The NAPgA Bleat!

Another year...
The coming Advent season reminds us with great force that yet another year has passed, and we are another year older. As one who qualifies for 'Senior Parking' at the airport, I am often given pause to wonder, 'just where have all the years gone, anyway'?

I am overwhelmed with the realization that if we don't make the current years count, it will be very soon that we are basically 'out of years'. The thought that one could be at the point of re-joining eternity, and never have done anything to improve the world we spent these years in, is a sad one indeed. John Kennedy said it, and my paraphrase of that statement is still true, "Ask not what can be done for you, ask what you can do for someone else." No toy or accomplishment will be as satisfying as something done for someone else, with no hope or expectation of a reward. And that's the truth!

Goatpacking has lost a bright light.
Jan Marie Huffaker walked out of this life, Thursday, November 3rd, 2009. Her time with us seemed so very short, but yet her impact on us was so very great. Her legacy will live on in many areas, not the least of which will be her contributions to NAPgA, an organization that she gave her heart and soul to. God bless you Jan for all you gave us.

Jan will have a page devoted to her later in the NL.

Wisconsin Ag Connection

Use Reduced NAIS Funds to Dissolve Program Altogether
http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/index.php

A 100-group coalition of farm organizations are urging federal lawmakers to dissolve the National Animal Identification System completely. In a letter to Congressional leaders and officials at the USDA, the organizations said they ‘look forward to working with USDA to enhance our nation’s animal disease preparedness in a manner that builds upon our past successes and respects the interests of U.S. livestock producers and consumers.’

The letter asks members of the House and Senate to support the limited use of NAIS funding to shut down the program, and to refocus the agency on measures that truly improve animal health and that respect the interests of both livestock owners and consumers. In the 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, Congress reduced NAIS funding to $5.3 million, but did not specify how those funds were to be allocated.

Wisconsin Ag Connection, 11/24

The PDF Newsletter

We have noted this before, but sending out the newsletter is one of the most expensive things that we do.

It would seem that there are other areas that would be a much better use of the funds that you provide us with.

You can help with this by checking the box in your profile on the website that says 'PDF Newsletter', or letting me know and I will do it. You then would be able to download the NL and print it yourself, thereby getting it in color instead of black & white. The color pictures that I include look much better in the PDF version.

Please consider doing this.

Larry Robinson, napga@hisurfer.net

NAPgA Store Mailings

Since I am kind of the everything person in terms of NAPgA website/membership documentation/treasury & merchandise, sometimes things get bogged down a little on this end.

Add to this the fact that I live 25 miles or so out of town, and I am not exactly excited making any more trips to town than I have to, things purchased from the store may take a day or three to actually get into the mail. Although I regret this delay, I don’t at present see any resolution for it. Sorry.

Larry Robinson
NAPgA
Oregon’s Fall Beach Clean-Up was held on Saturday, September 13th from 10 am to 1 pm.

The Cascade Packgoat Club has been participating in the Spring and Fall Beach Clean-ups for more years than we can remember. We always clean from Moolack Beach to Beverly Beach. This is located just North of Newport on the Central Oregon coast.

As my husband Perry and I drove the 80 miles to Newport the weather was bad, pouring rain and windy. I was glad that we had packed our rain gear and extra clothes along with towels and coats for the goats.

We arrived, got all geared up and signed in and headed for the beach... the rain stopped, the sun came out and we started shedding layers that the goats carried for us along with the trash!

The most interesting ‘find’ this year was a watch picked up by Phil Lamberson. I don’t know if it was a Timex but it “had taken a licking and was still ticking”. It was also white, plastic, and a little “petite” on Phil.

Participating this year were the Lamberson’s, the Gray’s, the Privratsky’s, and the Powell’s.

Follow-Up from 2006 Rendezvous

Hey a couple of things. I just heard that the trail that we worked on at the 2006 rendezvous on Mt. Hood in Oregon is going to become part of a longer trail going from the top of Mt. Hood to Sandy following the old Barlow Road which was part of the Oregon Trail. Just thought people might hear where their efforts went.

