

NZAGA Newsletter

NZ Arapawa Goat Association August 2015, Issue 3

Focus of this Newsletter

Welcome to the third edition of the NZAGA newsletter. This issue focuses on housing your Arapawa goats. As well as a member's (Andrea Gauland) and goat's (Hetty of Arapawa Island) profile, it has articles on some plants that have been identified as poisonous to goats, has a fascinating story from the United States that involves the Arapawa goats, and includes a NZAGA member's story about her little sick goat. Scattered throughout the newsletter are some 'Handy Hints' which you may also find useful.

Given the time of year and because several people have contacted me recently about caring for orphaned or rejected kids, I have shared the process I followed when faced with both problems last year. I acknowledge that my steep learning curve came from talking with other goat breeders, through books and via 'Dr Google'. In no way do I put myself up as an expert (many of you reading this newsletter have considerably more knowledge about goats than I do), but sometimes it is useful to share the knowledge one gains on the 'Saving the Arapawa Goat' journey; hence the reason for this newsletter.

It is important to state here that many of the articles, including those I have written, are based on personal experience and by no means intend to suggest that they come from experts. If you disagree with a statement and/or advice given (allowing for the inexperience of some contributors, especially me) or you have found something through your own experience that has proven more effective and useful, please share it with us. Corrections can be quickly distributed through the members via our email network tree.

Alison Sutherland



Millard Farm Sultan AG171, out of Island Girl of Arapawa Island (AG105) and Tutukino Dobby (AG002)



MEMBER PROFILE – ANDREA GAULAND

Introduction – As well as being a member of the NZAGA, Andrea is also a member of the Rare Breeds Conservation Society of NZ and the secretary of the Canterbury Dairy Goat Breeders Association; she is an invaluable source of information on goats.

"The local 'goat lady', I have been keeping and breeding goats for about 15 years. I started when we were still living in the US, with a couple of dairy goats, before we got our Arapawa breeding pairs. We picked them up from Plimoth Plantation in Massachusetts, and drove them back to our farmlet in upstate New York. We had been wanting to become involved with Plimoth Plantation's satellite herd programme for a long time, but it wasn't until the year we were to leave the US for New Zealand that it actually happened. And the decision to move was very sudden - we'd only had the goats for a few months before we found ourselves having to rehome them. They went to the brother of our vet, also in New York. I had an email from him not too long ago - he still has descendants from those goats, and he is still actively breeding them!

One of the things that made the move to New Zealand easier, was having had learned about the country from Betty Rowe, via many, many emails, before we came here in 2002. We had been learning about the goats for 2 years and emailing with Betty for nearly 2 years before we were able to get them, and then we had to give them up so soon! It was about 18 months into our life here that we got more Arapawas, and bred them for a few years. Then we discovered another NZ feral breed thanks to Ian Dawson, and since there are far fewer of them than there are of the Arapawas, we decided to switch the breed we were going to focus on for conservation. I don't want to knock the Arapawas, they are very worthy of conservation, but there's only so far 10 acres will stretch.

Andrea's Nutrient Drench for goats:

Ingredients:

- 1 litre of livestock molasses (or blackstrap molasses from the supermarket)
- 1 litre Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV)
- 2 fat heads of garlic, cloves separated out

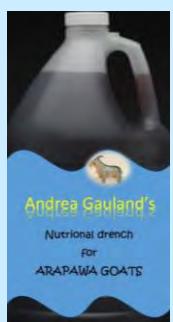
Instructions:

1. Dissolve the molasses with 1 litre of hot/boiling water
2. Put the garlic in a blender and just cover with the ACV. Whiz till the garlic is liquidized, adding a little more of the 1 litre of the ACV if necessary.
3. Add the rest of the ACV, whiz again.
4. Combine all ingredients together.

The above nutrient drench is fairly nutritionally complete, except the goats require minerals for GOATS, something like the 'Aakland Wonderlick for Goats'.

Alison's note:

When I think my goats need a boost, I add 100 mls to the equivalent of a 10L bucket of water and give them access to it twice a week.



