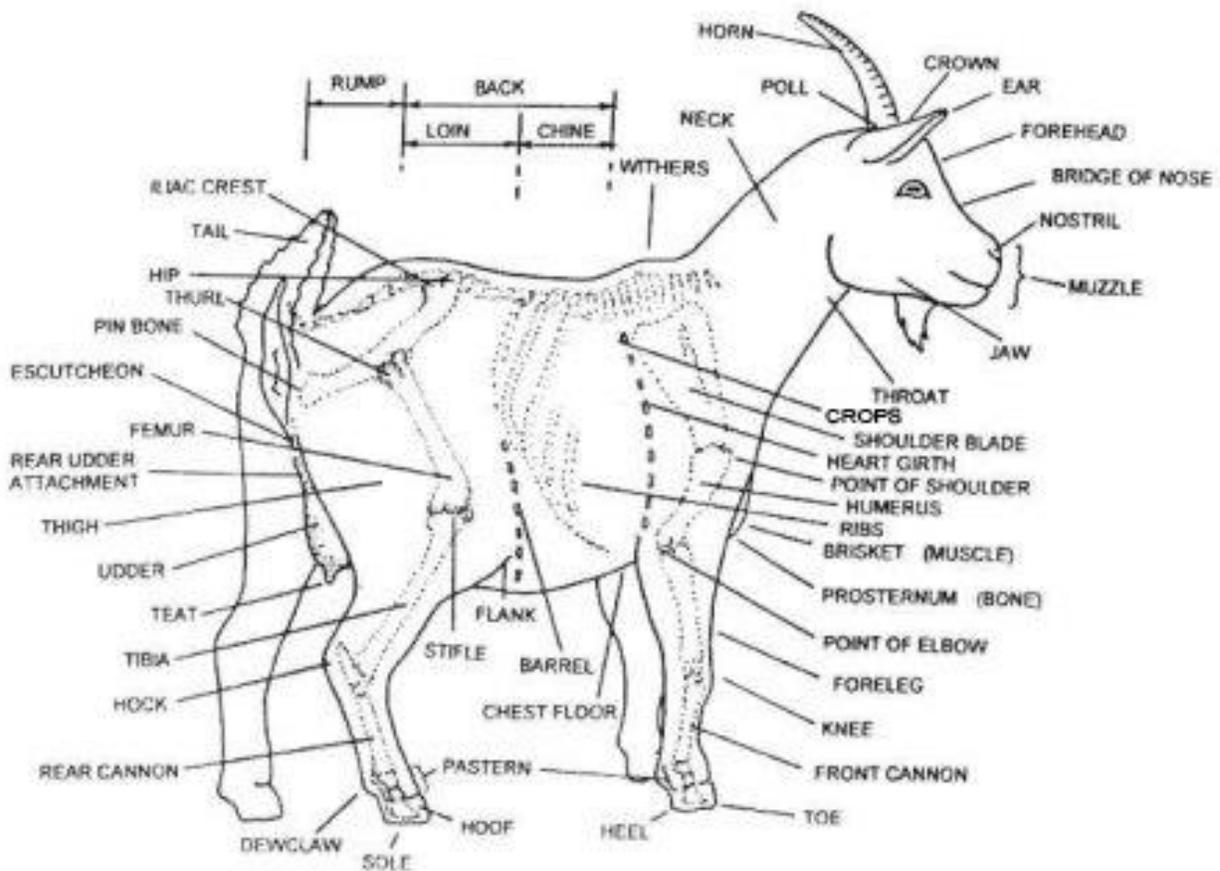


# Pygmy Goat Achievement Test Study Guide

## Level One



**Also Study Bronze Level Study Guide**

**Study body parts**

**Terms:**

Doe- female goat

Dam- female mother goat

Wether- castrated male goat

Buck- male goat that can reproduce

Sire- male father goat

Tattoo- permanent identification

Kid- baby goat under a year

Browse- eating leaves and bushes

Udder- milk production gland

Body temperature- 101.5 to 103.5

NPGA- National Pygmy Goat Association

## **Pygmy Goat History and Origin:**

Pygmy goats originated from Africa and gained popularity quickly in the United States. Original name is the Cameroon Dwarf Goats and their pure form is gray coloring, black stockings, and are small in size. Pygmy Goats first recorded importation documentation was from Sweden in 1959. Registration for these animals came into interest in the 1970s and the National Pygmy Goat Association was formed in 1975.