Also a friend of mine who is 80 lives in a cabin up on Mt. Hood. His cabin got vandalized and a bunch of stuff stolen including his backpack. He had a SPOT locator in it. Well, somehow the SPOT got triggered after the burglars got it home and when they called him to see why it was going off he got the GPS coordinates and called the police who promptly went to Vancouver and retrieved all his stuff and arrested them. Another use for a SPOT, Lo-Jack system.

Follow-Up from 2006 Rendezvous

Hey a couple of things. I just heard that the trail that we worked on at the 2006 rendezvous on Mt. Hood in Oregon is going to become part of a longer trail going from the top of Mt. Hood to Sandy following the old Barlow Road which was part of the Oregon Trail. Just thought people might hear where their efforts went.

Also a friend of mine who is 80 lives in a cabin up on Mt. Hood. His cabin got vandalized and a bunch of stuff stolen including his backpack. He had a SPOT locator in it. Well, somehow the SPOT got triggered after the burglars got it home and when they called him to see why it was going off he got the GPS coordinates and called the police who promptly went to Vancouver and retrieved all his stuff and arrested them. Another use for a SPOT, Lo-Jack system.

HP://www.findmespot.com/en/
laughs. “He just cried all the time.”
Blakeman looked for a buddy for Hercules and found Teton. He
is on loan from a Paradise Valley resident who uses goats for
packing.
Teton will go back to his owner in the spring, at which point Blake-
man plans to find a new companion for Hercules.

NAPgA Packgoat Purchasing Checklist
Excerpt from Practical Goatpacking, edition two, by Carolyn Eddy
Questions and considerations for prospective buyers to research before and during the purchase process. This ques-
tionnaire is designed to help prospective packgoat owners
ask intelligent questions and to consider all the informa-
tion needed to make intelligent choices when purchasing
packgoats or packgoat prospects.

WHAT BREEDS TO SELECT?
Which breeds make good packgoats? Which breeds are
most suited for the type of packing you intend to do? Some
breeds are better suited for some conditions than others.
(Of course, there are goats that are the exceptions to every
breed rule too.)

WHAT KIND OF HOUSING AND PASTURE DO THEY NEED?
How much exercise do they need, how often? If I give them
room to run and play, do I need to take an hour to walk
them every day as well? How much room do they need to
run and play? What kind of house do they need? What’s the
best fencing for goats in my particular situation? Do I need
to consider separate pens for different age groups? Will I
need to build new shelters or a barn for them and for feed
storage?

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ATTRIBUTES OF A PACKGOAT:
What makes a good pack goat structure. What structural
problems should I avoid and which are less important?
What makes good packgoat temperament? Are the animals
I’m looking at from bloodlines of goats previously proven
to be good packers? If not, am I willing to consider them a
great experiment that may or may not work out?

DIET AND NUTRITION:
What do goats eat? How much? What diet do they need at
different times of their lives and what do I feed them when
they are working? How much hay do they eat? If they are
eating browse, is there a way to figure out if I have enough
pasture to support the number of goats I intend to keep
or will I need to purchase feed either seasonally or year
round? What mineral and vitamin supplements will I need
to provide? What will be my water source?

SOCIALIZATION AND TRAINING:
How much do they need to be socialized? What kind of
socialization? What about co-existing with other animals?
status? Seller’s recommendations for further training, so-
cialization and conditioning?

HOW TO TRANSPORT:
Transportation ideas, trailer, truck with canopy? Adequate
headroom for adult goats or goats with horns? What will I
bed it with for pee and poop-proof flooring? If buying goats
in another state, what do I need in the way of health permits
to bring them home?

DISEASES:
CAE, what is it and how it may affect packgoats? Caseous
Lymphadenitis, Johnes testing and Scrapie status and tagging
or tattooing for identification? Are goats guaranteed to be
free from disease at the time of purchase? Is there a return
guarantee if the goat has a problem either health-wise or
structurally? Are goats eligible and tattooed for entry into
the ADGA wether certification program?

VACCINE AND WORMING STATUS:
What vaccines and worming programs are necessary for
goats in your area? What is the prospective goats’ vaccine
status? What is the goats’ worming schedule? Products used?
Is the schedule appropriate for the area where the goats will
be living? Does the goat need to be treated for coccidiosis?
(This is primarily in kids.)