GOAT PROFILE – HETTY

By Michael Trotter of 'Summer Wine'

Hetty of Arapawa Island, number 006, is thought to be the oldest or second oldest registered Arapawa goat in New Zealand – we don't have her date of birth but it must have been sometime in late 2002 or early 2003. Along with several others, she was acquired directly from Betty Rowe by a North Island breeder in November 2003, but the goats had to be "rescued" from him by a member of the Rare Breeds Conservation Society the following year. They were then sent down to David Hughes in the South Island, from whom Bev and I got Hetty and a couple of others for our 'Summer Wine' smallholding in Tuahiwi in 2005. We named our foundation does after women who were connected with the early history of the area, and Hetty was for Harriet Parker, mother of Elizabeth the wife of Jacky Guard, who established a whaling station on Arapawa Island in 1827.

Hetty has produced several offspring and in 2009 she took part in an artificial insemination experiment designed to test the theory present at that time that you couldn't AI feral goats. Hetty didn't become pregnant – the Vet said she was too fat! – but others did. However, in 2012 she became very ill and responded only when I treated her with Bivatop (oxytetracycline) antibiotic. The following year she became ill again and lost the kid she was carrying. And although I try to avoid any form of drenching or injection, I had to resort to Bivatrop again to pull her through. She has now been retired from breeding and is in the best of health.

From the very start Hetty has been the top goat in the pecking order (the "dominance hierarchy") at Summer Wine, only falling back while she was ill, her daughter Holly taking over on those occasions. Hetty is very fond of her food and tries to get more than her share – none of my other does would dream of challenging her – but won't eat just anything she is offered. She is friendly to the humans she knows, but is stand-offish to strangers. Unlike some of my other goats, she does not like being scratched and is wary about being photographed.



Photo by Jeanette McIsaac

Currently estimated to be between 12 and 13 years old, Hetty of Arapawa Island (NZAGA No. 006) is the oldest living Arapawa goat registered with the NZAGA. The only goat to be considered older than Hetty on the registry, since deceased, was 'No 1 of Arapawa Island' NZAGA 021). Both Hetty and 'No 1' began their lives on Arapawa Island with Betty Rowe.



Photo by Geoff Trotter from the website Gallery "Kiss kiss! Hetty meets Diana French"

Goat Shelters

“Shelter for goats is very important. They carry very little internal body fat. They don't have lanolin in their coats to help shed rain, like sheep can. Even their skins are thinner than sheep skin. So they need more than a shelter belt to protect them from the weather. Keep in mind that if you have multiple goats, they will have a pecking order that will extend to who gets into the housing and who doesn't. Sometimes a really bossy goat will stand just inside the entrance and not let anyone else in, even if there is plenty of room behind her. You may have to provide more shelters, or have a wide enough opening that goats can sneak past the boss goat.” (Andrea Gauland). The most effective shelters have their backs to the prevailing winds and rain. Below are examples of shelters provided for some Arapawa goats, from the very basic to what can only be described as 5-star accommodation. (Note: unnamed photos were taken by me on my travels around NZ; thanks to the owners who gave me permission to include their creations).



C Mander – a temporary cloche



Any shelter is better than no shelter at all. Having **extra** shelters available for goats low on the pecking order ensures they are protected from the weather and the bullies.



Converted roof rack



C Bruning



Using the contour of the land



Has removable duckboards for ease of cleaning



Don't throw the kid out with the bath water



Goats can't read



D Denzel

Michael Trotter sent the photograph below to demonstrate that shelters for our Arapawa goats need to be robust. One of our NZAGA members, a vet, warns that many injuries to goats come from sharp roofing materials.



