

NZAGA Newsletter

NZ Arapawa Goat Association - May 2018, Issue 14

From the Editor

Hello everyone.

This is my first newsletter and I will admit that it is well short of information – I really need people to contribute and I see on the Facebook Page that there has been a lot of really interesting information posted but unfortunately no one has offered to send me anything apart from Lex McKay, Lynne Julian and Alison Sutherland – so to you all a huge Thankyou!

The most exciting part of the newsletter has to be the DNA Update from Alison – I can't wait to hear of the results!

I have introduced a 'Member Profile' on page 2 – who would like to volunteer for the next newsletter??

Topics I would like to cover next time would be foot care (I already have some information from Lex), Barber Pole which one of our members has had the misfortune of experiencing recently and care of the pregnant Doe. If anyone would like to put together something about any of these subjects please let me know – I'm also happy to receive contributions on any subject!

I hope the coming winter is kind to you all.

Regards

Vicki

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Update on NZ's Arapawa goat DNA tests

Well it has been a very long wait, but the NZ Arapawa Goat Association finally received information back on the DNA tissue samples collected in June/July last year. So we now have huge files of data that still don't tell us much, but it is a start. So a brief overview:

Samples (39 tissue samples and 1 hair sample) were taken from 40 Arapawa goats that were living in domestication. All are registered with the NZAGA, have lineage back to Arapawa Island and, at the time of collection, were spread across the South Island and the lower North Island. The 40 samples were sent to NZ's Agricultural Research Laboratory where the DNA was extracted. The results were then sent offshore to create 50K SNP chips for each Arapawa goat. They had to go in a very long queue as this facility processes orders from around the world. Hence our wait.

The next step in the process was to determine the quality of the sample, i.e. which samples, if any, had a call rate of less than 95%. (Below this and the sample couldn't be included). Phew, I am delighted to report that all the samples taken had a call rate ranging from 98.7% to 99.7% with an average of 99.5%. So that means all the samples are considered scientifically valid. For each goat there were 53,347 SNPs and each SNP has a name and is identifiable. This gives us the baseline for identifying the New Zealand Arapawa Goat (as opposed to any other breed in the world) and is a massive amount of data ($53,347 \times 40$ goats = 2,133,880 SNPs to analyse). The next step was to compare these results with other goat breeds world-wide to find similarities and differences so as to determine the origins of the NZ Arapawa goat. Sounds relatively easy, except not all goat breeds have been DNA tested, let alone using the most up-to-date methodology of 50K SNPs. Yet another obstacle. But, where there is a will, there is a way, even if we have to wait years. But I don't think we have to wait that long.

Turns out there is a current study of goat breeds in the northern hemisphere (a University in the Netherlands) that includes some English breeds. I have sent them the DNA data on the Arapawa goats to be included in their comparative study.

Equally exciting, they offered an opportunity for the Arapawa goats to be included in a new DNA research study (based on patriarchal lineage). We only had a few days to collect the data and send it off; so many, many thanks to Sharon, Kitt and Shane who collected the samples and couriered them to me within hours of getting the call. So now it is a matter of the plane getting there in time to include the Arapawa goats. The geneticists are particularly interested in the Arapawa goats because of their isolation on the island over 250 years. Where else does such a unique opportunity present itself in our modern history? Whatever the outcome, they are a very unique breed. So special and so worth saving.

Submitted by Alison Sutherland

MEMBER PROFILE

Quinlan Arapawa Island Goats

Our Arapawas' share their home with myself, my husband and two boys along with the usual pets – sheep, cattle, dogs, cats and chickens on a lifestyle block just south of Dunsandel in Canterbury.

My journey with the Arapawa Island Goats started with the Dunsandel School Pet Day in 2013 when two of the students brought along their goats. I had quite a discussion with their Mum about them and was intrigued by their history. Over the course of the following year I kept seeing the Arapawa Island Goats pop up in the local newspapers and the Farmers Weekly which kept my interest ignited. In 2014 the same students brought two kids to the Pet Day – more discussion followed and a couple of days later I was the very proud owner of Killinchy Pebbles and Killinchy Licorice.

To say the first 6 months with them was a steep learning curve is an understatement! 'You don't need special fencing' - WRONG – they jump like they have built in springs as I discovered when I got up the next morning to see them standing on the Lounge Windowsill looking in as if they were the cats! And therein started a battle of wills – my trying to keep them in and them trying to get out.... They would wake us at 6 every morning play playing chase first on the deck outside our bedroom and then on the lounge deck where they would bounce from the table to BBQ to window sill – their lovely wee hoofs making an enormous clatter.

They didn't particularly endear themselves to my husband when he found them in his jet boat, on the tractor, tap dancing on his ute and using his Merlo Telehandler as their personal climbing frame. In the meantime I had tried several ways to increase the height of the fence, obviously to no avail.