## **Pygmy Goat Colors:**

**CARAMEL PATTERN:** The caramel color pattern can range from white to caramel hairs, intermingled with white in the top coat making the top coat appear to be a shade of white/cream to tan. The undercoat has the same base color (black or brown) as the dorsal stripe, socks, and face accents. Caramels are required to have vertical stripes on center front of socks same color as body topcoat.

*Caramel with brown markings* can range from white to caramel hairs with a brown undercoat and has brown coloring on legs, face, sides, and face.

*Caramel with black markings* can range from white to caramel hairs with a black undercoat and has black coloring on legs, face, sides, and face.

**AGOUTI PATTERN:** All agouties have solid stockings darker than the main body color (black stockings on grey agouti, brown stockings on brown agouti). Muzzle, crown, eyes and ears distinctly accented in white and may be intermingled with hairs in the same color as the body.

*Grey agouti* is a mixture of black and white hairs to give a grey look to the coat with darker black stockings.

*Black agouti* is solid black with occasional white hairs. Black has solid darker stockings but have white accents on their muzzle, crown, eyes, and ears.

*Brown agouti* is a mixture of brown and white hairs to give a lighter brown color with darker brown stockings.

**Solid Black** have no white accents on the muzzle, crown, ears, eyes, and tail but can have patches or belly bands between point of shoulder and stifle joint.

**Black** is all black except for white accents on muzzle, crown, eyes, ears, and tail.

## **Poisonous Plants:**

Oleander, Snakeweeds, Ponderosa Pine needles, Lupine, Nicotiana Glauca, Poison Hemlock, Nightshade, Moldy Alfalfa, any pit from stone fruit, Jimsom Weed, Azalea, Holly Trees/Bushes, Poppy, Cocklebur, Oak Leaves, and many more.

## **Vaccinations:**

CDT is a shot of Clostridium antibodies. Its given Sub Q once a year and prevents Clostridium types C & D (enterotoxemia or overeating disease) and Clostridium tetani (tetanus). Kids need two doses, 21-28 days apart.

Bo-Se is not a vaccination but an injection of selenium and vitamin E that is given Sub Q or IM (in muscle). It prevents white muscle disease in goat. Selenium can also be provided in a loose mineral salt that contains selenium.

## **Hoof Care:**

Supplies needed to trim hooves are utility knife, hoof trimmers, and/or hoof root shears.

Goat hooves should be trimmed regularly (every 4 to 6 weeks). When hooves are kept-up they are easier to trim each time, the goat is more comfortable when walking, and helps prevent your goat from going lame or having any other hoof problems. When trimming hooves you need to first dig out all the dirt and then trim away all overgrowth of hoof on the wall and heel.

## **Signs of Sickness:**

**Also see Bronze Study Guide: 13 signs**

Internal Parasites- signs of your goat having internal parasites such as worms are lethargy (laziness/tiredness), rougher coat than normal, weight loss, poor/no appetite, diarrhea, anemia.

External Parasites- some different external parasites are lice, mites, ticks, and flies. The main sign of external parasites is hair loss from the goat biting or frequently rubbing sides against fence other object.

Other signs- different signs of sickness are isolation from herd, shivering, pale gums, dull coat, unusual vocalization, lethargy, swollen mid-section, and loss/no appetite.