POISONOUS PLANTS:
What kinds of poisonous plants are in my area and the areas
I will be packing in? How do I keep goats out of toxic plants
on the trail?

PREDATOR CONTROL:
What are your plans to keep goats and predators apart?
In the pasture: Fencing? Guard animals? On the Trail: Dog
companion, dazer, pepper spray?

DOES AS PACKERS?
If planning to use does, what are the pros and cons of using
does?

EQUIPMENT?
What equipment will I need and where can I find it? What
are the pros and cons of the various types of saddles? Do I
need a soft pack for a starter pack? What other management
equipment will I need such as buckets, brushes, etc?

One Person’s Take on UC Prevention
I still swear by Joe-Pye Weed AKA Gravelroot (Eupato-
rium purpureum) for UC prevention and treatment. It
grows in most wet spots in the Northeast.

When Bert had his severe attack, Chanca piedra pow-
der saved his life. This one is relatively new and not
as well-researched as Joe-Pye Weed. It is also more
expensive (comes from South America).

Goats will eat fresh or dried Joe-Pye Weed by the
handful. Chanca piedra is bitter and goes down more
easily in some fruit juice or made into a tea, then used
to moisten graham crackers.

Dori Green
Jan as she appeared at the California Rendy this year. She looked so good for someone so ill. But it was obvious that she was struggling even then, as her rest breaks were frequent.

Jan’s Obituary

Jan Marie Huffaker completed her journey in this life on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at Sterling Memorial Hospital following a long battle with cancer.

Jan was born in Yankton, South Dakota on December 16, 1959 to Wilbert and JoAnn Becker. She grew up in Denver, Colorado, and graduated as valedictorian from Denver Lutheran High School. Upon completing her bachelor’s degree in animal sciences from Colorado State University, Jan moved to Washington County and became the owner of a hog operation. When the market collapsed in the 1980’s, Jan lost the farm, and started working for the Washington County Assessor’s office, where she has been for 20 years. Jan was active in the community, volunteering as an EMT for the Washington County Ambulance service for 15 years, organizing bike races in Akron, singing in the Trinity Lutheran church choir and the Master Chorale in Sterling. Jan’s favorite past-time, however, was working with her goat herd, making goat-milk soap and using goats for backcountry camping trips. Jan was the president of the North American Pack Goat Association (NAPgA) for over 7 years, and the editor of their newsletter for many more. Jan influenced packgoat owners across the nation, and organized many of the annual packgoat rendezvous where packgoat owners gather together to do service projects for the Forest Service and share information in workshops.

Jan enjoyed simple pleasures in life such as tending her large garden and bottle-feeding her kid goats. Hersense of adventure carried her on raft trips through the Grand Canyon and above timberline on pack trips. Jan lived her dream.

Jan was preceded in death by both of her parents. She is survived by her two brothers, Randy King of Maxwell, Nebraska and Steve Becker of Lakewood, Colorado, their wives and children. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to NAPgA (North American PackGoat Association) in care of Brennan Funeral Home in Akron. Funeral services will be held at Trinity Lutheran church in Akron on Saturday, November 7 at 11:00 am.

The outpouring of heartfelt feeling on the various goat groups after Jan’s passing was incredible. Certainly no one had to ask if this lady had had an impact on those around her. the statement below by Claire sums it up as good as anyone could have...

Hello all;

In reference to Jan Huffaker,...

We have lost a gentle, intelligent, and courageous spirit amongst us with her passing.

There are those you just feel a sense of deep human connection to -- even if the contacts are few, far between and brief.

For Jan and I, it was three evenings, soap and various and sundry other lovingly made accouterments, a couple of goats, a few cyber connections and an afternoon of pulling weeds in the Carson Natl. Forest -- (that the goats-hired for the job refused to imbibe in) . .

All of it a gift of presence-beyond measure.