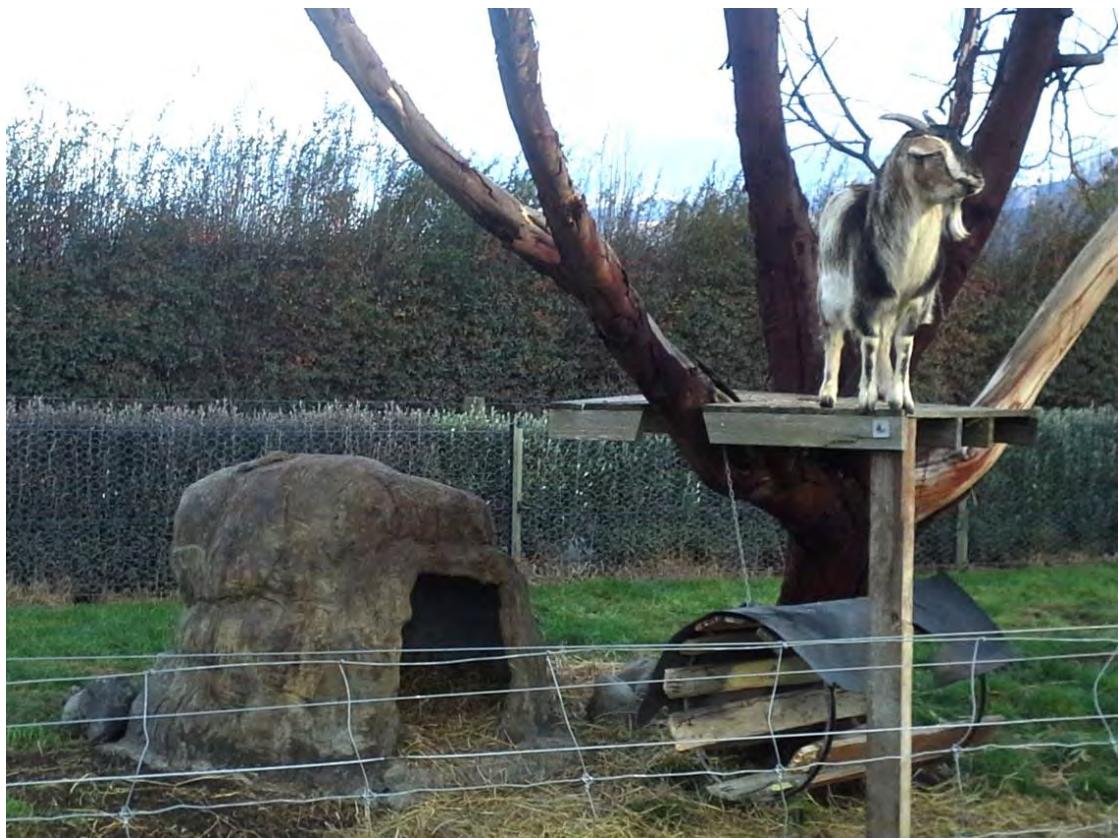
Michael has since replaced and upgraded his goats' shelter:





Petsplus

M Scattergood created a ferro-cement cave with adjoining tree platform for his Arapawa goats



T Oude-alink



S Henry



The following photos and descriptions of goat shelters were supplied from Andrea Gauland:



Nice and big, they stay high and dry in the winter and get plenty of shade in the summer.



And this is the other side, complete with goat playground!



Here's a great way to re-use those 1000L containers. Just make sure the containers didn't contain anything hazardous, and give them a good wash and dry anyway.

Especially good for kids and small adult goats.

To give it a good clean periodically, you can tip it so the opening for the goat entrance is on the ground, and unscrew the big cap on top to be able to spray it out after you dump out all the dry stuff.





An old water storage tank, repurposed!



Hut and play structure, all in one!



Good old
pallets and
plywood

This hut is on skids, so can go anywhere. The attached roof section is tied in place, fixed to the roof and the y-posts with baling twine, so it can also go with the hut.





Framed



.... and finished!

One of our members, Sarah Page from Canterbury, asked if the following advertisement could be placed in the NZAGA newsletter:

**REGISTERED BUCK FOR SALE OR LEASE
HOME FARM HOUSTON (AG072)**

'HUGHIE' is the son of APOLLO of ARAPAWA ISLAND (AG049)

Born in September 2011, Hughie is a proven sire

VERY FRIENDLY

CONTACT SARAH PAGE (03)312 5381



Known poisonous plants

SICK GOAT STORY

By Debbie Denzel of Palmer Farm (Palmerston North)



Palmer Farm Bonnie
(AG213)

In June 2015 we experienced a rather wet storm through the weekend of 19th - 22nd- very heavy rain and winds causing a lot of flooding. On Thursday 25th June I went down to feed the goats as normal, the twins are now 11 weeks old, to find the female kid goat looking rather depressed and hunched up.