## **Goat Care:**

*Best Diet-* a pygmy goat's diet consists of roughage which primarily is hay (grass, alfalfa, oat or combinations). Goats will also browse on fresh or dry leaves, bark and grasses. Grain can be supplemented, especially for pregnant and lactating goats. Some people prefer to feed pelleted goat feed but some roughage is necessary to stimulate the rumen. Goats must also be provided with free choice minerals such as a mineral block or loose minerals formulated for goats. Clean and fresh water must be easily accessible.

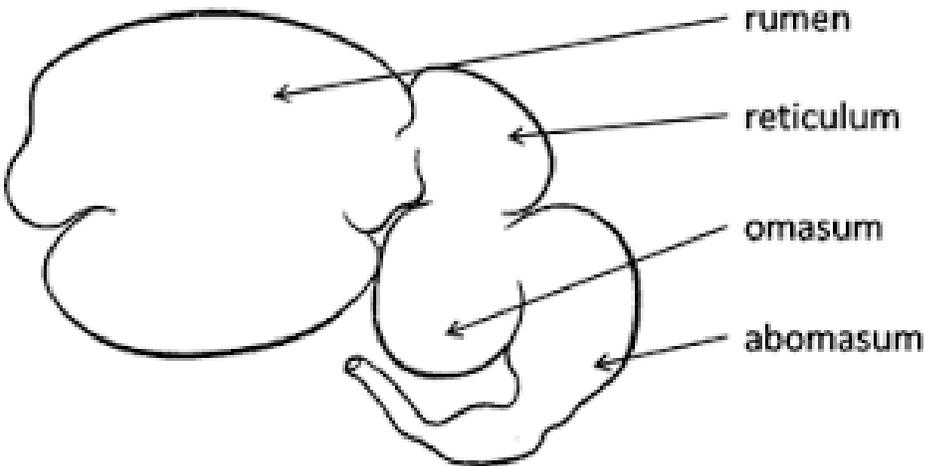
*Housing-* goats need at least an 8ft by 10ft shed with an elevated sleeping area to get away from rain/wind. Fencing around the goat yard must be at least 4ft tall. The yard should provide enough room outside of shed for exercise and to play around, and have things for goat to jump on such as logs and ramps.

**Also see Bronze Study Guide Normal Values Chart**

# Pygmy Goat Achievement Test Study Guide

## Level Two

### Study: Level One Study Guide and Bronze and Silver Study Guides



### Study 4 parts of stomach

#### Terms:

Registration- recorded with NPGA

Lice- external parasite

Mastitis- disease in udder

Colostrum- first milk

Polled- naturally hornless and a disqualification

Ringworm- fungal disease

Rumen- first chamber in stomach

Estrus- time can be bred; every 18 to 23 days

Graded- has a non-registered parent

Scours- diarrhea

Lactation- time when milk is being produced

Gestation period- period of time a goat is pregnant; 150 days plus or minus 5 days

Pneumonia- infection in the lungs caused by bacteria or virus

Placenta- the afterbirth

## **Breeding Pygmy Goats:**

When breeding Pygmy Goats you want to have the most ideal offspring. The buck should take away the does weaknesses and the doe should do the same with the buck. A doe can be bred at around a year and a half. When breeding, the best time is in October or November which will be giving you babies in March or April. They are year-round breeders but this time is the most ideal because the weather won't be too cold or too hot for baby goats. When breeding you also want to make sure your doe is in her estrus cycle so you can be sure your doe is going to be bred. A doe should be bred only once a year but can be bred twice a year. Pygmy Goats begin to develop an udder 8 weeks or more after being bred. In some goats the udder might not be noticeable until late in the pregnancy, but the udder will dramatically increase in size or bag up as the doe gets closer to delivery.