Engaged, thoughtful, reflective and with a courage that few of us could muster in dealing with the challenges that life had put her way. I will not forget her-her lovely serene eyes, quiet determined walk, her gentle “goat speak” and connection to those critters, and the boundless creativity and vision that seemed to ground her to a strong and positive sense of purpose-and yes-continuing wonder in the world.

I told her just a few weeks ago -- she would be terribly missed. And she is.

Hugs to all in whose presence she was a daily companion. The hole she has left has got to be a big one.

Xoxo

Claire

Jan & Cian Szczesiul (Jeff Ross' nephew) at the Colorado Rendy in 2007 that she sponsored. A beautiful place, and a beautiful time we had...

Jan and George, that is my memory also. I do hope they are enjoying a mountain meadow together. And Jan trying to remove a rock the size of a Volkswagen from the middle of the road - by herself with her pickup. She was both a tough (and gentle) lady, and I so admire her.

Zea Beaver

Dolores, CO
These are a couple of semi-personal letters that appeared in the Pack-goat group, but are of interest to & express the feelings of all who knew Jan, no matter how short was their time of acquaintenship. We are poorer for her passing.

From: Vickyjordan
To: Charlie Goggin
November 04, 2009 10:59 PM
I guess it is midnight, and I have to teach the next two days, so I really do need to go to bed. I AM bone tired, as you say.

Please forward the obituary to the packgoat community. It was SO touching to read the 75 emails that Jan got the day after I first contacted you! I was able to convey to Jan the overwhelming response, and to let her know what a huge difference she made to people. I’m really glad that happened before she died. I think Steve is figuring it out, too, by reading the emails. I haven’t had the courage to go on to Jan’s email today. I’ll wait for tomorrow for that.

I just finished a slide show about Jan for the funeral. That was hard. If I can figure out a way to post it somewhere, I will, so you can share it with the NAPgA people.

We are asking that in lieu of flowers, people send memorial donations to NAPgA. I hope there is a good address on the web! The funeral home director was going to collect locally and mail it off. We’re also going to set out Jan’s goat soap during the reception, and have a NAPgA donation jar there.

I’ll have to get Steve’s mailing address for you. Jan wasn’t really close to her other brother, Randy, so probably the best address to use would be Steve’s.

The lifetime achievement award you gave to Jan at the Rendy made a huge impact on her. She was touched, and the acknowledgement came at a perfect time. Thanks for that.

My trip with Jan was SO very important, not only for her, but for me as well. It was hard breaking away from family and commitments for that long, but it is something I will cherish for the rest of my life. Lots of lessons learned this past year, that’s for sure.

I’m glad you are there. I am proud to know you.

G’night.

Vicky

Thanks Vicky, it is ok that I did not hear it from you, I woke up last night and just knew she was gone, I’m not surprised. I’m saddened, but glad her suffering is over.

You were right, she wanted to be alone to die, that was her choice, it has to be respected. So many people do that, it is not uncommon.

I know you are bone tired.

I also want to thank you, for everyone in the packgoat community, for taking that trip with Jan last summer. You left home and family to take Jan on her last big trip. I know you guys had a good time and it was wonderful for her but I also know it was hard and sad for you. You are a wonderful friend and you gave her an incredible gift by making that trip happen. I know most of us would very much want to do a final big trip if we were in Jan’s shoes but without someone there to pick up the slack such a trip is not possible for a terminally ill person. You made it happen.

If you would give me a mailing address we can ship flowers or at least a sympathy card to Jan’s brothers and sister-in-law, or if there was a charity she preferred we could send a donation in her name. (Interestingly, the charity that she and her family preferred was NAPgA. She gave so much, and continues to give even after her passing. NAPgA Ed.)

If you think the brothers would like it I can share an address, perhaps yours or the Denver brother (Steve?), so that they can get cards from the packgoat folks, I’m not sure her brothers realize how many of our lives Jan touched. I know after my father passed away we all cherished the notes and cards with stories about my dad, some of them were new to even my mom. It was such a gift and meant more to us than I can ever say.

Take care,

Charlie Goggin
crifferfarm@cccomm.net

NAPgA will be posting a special page on the website napga.org in memorial to Jan and her accomplishments for her favorite organization. It will take some time as I am still waiting for resources to put it together. Pls check back in a couple of weeks or so.

