooked to these poles in two spots to hold the poles up and keep the sled from banging into the goat. The traces get hooked to a 2" x 4" that also holds the sled poles. Someday I will redo this and add a single-tree.



*The worker bee...*

Eventually I will buy a \$200 harness with a full britchin but not until my goats are completely grown.

Blackie was a little hesitant at first about pulling a load of wood. My sled measures 22" x 50" x 7" and I piled the wood up about 12". Most of the wood was willow, which is heavy when green and very light after it dries. It is not very good firewood but I was cutting this wood so that my neighbor's yard would not be so shaded. My neighbor wanted to be able to grow a garden and have a few beehives along our property line. Both beehives and gardens need sunshine. After a few trips Blackie started to pull very well and after a couple days he seemed to enjoy it. I give him goat treats when we get to the wood and when we get to the woodshed. About 10 trips back and forth is all Blackie seemed up to per day. By the time I would get done cutting, splitting and piling this amount of wood this is all I would want to do a day anyway. By the time we were done I had hauled 21 face cords of wood into the wood shed.

Blackie is an Alpine cross that I got from a dairy goat farm. I also have an Oberhasli I call Buster that is pushing 3 years of age. My one big problem with Buster is he hit 125 lbs at 2 years of age and has not gained a pound since then. I have read that goats have a growth spurt at 2 years of age and continue to grow until they are 5 years old. So far this does not seem to be true. I did use Buster some to pull and he also did a very good job. Buster was not a bottle fed baby so is a little wilder than Blackie. For firewood making the only difference I saw was if I did not hang onto the lead rope Buster might head back to the woodshed with just half a load. Blackie would stand in one spot until I told him to walk on. Both goats would head back to the wood shed with me leading them or following behind the sled. After a few trips a good trail was developed and as the winter went on the snow got to be two feet higher on each side of the trail so there was no desire for the goats to stray off the trail.

While working on the firewood with Blackie or Buster I usually had one of my June babies loose and following along. All my goats except for Buster were purchased at about 10 days of age and bottle fed so they are tame, friendly, and bonded with humans. There are no goat pack breeders in WI so I just buy goats from small dairy herds. I have learned to buy goats from small herds of perhaps 6 goats and to examine each goat's knees in the herd first to avoid the CAE problem I had with two of Blackies half brothers.

About the middle of March which was still the dead of winter here in Northern WI I purchased a larger sled (27" x 60" x 12") to use for firewood making and other chores. I found that this sled when loaded full was too much for Blackie. It may work fine for two goats but I will wait until next winter to rig it up for two goats to pull. By this time my young wethers will be about 190 lbs. also.

This coming summer I plan to buy a small wagon and rig it up with a center pole and eveners so that two goats can pull it. I will use it to haul firewood, topsoil and gravel around my property. I do not necessarily plan to teach my goats to drive but may do so. I will also be using my goats to pack in bear bait and deer bait this coming late summer and fall which works out nicely as neither is all that heavy. I have read that a goat can pack at 6 months and I have read they should not pack until 4 years. I have also read about goats of very expensive breeding that refused to pack. I start my goats wearing a pack at 6 months and at this age they take to it without any question. I think it is important to start training goats when they are young and easy to work with. An Amish horse trainer I know says he starts training his Belgians at birth. I think this is a good method. Start

basic training at birth and continue it up to where they can pack a full load.

Here in Wisconsin I am a long ways from the mountains and so I will only use my goats for one or two trips as pack goats into the mountains per year. This is why I am interested in using them for pulling sleds and wagons and maybe tilling the garden. I will get a lot of use out of the goats this way and they will get worked and handled regularly.

In closing I would like to say that I have found goats to be very people friendly and willing to do what ever I ask them to. Buying them young, bottle feeding them and working with them a lot seems to be the way to end up with a good string of goats.



*The sled*

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### **Sar-i-Pul hailstones kill thousands of sheep, goats**

By Pajhwok Report, Apr 18, 2018 - 18:39

<https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2018/04/18/sar-i-pul-hailstones-kill-thousands-sheep-goats>

SAR-I-PUL (Pajhwok): ‘Thousands’ of sheep and goats have been killed after being pelted by hailstones as large as 10 centimeters at various meadows in Kohistanat district of northern Sar-i-Pul province, an official said Wednesday.

Tajuddin Malakzada, the Kohistanat district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that people from different areas of Sar-i-Pul, Balkh, Jawzjan and Faryab provinces had moved their livestock to Kohistanat district that contained good pastures.

He said around 100,000 sheep and goats had been moved to that area for grazing. Thousands of goats and sheep were lost in the hailstorm, he said without giving exact figures. Besides that, the hailstorm had seriously damaged gardens, he said.