It all came to a head when we popped away for four days and they spent it sleeping on our bed and playing tag on the bedroom furniture. I have taken responsibility for not shutting the front door properly. The husband was not impressed and then I added insult to the injury (they had only pooped on his side of the bed) by suggesting that he could look on the bright side – at least it wasn't the chickens in the house!

A couple of days later the local fencing contractor arrived and the girls were given a new paddock with Deer Fencing!

My girls first mating was with a local buck and I was fortunate enough to get a set of twins and a single.

In 2017 I was fortunate enough to meet Alison and Alan and their beautiful Sultan eventually made his way south to my girls. We were extremely lucky to get 2 sets of twin girls from the mating last year and I am hopeful that the same will happen this year!

Vicki Ferguson –
Quinlan Stud



Killinchy Licorice



Quinlan Allsorts and Myself

Following is an article supplied by Lex McKay – reprinted from the Goat World Gems in 1996. Although it would appear it was originally printed in 1954 It would be interesting if any of our members could add to this or let us know of anything else we could be doing in preparing our animals for showing.

SHOW PREPARATIONS

Good care at all times is the first essential. A few weeks neglect in trimming hooves may result in a condition that will be difficult to correct in many months. A harsh, rough coat cannot be transformed to perfection the day before the show. Regular worming and a well balanced diet will produce a satisfactory coat on most goats. Feeding some oilcake meal or linseed in the regular grain ration is also very helpful.

As the winter coat is being shed, a Scotch comb is good for grooming, followed by the use of a very coarse stiff brush. The new coat as it comes in greatly improves the appearance, and can be expected to be in best condition during the late summer and autumn months.

Preliminary Training

Some preliminary training is necessary if your goat is going to behave properly in the show ring. She should be trained to lead, to stand still for a reasonable length of time, and to allow such handling, particularly of the udder, as is usual in judging. Most goats stand quietly for milking, but if the udder is handled at any other time they are very apt to object. Training sessions for eat goat should be brief but repeated frequently, until the desired behaviour is obtained. A few dried bread crusts, an apple, or other treat as a reward will sharpen the goat's interest in the subject.

A well-trained goat has a considerable advantage in the show ring. A good judge is impartial, but nevertheless human. A goat may be near perfection in type, but if she refuses to stand still, has to be dragged rather than led, and panics when touched by a stranger, it becomes increasingly difficult for the judge to appreciate her fine points.

Many goats are of a nervous disposition, and, placed in an unusual situation such as a show ring, are very likely to be on their worst behaviour. However, a preliminary training course will give you a reasonable chance of being in control at the important moment.

To be shown to best advantage a goat should be trimmed or clipped. This can be done with hand clippers, but you will find electric stock clippers, or even the home type of electric hair clippers, much more satisfactory.

When to clip

If you plan to clip your stock fully, this should be done about four weeks before the show date. Goats with a naturally short, close coat may need only a little trimming just before the final day. The aim is to emphasise and reveal all the good points in type. The udder should be clipped clean. If you are trimming only, give attention to the longer hair usually found along the spine, flanks and legs. Be cautious in trimming a kid. At this stage of development a close cut is not advisable.

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The lines of the neck add much to the appearance of a good dairy goat. A heavy leather collar is out of place here. For the best effect, many prefer a light neck chain. Such chain, of the twist link variety, can be bought from most hardware stores. Cut into suitable lengths and use a heavy split ring to complete. If you use a lead, this should be light and well finished. Many handlers prefer to lead by the collar or neck chain, as they find in this way the goat can be kept under closer control.

If hooves have been kept in good shape the year round, they will not need much attention at the last minute. You may wish to scrub and polish these, depending on ring conditions. If the stock is required to stand in a sawdust or dirt, your hoof polishing may be a wasted effort. Use your clippers to trim the hair flush with the top edge of the hooves.

In washing a goat, use lukewarm water and a mild soap. (Soap flakes are very handy.) Rinse well and rub as dry as possible. If quarters are cool or draughty, the goat should be blanketed. When thoroughly dry, brush well. Just a touch of an oil-type hair dressing rubbed in with the hands will add the final gloss to a good coat. Once you have completed this grooming, take care that there is plenty of clean straw for bedding.

When you are finally in the ring, you have just two things to occupy you; our goat and the judge. You should stand at all times so that the judge can see our goat. Follow carefully all instructions the judge gives. If asked to lead your animal, do not pull it off balance. When standing, do not hold the head too high, for this may cause a sag in the back line. If there is any unevenness underfoot, always keep the front feet on the higher level. Keep the goat with its feet well placed; if bunched or straddled a poor impression is given.

It is quite legitimate for you to make full use of your skilling grooming and handling to emphasise the good points of your entry. You are not permitted to 'tamper' to improve appearances for showing. This bars any practice that would alter natural conformation, such as surgery to correct or efface a defect.