Larry Robinson

(the blank space following is our NL version of a moment of silence and a salute to our past President!)
**Safety, Safety, Safety**

*Oh, brother, that again.*

Yes, again. And the reason for that is multi-faceted, but largely revolves around the fact that, 1) our human nature causes us to quickly get complacent about things that we feel are quasi-necessary, & 2) as I have often said, “a self-analysis is the most inaccurate inventory possible.”

Sadly we almost never seem to underestimate our capabilities, but more often overestimate. And therein lies the rub. When we start with an exaggerated confidence in our capabilities, and complacency causes us to leave home part of our safety gear because, ‘well, we’ve never used that anyway’, this is a setup for the cascading effect that leads to a survival situation. Most rescue situations did not develop from one single catastrophic event, but were a result of a domino effect of a number of small occurrences that built on each other. This is compounded by the fact that the line between survival/not survival is much thinner out there, and gets thinner with distance away from the trailhead.

And if you are a goatpacker, you are also responsible for the little lives that are carrying your ‘stuff’. And they can go into crisis very quickly. Having had two guys that got poisoned out in the woods definitely underscored that issue for me with great emphasis.

*Case in point:* On my very last venture into the woods, in August, where in Idaho we almost always have unadulterated sun continuing into September, we ran into rain, wind and very cold temperatures. The morning we departed it was 28 degrees. Unseasonable? To be sure! Interestingly, before we left, my wife asked if I was going to take my long johns. In classic male fashion, I responded, “In August? Who needs long johns in August?” Well, I did. We froze our rears off for about 3 days. We even had to take refuge from a rainsquall under a tree at one point on the way in. And it was downhill from there. Since I do carry a real good sleeping bag, I did have a refuge, but that meant that there were some early-to-bed nights on this trip. There is nothing like rain and wind to suck the very life out of you, and an incident like this can go downhill very quickly.

In order to enhance safety, and minimize surprises, one thing I religiously do before leaving for a trip is print out my checklist (don’t leave home without one!) and check everything off one by one, assembling all my gear in one place in the living room. That precaution helps to limit the loss covered by my saying that ‘it isn’t whether or not you are going to forget something, only what it is, and how important’.

Another very important safety issue is to recognize you, and/or your partner’s limitations. On our recent hike, my plan called for an exploration of the lakes in a particular basin, then a climb to the top of the cirque they were sitting in, then a descent down the other side of the cirque to another basin. After we fought our way to the top of this precipice, it was obvious that it was very dicey climb down into the next drainage. I felt I could handle it, but my partner was none to sure. At some point in our conversation she made the statement, “Just looking down there frightens me!” That was my cue to say, “Well, plan ‘B’ time.” If she was frightened from the beginning, and therefore very tense, trying to climb down what was admittedly a very challenging drainage, it was time to rethink the venture. It is never happy to have to depart from a well-laid plan, but depart we did. I told her, “Let’s go back to the truck, drive to the Josephus Lake trailhead, and start out from there.” And so we did. By doing this, we missed much of what I had originally planned. Bummer. But while we were still driving to the other trailhead I was contemplating another trip that would take in the rest of the lakes. And that we will do, probably next year.

And finally, it DOES NOT make you more of a ‘woodsman’ to not take advantage of the various electronic enhancements to safety that have been developed in the last decade or so. I generally don’t use a GPS for navigation, as I don’t feel I need it. But it IS good for cross-checking my position. Last year, if I had not done that, I would have put myself and my hiking partner in a very tenuous position. It meant a bit of backtracking, but it was good to find out about my error early on before it was difficult to recover from it.