Haji Mohammadin, head of the local council in Charas area of the district, confirmed livestock had been lost and gardens damaged in the storm. He said 30 to 40 centimeters snow lashed the district on Tuesday night. He said hailstones as large as 10 centimeters fell in some parts of the district.

The district chief and Mohammadin asked aid giving organizations to assist the affected people.

*This all happened in Afghanistan, GT Ed.*

### **The Greek beach where goats are in charge**

(cont)

They reach our clothes before we do – and file on past, without even a curious sniff. Clearly there are places they need to be, things they need to do. By the time we reach the shallows, only the bleating stragglers remain, and they are more intent on catching up with the flock than investigating what they probably think the tide brought in.

As we stand to paddle the last few feet to the sand, a rush of water comes up behind us and knocks us from our feet. It races on ahead, swamping our belongings. We’re only just able to stagger upright and grab them before they disappear out to sea.

“Ah,” Dennis smiles, as we drip our way into the village shop half an hour later, “Twenty minutes after a cruise ship passes – then comes big waves. But – a beautiful beach, yes?”

Yes, we agree. It is.



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### **Couple shocked to discover six Kashmiri goats in their garden**

<http://www.itv.com/news/wales/2018-04-03/couple-shocked-to-discover-six-kashmiri-goats-in-their-garden/>

A couple in Llandudno said they were shocked to discover six Kashmiri goats in their garden after they returned from a walk to the town centre.

The goats are normally found on the Great Orme above the Welsh seaside resort.

They are often seen standing on extremely narrow ledges and climbing steep cliffs.



## What to know before adding goats to your backyard

By [Lauren Abbate](#), BDN Staff, Posted June 29, 2017  
<https://bangordailynews.com/2017/06/29/homestead/what-to-know-before-adding-goats-to-your-backyard/>

If you're looking to add a few goats to your backyard, [goat breeder and soapmaker Shea Rolnick](#) suggests that you consider how you would handle the following scenarios.

Imagine you're returning home from a long day of work, and your goat not only breaks from its pen to greet you in the driveway, but jumps on the hood of your car. Or what if your small goatherd ravishes through your tomato plants before you pick any for yourself?

"Would you be angry or think it's funny," Rolnick asked. "Because if you have goats it's likely that at some point that will happen."

People choose to raise goats for several purposes, whether it's for milking or shaving for their fiber or slaughtering for meat. But even for those folks who just want to raise a small number of goats in their backyard as pets or as a means of weed control, there are many factors to consider before making the commitment.

[Rolnick began raising goats six years ago](#) and fell in love with their quirky personalities, along with the joy and routine that caring for them brought to her daily life. Starting initially with two male goats, Rolnick has since grown her herd to 12 goats for purposes of breeding and milking. Rolnick uses her goats' milk to make soap that she sells through her business, Knotty Goat Soapery. In the time she has spent raising and breeding goats, she's learned what type and how many goats is right for her lifestyle, questions that prospective owners will have to answer themselves.

The first thing that someone should consider when adding goats to their animal profile is that, like any other animal, you need to be sure you have the time and ability to take care of your goats on a daily basis, according to Colt Knight, state livestock specialist at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

"Like any [animal], goats need to be cared for every day, whether there is 3 feet of snow or it is 95 degrees out," Knight said.

This daily care requirement, unlike cats and dogs, also requires frequent visual check-ins to make sure the goats, which Knight likened to escape artists, haven't broken from their enclosure.

When it comes to numbers, goats are an animal that does better with a buddy, Rolnick said, so three is a good number to start with. That way, if one goat becomes sick or is not a good match, there will still be two to keep each other company while you seek to find a third. Rolnick's first two goats were not a good match for her,

and she ended up having to find them a new home.

When choosing a breed of goats, you need to take into consideration what purpose you want the goats to serve. If they're simply going to be pets, Nigerian dwarf or pygmy goats are a good selection given their small size and playful personalities, Rolnick said. For milking goats, Rolnick suggests saanens because they produce a sweeter milk for drinking. However, while breeds have generalized characteristics, individual personalities may vary.

The first two goats Rolnick purchased ended up not being the right fit for her because they were friendly but too pushy, and as someone who was caring for the goats on her own she didn't want to be pushed over when going to bring the goats hay. She was able to find a new home for the male goats and replaced them with two female goats that were smaller and whose personalities better fit what she could handle.

"You have an idea what you're getting into when you get a certain breed, but then each goat will still have their own personality," Rolnick said.