## **Pygmy Goat Birthing:**

### **Also see Silver Level Study Guide Breeding and Kidding**

When your Pygmy Goat is in labor you need to make sure you have a clean area for them that is away from your herd that has a bed, food, water, and a covered area. Pygmy Goat birthing can sometimes be a difficult process since Pygmy Goat does tend to have small pelvises which creates problems with pushing out baby goats. The ideal birthing position is head and front hooves first. If baby needs help getting out first you need to figure out what position they are in so you can know how to help. Next slowly use your hands to get a hold of the baby based on its position and pull with the does contractions. When the baby finally is out clean mucus off baby's nose, mouth, and throat if needed and then let the dam clean the kid. Once the baby is functioning dip the navel cord in Iodine to disinfect it. After the whole birthing process the doe passes the afterbirth (placenta) which can sometimes take up to 24 hours.

## **Teeth : Also See Silver Level Study Guide Teeth**

Pygmy Goats have 32 teeth

### **Raising Baby Pygmy Goats:**

For the first 6 weeks of a baby goat's life they rely heavily on their mothers for food and life support. But once they hit about 2-3 weeks old they begin to try and nibble on solid food. As they do their poop will gradually change from the yellow, dairy only poops, to tiny pellets resembling adult poops. The kids will gradually increase their intake of the dam's food. The babies still drink their mother's milk for about 8 to 12 weeks until separated from the mother or until the mother starts pushing away the baby and not letting it drink as much. At that point you could wean the baby from the mother or just leave them with the rest of the herd to let the mother push them away.

### **Selenium Importance:**

Selenium is important because it helps build up the strength of the goat's muscles. Bo-Se is an injection of selenium and vitamin E that is given to help build up the amount of selenium especially at a young age. A selenium/vitamin E deficiency can cause white muscle disease (Nutritional Myopathy) which is a degenerative muscle disease. An overdose of selenium is as bad as a deficiency though.

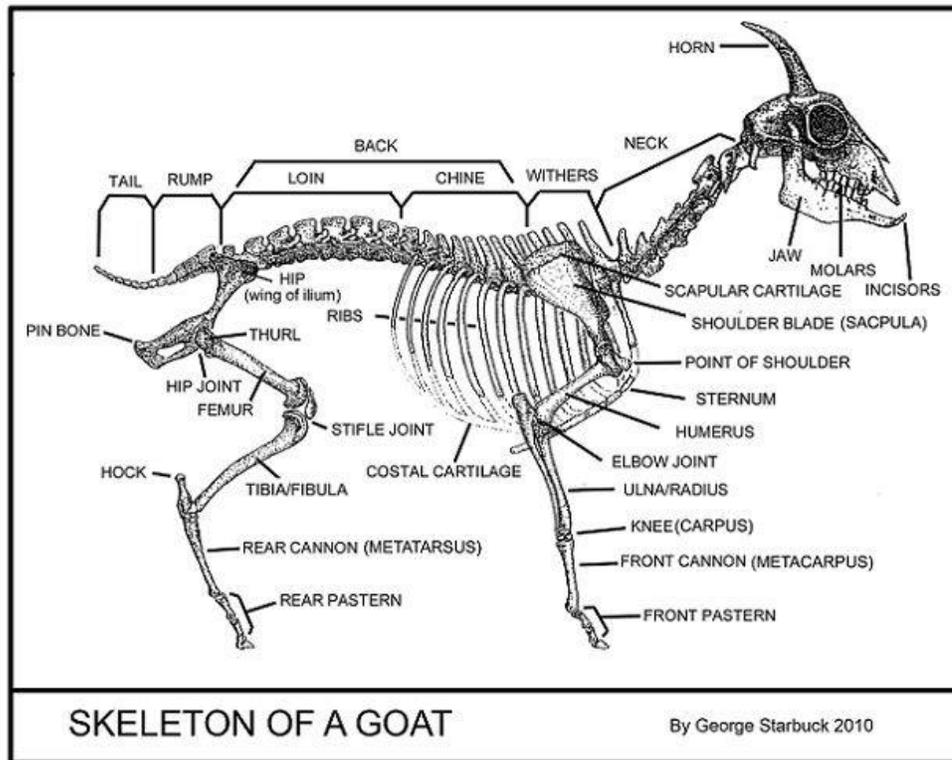
### **Nutrition Importance:**

Nutrition in Pygmy Goats is important because it helps with the pygmy goat's over-all health. Giving Pygmy Goats proper nutrition helps with the function of their nervous system and digestive system by giving it the strength to properly function with everyday things. Pygmy Goats will look healthier in having clear eyes, shiny coat, and being more active.