The second device that I have been carrying is a PLB. My wife made me buy one these several years ago right after they became available due to the fact that I was hiking alone. The PLB if you set it off tells rescuers who you are, where you are, and that you are in a life-threatening situation. It is a one-trick pony, but if you need it, it will have been worth the expense and having carried it for all these years. *The type I carry is at the website below:* [http://www.equipped.com/terrafix_406gps_plb.html](http://www.equipped.com/terrafix_406gps_plb.html)

The third device I have been made to acquire by my ‘significant other’ is a SPOT. I can’t for the life of me remember what ‘SPOT’ stands for, but what it does is send messages, via satellite, letting the homebodies know where you are and that you are still OK. It will also call for help if you need it, and finally it duplicates the PLB function of a 911 call. The SPOT is $170 initially (on sale now for $99), and $100 a year for the satellite coverage. A bargain I think. Don’t leave home without it. SPOT Website below: [http://www.findmespot.com/en/](http://www.findmespot.com/en/).

Will all of this guarantee that you will never have any troubles out in the woods? Hardly. But in a lot of years of hiking, the worst that has ever happened to me is that I had to hike out about 6 miles soaking wet. After that I upgraded my equipment in order to minimize that possibility reoccurring. Finally, carrying the rescue beacons gives one a sense of coverage should the unpredictable and unexpected actually happen.

Larry Robinson, Idaho City, ID

NAPgA, (Originally Published in *Goats Across Canada*)
Police Help Wrangle Wandering Goats In North Admiral

October 6, 2009 at 6:08 pm | In West Seattle news, Wildlife |

KING 5 News tweeted that goats were on the loose in West Seattle. Here they are -- in a North Admiral neighborhood.

Here’s what happened: The goats arrived to clear a patch of brush in the greenbelt behind the house; they did such a good job in that area, they wound up wandering further than they were supposed to.

Thanks to Bob Anderson for sending more photos and his account of what happened:

Today’ at approx. 5:30 pm a herd of approximately 25 goats who were clearing a hillside behind residential new construction on 44th Avenue SW (1/2 block NW of the intersection of 44th Avenue SW and Sunset Avenue SW), escaped their fenced confines and wandered into the North Admiral neighborhood.

Amazed neighbors contained the goats who fed on residents shrubbery. The SPD were called and arrived promptly on scene within minutes. Neighbors & SPD herded goats back to fenced in construction site where they were contained.

The entire episode took approximately 20 minutes and was good fun on a beautiful fall afternoon.

Happy Reunion, After Southwest Precinct Got Someone's Goat

February 3, 2009 at 7:48 pm | In Pets, West Seattle news, West Seattle police

That’s Southwest Precinct Officer Kathleen Graves sharing in the happy reunion that ended a mini-drama that played out earlier this evening. We got e-mail and text messages from Officer Bruce Wind that Officer Graves had found that goat at 32nd and Elmgrove (map), and perhaps we could get the word out fast enough for the owner to claim the goat before Animal Control arrived. So we posted a note in the WSB Forums and sent it out via Twitter and Facebook. Someone who saw one of those posts called the goat’s owner, and she retrieved it from the precinct, where it had been hanging out in a holding cell.

As one of the e-mails received captioned that photo, “It’s gotta go real baaa-aa-aad”… and gone it has… gone home. Gotta love a happy ending now and then.

The Deep Hole

Two guys are walking down a road when they come across a deep hole beside it. Being curious, they go over and check it out. When they look down, they are surprised to find they can’t see the bottom. So they drop a couple of rocks down the hole and listen... Nothing. One of them says, ”Man, that’s a deep hole!”

Thinking they might hear something larger hit the bottom, they find a big, old cinder block and pitch it over the side. The pause and listen intently... They hear a sound, but it is coming from behind them! They quickly turn around to see a goat bearing down on them with it head lowered, flying along, its feet barely touching the ground, its moving so fast!

The two men dive out of its way just in time and the goat plunges past them, into the seemingly bottomless hole, to its doom. The two look at each other and say, "Boy that was close! We’d better get away from this thing before we end up with the goat!".

So they continue on their way down the road until they happen across this farmer working near it. The men again put their heads together and figure that the goat belongs to the farmer and the decide to tell him what happened.

"Hey Mr. Farmer. Do you happen to own a goat?", one of the men asked.

The farmer replies, “Yeah, why do you ask?”

The men then tell what happened at the hole and how they narrowly avoided death in the hole from the speeding goat.