For space requirements, goats require a pasture area and at least a three-sided shelter or small barn where they can be protected from the elements. Knight recommends that indoors, goats have about 15 square feet per animal, and that in the outdoor pasture two to 10 goats can comfortably reside in 1 acre.

Goats are ruminant animals, meaning they are able to digest cellulose such as grass, hay and weeds, Knight said, which makes them great animals for clearing land or pasture. Rolnick also suggests, if possible, including a small forested area within the pasture since goats enjoy chewing on tough roots and bark. A sturdy wire, woven or electric fence are best to surround pasture with since goats are prone to escaping, Knight said.

On a daily basis, goats require 24 hours access to fresh water and hay, as well as a mineral feeder. For pet goats, replenishing the feed can be done once a day. Goats that are pregnant, as well as milking goats, require more hay and a grain feed is often incorporated during the late stages of pregnancy.

While there is a great deal to consider before choosing to raise goats, Rolnick said the benefits of having their presence in her backyard have been well worth the commitment.

"My favorite part about having the goats is that it doesn't matter how bad my day is, if I go outside and just spend a little bit of time with the goats, my day is instantly a little bit better," she said. "If I sit down, one of them will come over for a neck scratch, somebody will come and nibble on my ponytail. They're so inquisitive and the love spending time with me. They make every day just a little bit better."

## Packgoats on the Trail

By SHANAI BEMIS, Staff writer, Ellensburg Daily Record

*Goats help carry the load during hiking trips*

Hikers venturing out in the Kittitas Valley might encounter familiar landscape — canyons, hills, sagebrush and shrub steppe.

They might also find something unexpected: five goats with pack saddles following docilely behind Dick Carkner.

Stitches, Inky, Lightning, Rambo and Thor are pack goats raised by Carkner to help carry gear during hiking trips. They follow behind Carkner, over trails



and across country, hopping over gullies and displaying the athleticism their species is known for.

Carkner raised all five by hand, bottle-feeding them as kids, which is an important step in raising a pack goat, he said.

“It doesn’t take much training, the main thing is to have them properly socialized,” he said. “It’d be hard to find adult goats that have what you need.”

A good pack goat is well socialized and comfortable around people, which allows a pack goat handler to strap the saddles on to them without much fuss.

“You’re their mother, parent, dad, whatever,” he said.

Goats are naturally inclined to herd and will stay grouped together and follow their handler by instinct. Well socialized goats will be comfortable around humans. It can be a bit of a challenge when Carkner runs into other people out on the trail, though.

“I’ll stop and get talking to some people and then we go to move on, I look back and I’ve lost a goat,” he said, laughing.

Carkner began raising and working with pack goats a decade ago after being introduced the practice by his son. Since then, he’s had a number of goats. Inky, Lightning, Rambo and Thor are his newest group. The four are 3 years old, born in the same year and have just



reached their prime.

Stitches is an older goat, 10 years old, and is the boss of the group.

“It’s a very distinct pecking order,” Carkner said, with the hierarchy being decided between the goats themselves.

When out hiking, the goats will typically follow in the same order every time, with the boss goat in front and the rest falling into their spots behind.

Besides their natural inclination to stay grouped together and follow their handler, goats are well suited as pack animals due to their natural athleticism.

“They can go places that wouldn’t be safe for a horse,” Carkner said.

Goats are also similar to deer and can graze on more plants than a horse could and don’t require as much water. Each adult goat can carry up to 25 percent of its body weight, which usually is around 50 pounds. However, Carkner usually keeps the loads to about 30 pounds.

“We don’t want to push it,” he said.

The loads are put into specially designed saddle bags that attach to goat-specific saddles that are strapped into place on the goat’s back. They are designed to stay in place when going over steep terrain.

The saddles and bags can be found online for purchase through a number of pack goat websites. The practice, while not widely-known, has been around for a number of years and has a strong community.

The National Pack Goat Association was founded in 1999 and works to spread education about pack goats and keep public land open to pack goat use.

A pack goat will typical cost about \$200 to purchase from a breeder, Carkner said. In a year, they will typically go through anywhere from \$500 to \$700 worth of feed and the saddles and gear can cost several hundred dollars as well.

The investment is worth it though, as each goat can continue to hike into their teens, as evidenced by Stitches, who is still going strong at 10 years old.



Goats, like dogs, wiggle their tails when they’re happy, Carkner said, and he sees it often when he’s out on the trail with his goats.

“This is what they like to do,” he said.