# Pygmy Goat Achievement Test Study Guide

## Level Three

### Study: Level One and Two Study Guide and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Study Guides



### Study: skeleton parts

#### Terms:

Bo-se- injection of selenium

Dehydration- lack of body fluid

Hypocalcemia- low calcium condition

Rumination- activity in rumen

Urinary Calculi- stones in urinary track

Outbreeding- mating of two non-related goats

Linebreeding- breeding related goats for desired characteristics

Inbreeding- breeding of two related goats and can cause birth defects

Meconium- tarry black fecal passed by kids

Breeding Memo- form completed to show proof of breeding

Disbudding- removal of horn buds in baby goats

Caprine- scientific name for goat

## **Diseases: Also See Gold Level Study Guide Yearly Testing**

Pinkeye- causes temporary loss of vision and is most common during the summer season. It is caused by different microorganisms. Highly contagious, it spreads from flies and fluid contact. Separate infected goat from rest of herd.

Scrapies- also known as TSE. A fatal degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system. This is similar to ‘ Mad Cow Disease’ that infects cows.

Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis- also known as CAE. One of the most significant diseases for goats in the United States. It is spread from mother to kid by colostrum and milk and can cause either Arthritis or Encephalitis.

Urinary Calculi- disease in goats that is caused by an imbalance in their calcium to phosphorus ratio that causes urinary stones. Wethers are especially susceptible to urinary calculi.

Caseous Lymphadenitis- (CL) a chronic infection that causes pus filled abscesses in the lymph nodes of the neck and abdomen.

Johne’s Disease (fatal gastrointestinal disease caused by a bacterium called Mycobacterium Avium).

## **Functions of the stomach: Also See Gold Level Study Guide**

Rumen (largest chamber in the stomach. Breaks down food using microorganisms into to cud to be rechewed).

Reticulum (lies below the rumen and near the liver. Lined with a honeycomb structure to catch heavy articles).

Omasum (divided into long folds and decreases size of the food particles while removing the fluids).

Abomasum (known as the true stomach since it is only chamber to have digestive enzymes to help properly digest food).

## **Teeth: See Also Gold Level Study Guide Teeth**

Goats have 8 front lower teeth and just gums (dental pad) on top in front. They have 24 molars in the back, 12 on bottom and 12 on top. 9

## **Types of Shots:**

Sub-Q is a subcutaneous injection. It is given in-between the skin at any place you can pull up the skin, mainly given behind the front leg.

Examples of shots: CD&T and Penicillin.

IM is an inter muscular injection. It is given directly into the muscle at the neck or the stifle of back leg (not normally given in leg since you can easily hit a nerve and cause your goat to go lame). Example of shots:

Bo-Se

IV is an intravenous injection. It is given directly into the vein at the neck since the veins are easily popped out in that area. Mainly used to draw blood and an injection typically performed by a veterinarian.

M is an intra-mammory infusion. It is an infusion directly into the teat of the udder. Mainly performed by a veterinarian.

## **Symptoms of Poisonous Plants:**

bloat, chronic wasting, colic, coma, constipation, convulsions, cries of pain, death, dermatitis, diarrhea, difficult breathing, dilated pupils, fever, frothing at the mouthy, excitability, lameness, muscle spasms or tremors, muscle weakness, photosensitization, rapid pulse, salivation, staggering, vertigo, vomiting, and weak pulse.