When the judging is over, remember that you have paid your entry fee to get the judge's opinion; it may not necessarily agree with your own. Be a good winner and a good loser. If you show often you will get experience in both positions.

'The Bleat'
October 1954



The following article, again supplied by Lex from the Goat World Gems, makes for interesting reading (I am quite convinced I would not want to try bathing Sultan anytime soon) I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has multiple bucks and how they are handled / managed and the in and outs of running a 'buck paddock'.

knowledge and ability. You should have something good!

BUCKS

Your Buck Deserves a Break by R.C. Barton

At how many breeding establishments which you visit is the buck's comfort and welfare regarded as important as that of the does? Yet is is not only 'half the herd', he is the most important individual in it.

Now that you have your purebred buck - and let us assume that you are one of the many this year with a new young buck just getting started - let us plan how best to give him a break, for upon him depends the success of your venture. Of course, even with the vest of blood lines and selection behind him he may not turn out to be a crackerjack. Perhaps his daughters won't be what you are aiming at - all as good as their damns, and most of them better - and you will have to try again. However, you expect him to be good, or you wouldn't have that particular buck, so you want to give him every chance to make good.

Let him have freedom in abundance. A young buck, like a young doe, must have plenty of exercise for proper muscular and constitutional development.

All too soon the kid buck is taken from his playmates and confined in a small pen. Two young bucks raised together will usually be good friends and will get a lot of exercise playing and butting, but if the kid buck is alone he must have plenty of space to run and play.

A rectangular paddock, 50 by 150 feet, is about as small as you can use and have him really feel free to run. The more space you can provide for him the better, and you will find the effort and expense well worth it in giving him the proper growth and maintaining condition. A big box or pile of rocks to jump on, or a burlap bag of stuffed hay and suspended from a tree will provide him with added exercise and entertainment.

It is the writer's belief that many of the 'dirty habits' of the buck come from inactivity and boredom. Try giving him plenty of freedom and companionship and see if he doesn't stay much cleaner than you expect. Our young buck is separated only by a fence from the does. He can see them constantly, and they come over to the fence and chew a companionable cud several times a day. When one comes in heat, she is immediately removed to a separate pen if she is not to be bred.

Of course, a well-bedded house or stall, frequently cleaned and disinfected, is essential to the cleanliness of any animal. A good tight house, situated on a rise of ground or with a raised floor, placed so the sun will shine directly into it part of the day is desirable. Put a good stout hay rack at one end and arrange a door so that he may run in and out at all times.



Weather permitting, the buck gets his bath every six or eight weeks. Perhaps you won't want to bother with this, but do bathe him if he has lice, for they should not be tolerated and are the easiest of external parasites to get rid of: Two baths, 10 - 15 days apart will do the trick. Use a creosote disinfectant in the bath water, following directions for lice eradication on the label, and soap him well, rubbing the lather well in. Lice seem to be thickest in the tender skin inside the hind leg and down the back. Don't neglect his head. Rinse him thoroughly in clear warm water.

His house should be cleansed very carefully and rebedded after each bath, for although the lice will live only a few days off the animal, they may cling to fallen hairs and then get on him again if the bedding is not changed.

Once or twice a week sponge his head and neck, along his belly, and under his tail with warm water containing a few drops of disinfectant. He may need his forelegs done too, depending on his habits. This sponging will keep down a lot of odour. Occasional sponging out the hollows on the top of his head with alcohol will do much to alleviate the itching that causes most bucks to rub their heads hairless and sometimes raw.

Proper currying and brushing in the spring will usually help him shed out his coat well. If you clip him leave the hair on his head as a protection against the sun, and the hair on his tail as a protection from flies, inadequate though it may be!

If his feet are trimmed frequently and carefully from the time he is quite young, and you make trimming time the occasion for an extra bit of petting and feeding, you probably will never have much trouble with this chore even when he weighs 200 lbs. and is master of the herd.

Use him sparingly his first season and keep him growing. The first winter is the critical time for all young stock. As soon as he is off milk he will need some added minerals in his grain, more in the winter than the summer if he is on good pasture. Give him all the grain he will clean up readily - he will need a higher protein content as well as a greater quantity during the breeding season than in the summer, and give him plenty of the best legume hay you can grow or buy.

Of course, you will see that he has fresh water two or three times a day, and will remember that he likes it warm in cold weather as do the does.

Treat him kindly: he may get rough as he gets older, but avoid trouble if you can. A short chain fastened to the fence by the gate will enable you to tie him up when you go into his paddock, and you can go about your business of cleaning or haying without having to keep a weather eye on him. We will hope though that he turns out to be as sweet-tempered as they come, and that your luck with him is of the very best.