I popped into the vets in the morning on the way to work, and was told she probably had a chill and gave me an antibiotic injection to give her which I did. Friday she was no better so called the vets to come and see her, the vet recommended that we continue with the same antibiotic which we did. Saturday we expected an improvement - but no, she was still not eating and very depressed. I called the vet again and she came and did a good once over and said Bonnie looked like she had eaten something she shouldn't have. She wasn't sure if it was a noxious plant or object. So off we went and took her in for x-rays which showed there was no blockage - just a course of another injection to give her. On Monday she ate for the first time and today – Wednesday - our wee girl is nearly back to normal, just a bit lighter.

It seems with all the winds, some of the leaves from our avocado tree had blown into their paddock, and the wee goat had eaten them. The vet advised me that they had many sick animals due to the floods and winds and only about 50% survived, so we are very lucky. We had acted very quickly, and being persistent with the vets that it wasn't a chill paid off. Be aware of what is poisonous to goats and try to keep them out of reach.

According to a number of sources, the following plants (but not restricted to just these) are toxic to goats:

Yew



Rhododendron



Laurel (Karako)



Oleander



Foxglove



St John's Wort



Ragwort



Hemlock



Azalea



Linseed (Flax)



Nightshade



Rhubarb



Ngaio



Lillies



Follow-up from Debbie . . . a week later (abridged)

We have had our wee girl back to the vets today, she was again a bit depressed, eating but no tail wag and a bit flat (just knew she wasn't good). They did a worm count and no worms, then decided to take a faecal sample and found a bit of blood in it, so then tested her for coccidia, and that is what she has. She has now been treated for that and given a long active pain killer to assist with her sore gut. The vet is unsure if it all started with her eating something she shouldn't have.

Alison's comment

Little Bonnie is now thriving. Following the communications with Debbie about Bonnie, I checked on my own two kids. A few weeks earlier the little boy, Anzac, had dysentery and was treated with a mild drench and given natural yoghurt to soothe his stomach and replace the positive bacteria. This appeared to work, but despite maintaining a healthy appetite, he was not flourishing. A few days later the dysentery returned so I whipped a faecal sample down to the vet, and sure enough, he had "moderate coccidiosis". One dose of Baycox C given orally and within two days he was a bouncy, happy little boy.

Handy hint

Have spare faecal/sample jars on hand

Handy hint

When a doe or wether is becoming a little too aggressive, especially towards a newly introduced kid, put tennis balls onto the horns for a few days to prevent injury.

Tony Oude-alink



Letting Go

Despite our passion for the Arapawa goats, for many of us there comes a time in our life when we must consider leaving the care and the future of the goats to others. Betty Rowe, in her book, *Arapawa – once upon an island* (2006) reached this point, sharing that “The thoughts of who would care for the animals if I were to become ill or die became an obsession, obliterating all else.” (p185). Ron Douzanis of the USA shares his journey towards having to let his Arapawa goats go:

Years back we started with chickens and ducks, then we got into Tamworth pigs through **Plimoth Plantation***. Through this connection we became supporters of rare breeds and organic farming. The introduction to Arapawa goats was by proximity; **Al Caldwell**** lives a couple of towns over and he introduced us to the Arapawa effort at Plimoth Plantation which is situated near the Nuclear Power Plant ‘Pilgrim Station’, 23 miles east of us, as the crow may fly. So it was initially by convenience that we took on Arapawa Goats; they were nearby and available. We also liked the way they looked! Early on in our breeding programme we ran into birthing complications: the death of a newborn doe in winter, a doe born with cleft palate requiring veterinarian assistance, a doe after delivering twins got mastitis (the doe was cured and her twins were bottle fed with goat’s milk I purchased from a local dairy-goat farmer). Our herd reached nine: three does and six bucks. We donated two bucks and the three does to a local farm and accepted two more bucks, thus a herd of five bucks was formed. Some unusual illness overcame the gentlest buck and he was euthanized by a veterinarian. The head was delivered to a laboratory for a series of disease tests and, despite the goat having an unknown disease and being full of poison from the lethal injection, an Animal Control Officer placed the goat’s remains in the open-wild for bald eagles to feed on. Four or so of the protected eagles became sick and were found near death by townspeople. This lead to a federal and state investigation which went on for about four months. While the bald eagles fully recovered, my wife and I decided that the goat illness/death aspect of this effort was out of our financial means and control. We made the decision to find homes for the remaining four bucks. The farmer who has taken them on is happy to become a part of the conservation solution for the Arapawa goats.