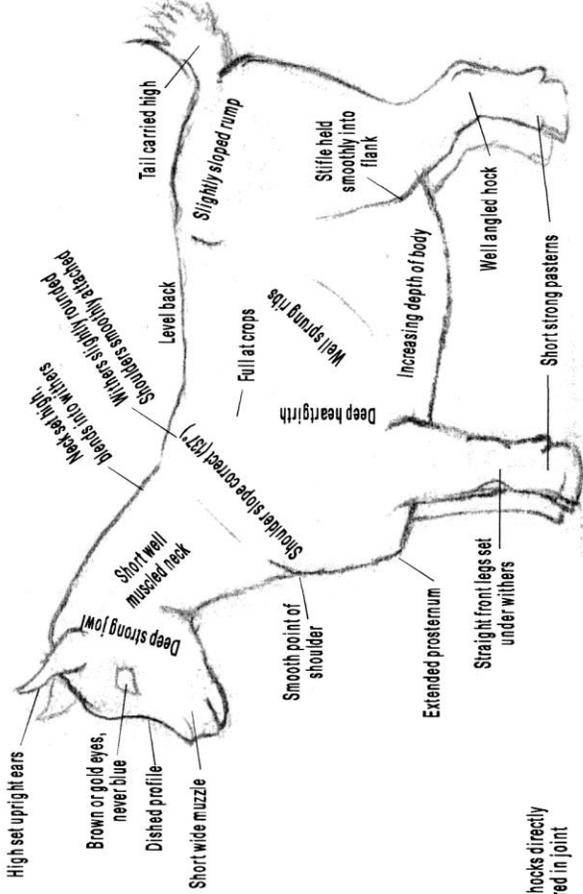
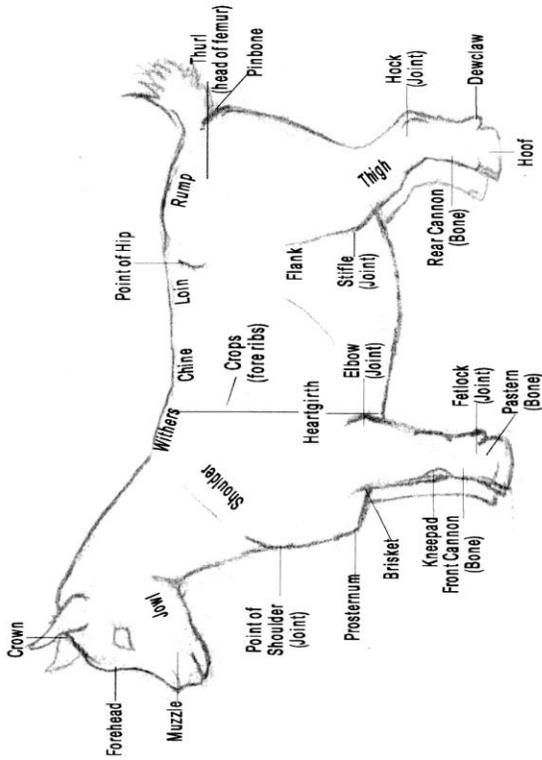
## **How to a Pick Ideal Pygmy Goat:**

When picking the ideal Pygmy Goat you first need to determine the age you want, younger or older. Next when you finally start looking at goats you first need to examine their health; make sure they have a shiny coat, clear eyes, and are not compromised in any way. Perky and happy goats are good signs. After you make sure the goat is in good health you next look at their conformation. For a show goat you want to them to be cobby, balanced, short, and compact. And finally you want to try to get a friendly goat to easily interact with and to train for show.