'Dairy Goat Journal'

CASTRATION OF YOUNG BUCKS

For those who are able to do so, the most profitable way of handling surplus young bucks is to castrate them and raise them as wethers; goat wethers make excellent eating and they may be raised at little cost.

The operation of castration may be by the 'open' or 'closed' method. The 'closed' method involves the application of an elastic band to the neck of the scrotum where it cuts off blood supply to the testicles and all other structures below its point of application. These structures die and slough off and the animal is thus neutered. An improvised strong elastic band may be used or specially made bands and an implement (elastrator) to stretch and apply the band to the neck of the scrotum may be bought from stock and station agents.

The 'open' method of castration involves an incision into each side of the scrotum and the surgical removal of the testicles. The younger the buck when this operation is done, the less will be the surgical shock and setback.

Proper restraint of the animal, cleanliness, and sterility of instruments and the skin of the scrotum are essential. A sharp surgical or similar knife, an emasculator, if available, an antiseptic (iodine or similar) and some clean water are needed. The knife should have been sterilised by boiling for 10 minutes and the operator's hands should have been thoroughly washed.

The young buck is held on its back, with its head towards the holder and a hock grasped in each hand. The scrotum is then liberally dressed with an antiseptic.

The operator grasps the scrotum above one testicle, squeezing it downwards and tightening the skin of the 'purse'. A bold incision is then made along the lower third of the side of the scrotum through all structures and into the testicle. The testicle, which passes out of the scrotum through the incision, is picked up by the left hand. It will be seen that it is attached along one side by a membrane to other structures and by the end closest to the animal's body by the spermatic cord.

The knife should now be used to incise the membrane referred to, cutting downwards, away from the animal's body. The testicle is now held only by the cord, which should be severed either with an emasculator or by scraping it with the knife. Scraping, in preference to a clean cut, will reduce the amount of bleeding.

The second testicle is removed in a similar manner.

It is better not to apply any dressing to the wound. Let the animal go onto a clean area. Uncomplicated healing usually takes little more than a week.

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Following on from the Buck information below is an article submitted by one of our members – Lynne Julian :

Rakahuri Breeding 2018

Last year our buck Millard Farm Mitch (AG244) moved to a new home just down the road in Fernside. He has made himself at home with a group of Nubian does and bucks and is busy doing what comes naturally. He is available to anyone wishing to breed from him and can be contacted through Alison and the NZAGA register.

He and my girls have added 9 does and 2 bucks to the Arapawa breed over the last 2 seasons, and a happy bunch of wethers living just two blocks away.

So, what to do this year?

I asked Alison to produce a trial mating list for all my girls with all the available bucks in Canterbury. This list is produced using the RBCSNZ online registry. Alison then noted each buck's suitability with each of my girls, indicating if a breeding would be perfect, ok, or not recommended.

Looking for the easiest option first there are 3 bucks which are perfect or ok for all the girls.

Glenlothian Acel lives with the Goatleys in West Melton and would be a great match but he is a 'stay at home' buck. I have 4 girls who could travel without too much drama, but the others would freak out and this makes them my 'stay at home' girls.

After a couple of emails and a visit to each other's properties we have made arrangements with the Kenton-Daus' who have 2 buck brothers, Home Farm Hephaestus and Theseus. It was decided that my 2 best travellers, Staglands Thelma and Louise would take a vacation with Theseus in Mt Pleasant Christchurch, and Hephaestus would come out to our place in Cust North Canterbury for his working holiday.

The exchange is for a month to allow everyone the best opportunity to breed. This will be completed by mid May, so in 5 months time I'll let you know how we got on.



Heeph and the Girls above. Theseus and his girls below



What to do with your Progeny?

It's all very well producing gorgeous kids each season but unless you have unlimited land and several bucks it is just not possible to keep all your kids.

So....what do you do with them?

Sell them? Give them away?

How do you sell them? - Trademe? Rare Breeds Website Market page? Word of Mouth? Local Advertising? Facebook?

What price do you put on them?

Do you keep your males entire or castrate? Reasons?

I would love to get feedback from our members and will publish the results in the next newsletter.

FOR SALE / WANTED / SWAP

FOR SALE : After a lot of thought we have decided we are no longer able to give our boys, Home Farm Hephaestus and Theseus, the time and attention they need. We would like to offer them to anyone with a love of the Arapawa breed, but request that they stay together as they have never been apart. They are now 4 1/2 years old and have calm and friendly, relaxed natures.

Please contact Branton via email branton1@me.com to discuss. *See the photos on the previous page of these beautiful boys.*

FOR SALE or SWAP : Quinlan Lic or Ice Daisy – Regn : NZAGA 335. Would be happy to swap for another doe or female kid subject to pedigree lines. Contact Vicki – quinlanstud@gmail.com

WANTED : Doe or female kid, preferably with Tutukinoa Lines. Contact Vicki – quinlanstud@gmail.com