Joanna Markell

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## All you need to know about Al Johnson's famous rooftop goats

Terri Milligan, Special to the Journal Sentinel, Published Jan. 30, 2018  
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/life/food/2018/01/30/goat-tales-photo-ops-parade-and-a-goat-cam/1054644001/>

*Since 1973, live goats grazing on the restaurant roof have become as popular as the restaurant's Swedish-inspired food.*

### How Did the Goat Thing Get Started?



You can thank Harold Larson, known in the area as Winkie. Larson and Johnson, both pranksters, would surprise each other on their respective birthdays with various animal gifts. Sometimes it was a

pig. Other times a raccoon. Then one fateful day, a goat. Using a ladder, Larson hoisted a goat up to the grass roof of Al Johnson's restaurant. From that day on, the restaurant became known as "that place with the goats on the roof."

### When is the Best Time to See the Goats?

The goats make their first appearance on the roof in late spring. You won't see them on the roof if it rains, it's too windy or the temperature gets too high or low. "If it's uncomfortable for a human, it's uncomfortable for the goats," explained Kit Bütz, the restaurant's marketing and promotion manager.

### Which Goats go on the Roof?

The goats are housed at the Johnson farm a few miles from the restaurant. There are four to five goats that always make their way to the Johnson truck for transport to the restaurant. The others get to decide for themselves. If any goats are "in the mood" for an appearance, they join the others in the truck.



In addition to a day of grazing on grass, basking in the sun and starring in hundreds of photographs, the rooftop goats get some special incentive snacks.

### How is the Roof Maintained?

The goats do their part helping to mow the roof by munching on the grass. But they don't do a very even job. The roof gets spruced up by human professionals throughout summer.

## Join the Goat Parade

Now in its fourth year, the annual "Roofing of the Goats" takes place the second Saturday of June (this year, June 9). Select Al Johnson goats are joined by goats from Sister Bay's Door County Creamery as they parade down Bay Shore Drive in downtown Sister Bay.

The event culminates with Al Johnson's goats being led up to the restaurant roof via a special three-level ramp in the back.



The Door County Creamery goats appear across the street in a special petting area in front of the creamery shop.

Live music, goat-inspired games including a goat bean bag toss and plenty of food, beverages and goat cheese curds follow the roofing. For information, visit [cometosisterbay.com](http://cometosisterbay.com).

### Check Out the Goat Cam

For live updates, check out the restaurant's "[Goat Cam](#)." Two rooftop cameras provide 24-hour viewing of the Al Johnson goats in the comfort of your home. Although there are no goats to view on the roof in winter, the goat cams are still on, providing 24-hour viewing of the Sister Bay weather from the roof.



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## Hinsdale police: Goat-cha!

By Chris Mays, [cmays@reformer.com](mailto:cmays@reformer.com), Posted, August 7, 2017  
<http://www.reformer.com/stories/hinsdale-police-goat-cha,516124>

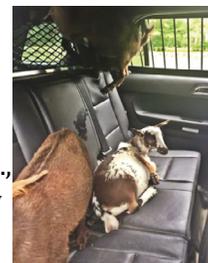
*Three kids were caught eating several items on the back deck of a residence.*

HINSDALE, N.H. — Police say three kids were caught in the act of criminal mischief on Saturday.

Officer Bryan Jalava of the Hinsdale, N.H., Police Department responded to Oxbow Road for an active crime in progress, a press release on Facebook stated.

"Upon his arrival he witnessed these kids committing the crime of criminal mischief while they chose to eat several items on the back deck of the residence," police wrote. "These three kids all claimed to have the name 'Billy,' were detained for their crime and transported back to their parents and released."

The police captured three goats at the residence. No charges are expected to be filed, police said.





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“GUARANTEED CAE FREE OR RETURN” (This means that you will replace the kid if he is found to be CAE positive at the earliest age of reliable testing, which is considered by WSU to be 12 months. This is the only context in which “CAE free” will be accepted. This does not guarantee a CAE free kid, just replacement.) Remember that you will have a year of work into a kid by the time it is testable.

**Any of these choices will more clearly define a herd’s status to buyers and should be welcomed as a step forward in controlling a disease that is potentially crippling to packgoats.**

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## Submissions to Goat Tracks

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## Forget the Boat Race, it's the Goat Race!

By [Danyal Hussain For Mailonline](#), PUBLISHED: 24 March 2018  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5540053/Forget-Boat-Race-Goat-Race-Oxfords-Hamish-winning.html>

**The Spitalfields City farm in east London was the venue of today's ninth annual Oxford Cambridge Goat Race**

**In a reversal of the result of the Boat Race, Oxford were victorious with goat Hamish defeating his rival Hugo**

**The lighthearted event attracted a sizable crowd who were able to bet with an on-site bookie on the Goat Race**



*So, who's in charge here, anyway?*

The annual Oxford Cambridge Goat Race returned to **London** for the ninth time today, with the fundraising event held on the same day of the famous university boat competition.