The farmer said, "Well boys, I don’t think that was my goat. You see, my goat is really old and crippled up with arthritis. There is no way he could have been moving that fast. Besides, I have him tied to a big, old cinder block."
And another Person’s Opinion to the Characteristics of Goats

I have found the following (having raised all the major standard dairy breeds over the past 33+ years)...

Alpines - they tend to be the HEAT SEEKING MISSILES of doom and destruction; out to kill, with a vengeance! There have been actual cases where a doe will fight almost to the death (and sometimes to the detriment of the kids she is carrying, causing HERSELF to abort by not stopping -- even if she is WINNING the fight!). Of all the breeds, Alpines have fought the ‘dirtiest’ ... being that as a breed I have seen more of them ‘gang up’ on other goats (even other Alpines), rip and tear teats, ears, flanks, and rear udders -- even munching off the tips of another’s tail! There was a prominent line of Northwest Alpines that was easily visible by the ‘attitude’ of his daughters, grand-daughters, and sometimes into the third generation. Sadly or happily, those animals were BEAUTIFUL and PRODUCTIVE... apparently worth the insanity to most who owned them.

LaManchas - they have a tendency to be the Imps of the goat world; the clowns of the barn, and the instigators of all this is troubling to the goat owner -- sometimes being ‘snapping turtles’ to other breeds with visible ears! If there is a flaw in barnyard security, a loose gate latch, or even a new route to the rafters, it WILL be found by a LaMancha -- I can’t tell you how many times if a kid made it up and out, over and through a feeder, a window, up a hay stack, over and through a horse feeder, through the horse stalls, anything NOW where it was meant to be, it would be a little earless wonder peering back and me wondering what I was doing there -- obviously SHE belonged there, after all, she was there -- and that was that! I was the one out of place in her mind!

Nubians - as a rule they have tended to be the most neurotic, needy, and loud of all the breeds. The poster child for Prozac (goat or owner, take your pick), but then again, there are a few exceptions within particular bloodlines. In fact, one of the mellowest goats of all breeds I have ever owned was a Nubian (recently).

Oberhasli - usually quiet and well mannered, with a slight bit of inquisitiveness, usually mellow and playful, focused on “just being” and going along with the flow. Independent enough to actually go out and browse on their own, but just as happy to be with their “person” if they are in the barnyard doing something.

Saanens - well, again if there were a breed that tends to be a poster child, the Saanen would be one for “work ethics” within the dairy breeds. Their laid back, usually mellow disposition within the herd is something to behold (again, in my history with the breed). They tend to live up to being a bit slow and ploddy, not getting overly excited nor caring too much what is going on around them -- but don't think they will take being pushed around too long. The Alpine biskit-girls may start it, but a Saanen WILL FINISH it! (And yes, these white beauties can and will hold a grudge).

Toggenburgs - Leave me alone, feed me, milk me, get out of my way, and did I mention “leave me alone!” -- If a gnat farts in the barn the Togg will hear it, snort the alarm, and be off like a flash. Eventually they come back to earth, but not before a couple revolutions around the barnyard! (again, just my experience with these deer-like creatures!).

All of these scenarios above have varied from the herd management where they were raised, how they were raised (dam-raised or bottle babies, etc.), what they were exposed to (such as outside visitors, children, other animals, etc.).

When I am looking for stock I tend to watch for subtle hints of ‘herd personality’ and general attitude of the goats, as I find many things highly heritable when it comes to their adherence or deviation from what I consider the ‘norm’ of the breed based on my experiences with them.

Bill

If ever there was a worthwhile subscription it was this one. This is done by an individual goat-fancier deep in the interior of British Columbia, Canada, that has, every month, news and articles about goats and goat farming. They are new to goat packing, but hungry for input from those of us who are already practicing this avocation. The website is: http://www.goatsacrosscanada.ca and are waiting to hear from you.

GOATS ACROSS CANADA

Canada Agriculture Museum
Mostly Mins’ Farm
Tips on Importing Goats to Canada!
The Uganda Project

Merry Christmas
Volume 2 Issue 10

E:\Work\Ivan\210906\210823 - Goats across Canada - Issue 10 - Page 8 - Final - 11 23 2021.jpg