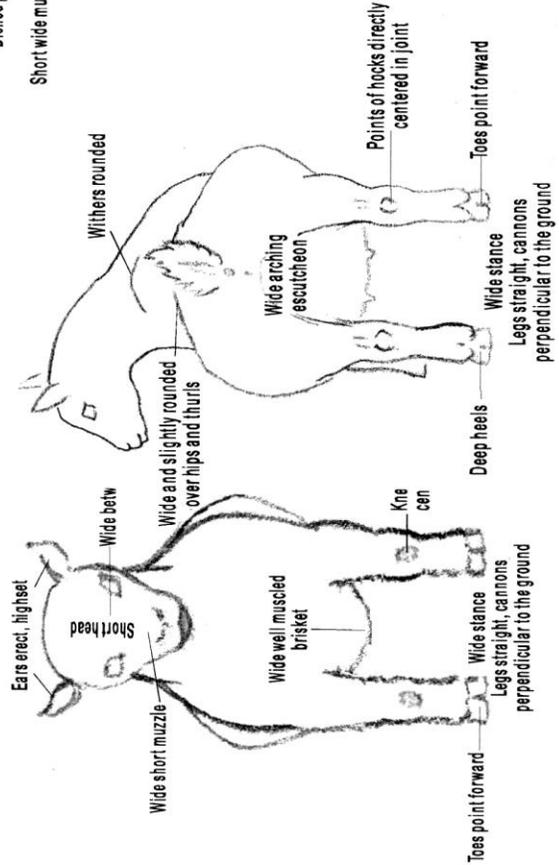
# You Be The Judge

## The Ideal Pygmy Goat

The NPGA Breed Standard details the traits of the Ideal Pygmy Goat. Bucks and does are judged using the Breed Standard with points given for the correctness of each trait. Wethers, castrated males, have most of these traits judged too but are also awarded 1/4 of their score for their good behavior. Pygmies came in 4 color patterns, caramel, agouti, black and solid black. The Breed Standard describes the proper markings for each pattern. Pygmies are shown in their full coat. Does have short hair, bucks have long flowing beards and capes, long hair down their backs and on their upper legs. Pygmies are genetic dwarves; they have short legs, short necks, stout round barrels, and are compact and cobby, being slightly longer than they are tall. Pygmy goats are heavily muscled and heavy boned, standing on stout legs. Pygmies walk smoothly and fluidly, the legs moving well forward on each stride with the rear foot falling nearly in the hoof print left by the forefoot. The stride is wide, the legs moving perpendicular to the ground. The legs do not paddle outward nor swing inward; the feet do not drag. The head is carried alertly above the withers.

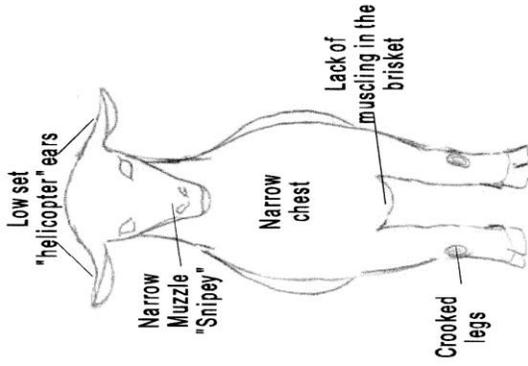


Cobby, length of body is nearly the same at height at withers. Overall heavy boned and heavy muscled. Head carried above withers. An overall alert animated appearance.