The event saw two goats, one representing Oxford and one representing Cambridge, lock horns as they raced around a farm.

The lighthearted event took place at Spitalfield's City farm in east London with today's race starting at midday.



*This boy is having a hard time keeping his mind on the game!*

The event started with the goats standing at the starting line, where the excited audience waited with baited breath for them to start trotting off.



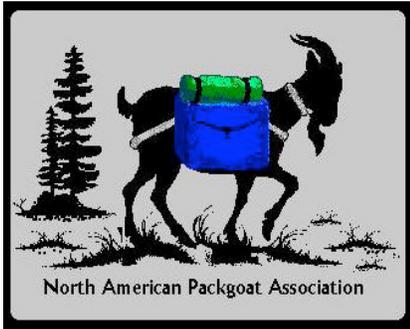
*And the cheering squad was excitedly clapping their hooves!*

There was even an on-site bookie for people who fancied a flutter on their goat of choice and live music, comedy performances, drinks, craft stalls and farm-related games.

Today's race was a reversal of the result of the boat race and saw Hamish, the goat representing Oxford, emerge victorious after he defeated Cambridge's competitor Hugo, before milking the adoration of the crowd.

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*(I think, at this point, you're supposed to say, "And a good time was had by all. Especially the goats!" GT Ed.*



**Why Join NAPgA?** NAPgA is the only organization that exclusively represents goatpackers, and works tirelessly to open areas for camping and hiking with your goats that are closed right now, or have come under fire for the supposed danger of goats to Bighorn Sheep. The NAPgA governing board holds regular quarterly meetings, which are open to the entire membership (Meetings are conducted via computer and Internet-base meeting software).

**Where do Your Dues Go?** Since this is an all-volunteer organization, there is very little 'manpower overhead' and so your dues are exclusively used for issues directly connected to goatpacker concerns. As of late, we have spent a lot of money for our legal representation, but that has been well-rewarded in our successes with our fight to keep goatpacking open in the Shoshone and other unfriendly locations. Goat packers, due to our limited time as a recognized pack entity, have our work cut out for us in order to gain recognition as a viable part of the overall 'packer' spectrum. NAPgA is the only means to get that done, and those that are a part of the current BOD are working daily to make that happen.

Please join with us NOW and help us to encourage and develop packgoating nationwide. Dues may be paid with PayPal or with a check to: **PO Box 170166, Boise, ID 83717**/ Each new membership will receive a complimentary NAPgA member's patch!

**Membership Classes:**

Bronze,	\$20
Silver,	\$50
Gold,	\$100
Youth,	\$10

By becoming a member, you help NAPgA work to keep the wilderness open to Packgoats

**NAPgA Mail Application**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Description of Packgoat Experience and/or Interest:**

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Contact: [napga.org@gmail.com](mailto:napga.org@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.napga.org>

## WORKING GOAT DIRECTORY

For only \$10 per year, (That's \$2.50 an issue), advertise your name, address, and goat related items that you offer, such as equipment, pack or breeding animals, stud service, outfitting services, artwork, ANYTHING relating to working goats. Even if you don't have anything to sell, this is a great way to just let other working goat enthusiasts know that you are out there. There is a 15 word limit (address and phone count as one word). Underline key words and they will be highlighted. Listings will be organized by state.

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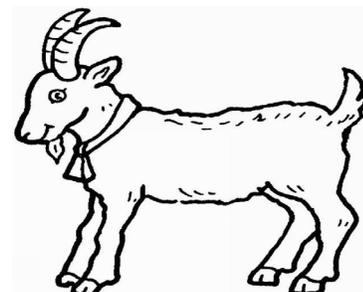
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<b>Four Seasons Goat Trekkers Club</b> Kim Buechel/Donna Semasko 7244 40th Ct. NE Lacey, WA 98516 360-491-4528/360-923-1451	<b>Frederick County 4-H Packgoat Group</b> Frederick, Maryland www.4hpackgoats.org 4hpackgoats@gmail.com
<b>Glacier County Kids 4-H Club</b> Chuck Taylor PO Box 190623 Hungry Horse, MT 59919 406-387-5012	<b>Pollock Pines Mountaineers</b> Lori and Dan Mobley 3062 Castlewood Circle Pollock Pines, CA 95726
<b>Siskiyou 4-H Packgoats</b> Dave and Peggy Nicholson 11524 Big Springs Road Montague, CA 96064	<b>Sheboygan Co. 4-H Goat</b> Ruth Van Sluys W4791 County Rd. PP Plymouth, WI 53073 920-893-0662
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