# You Be The Judge

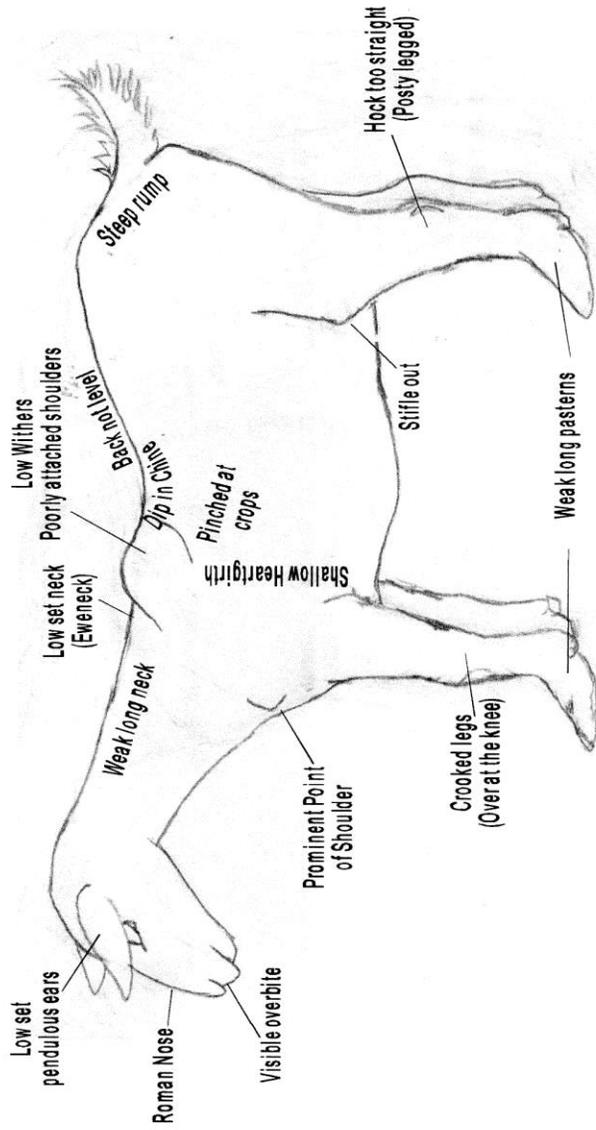
## Pygmy Goat Faults



This goat is knock-kneed and the toes point outward indicating the entire leg is somewhat twisted. Some dairy goat judges refer to this as "curly" front legs.



The goat on the left has straight legs but has a narrow leg set. This is fairly common in pygmies. The goat on the right has crooked rear legs, she is cow hocked and narrow. The hocks point in, the toes point out.



Lack of overall body capacity. There is no extension of the prosternum, heartgirth is shallow, no increasing depth going toward the flank. Lack of overall muscling, light boned.

### Disqualifying Traits

- Disqualifying traits are those that prohibit a goat from being shown. These are:
- A disfiguring malocclusion is a misaligned bite or crooked jaw that can be seen without opening the lips.
  - Traits that challenge the breed identity such as a Roman nose, pendulous ears, blue eyes, a complete lack of breed markings, wavy or curly coat, or being genetically hornless (naturally polled) are disqualifying.
  - Goats that are very thin are disqualified.
  - The teats are checked. Bucks must have perfect but non-functioning teats, does are allowed some minor flaws, but fishtail teats and teats with multiple orifices will disqualify a doe.
  - A buck's testicles are checked; they must have 2 fully descended normal testes.

# Pygmy Goat Achievement Test Study Guide

## **Skills Test Level One :**

### **Identify the following:**

1. Goat Stand or Stanchion
2. Syringe
3. Hoof rasp
4. Thinning shears
5. Hoof trimmers
6. Dewormer
7. Grooming Brush
8. Grooming Rake
9. Thermometer
10. Goat Lead

### **Demonstrate the Following:**

1. How to put a goat on a stanchion
2. How to show a goat
3. How to administer dewormer paste

## **Level Two**

### **Identify the following :**

11. Loose Minerals
12. Mineral Block
13. Clippers
14. Disbudding Iron
15. Umbilical Disinfectant
16. Goat leg puller
17. Goat head puller
18. Elastrator bands
19. Elastrator
20. Bottle nipple for pygmy goat

### **Demonstrate the following:**

1. How to draw up a syringe
2. How to trim hooves
3. How to disinfect a kid's umbilical cord

## **Level Three**

### **Identify the following:**

21. COB Grain
22. Alfalfa Hay
23. Grass Hay
24. Oat Hay
25. Alfalfa Pellets or Cubes
26. Straw
27. Tattoo Applicator
28. Blower
29. Microchip Applicator
30. Microchip Reader

### **Demonstrate the following:**

1. How to use an elastrator to wether males
2. How to use a kid puller
3. How to microchip a goat