I would like to express our concern that people who take on an effort like conservation and show a high level of commitment bear an enormous financial and personal cost. We did this for six years but realized we were not financially equipped to do it sustainably. Though we had goals to create a large track of land so the goats could roam wild, we only got a small way in this direction. What these goats need is an Arapawa Island; it has been proven to work for hundreds of years. But for us, it is time to move on.

***Plimoth Plantation** is a living museum in Plymouth USA that is attempting to save the genetic diversity of endangered breeds; they imported 6 Arapawa goats – 3 bucks and 3 does - from Betty Rowe's Sanctuary on Arapawa Island in 1993.

****Al Caldwell** became involved with the Plimoth Plantation's project to import and conserve Arapawa goats from New Zealand. Along with breeding Arapawa goats he established the USA's formal registry and a website for the breed www.rarebreeds.co.nz/arapawagoat



Care of the orphaned/rejected Arapawa kid

Healthy little kids born to a maternal doe need minimal intervention. Just ensure they have access to appropriate shelter, clean bedding and protection from predators. Keep the mum fed with fresh water, grass, clean hay and the occasional treat (e.g. animal nuts). But sometimes things go wrong and, by necessity you become the 'mum'. The plan below is a guideline I followed when a doe died after feeding the kid/s for a few days, and when another kid (one of twins) was so small she was rejected by the doe and could not have survived without intervention. We had to take a slightly different approach for the suddenly orphaned kids, as they were used to the mother's teat and milk and not the bottle and unfamiliar milk. They had also gained several days of their mother's colostrum.

Feeding

The information below is a general guideline only; quantities are dependent on the kid's size, health and appetite. This is what we followed for our newborn (i.e. when the kid was too small and weak to feed from mum and left cold and dying):

Note: immediate step - warmed her up!

Day 1

Darfrosted some colostrum I had stored and gave to newborn (if none is available, use bovine colostrum mixed with cow's milk). Try for 50 mls every 2-3 hours throughout the day and first night (initially I drip fed 10 mls via a sterile syringe hourly; an eye-dropper or turkey baster could also be used).

Days 2 & 3

Continued the colostrum, feeding what the kid (now named Peppercorn) would take (maximum 150 mls) up to 5 times a day.

Days 4 – 6

Replaced colostrum with 150 mls 50/50 AmLamb/full cream cow's milk 5 times a day (Was advised to use cows' milk only but decided to use a 50/50 mixture of both to ensure she received the added minerals in the AmLamb).

Days 7 – 12

Reduced feeds to 4 times a day, increasing quantities to 200 – 250 mls.

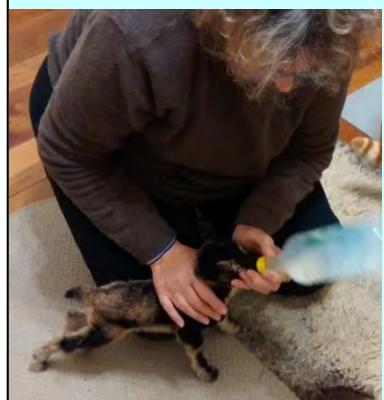
Days 13 – 27

Gradually reduced AmLamb until she was on full milk; kept to 4 meals a day, increasing quantities up to 350 mls.

Spray the umbilical cord of all kids with iodine as soon as possible after birth.

Newborn kids should be fed regularly and in small amounts – it is better to underfeed in small quantities than overfeed!

Young kids need a breather when suckling.



Weeks 4 – 6

4 feeds of up to 400 mls a day.

Weeks 7 – 8

3 feeds of 400 mls a day.

Weeks 9 - 10

Reduced feeds and quantity steadily each day until she had only 1 bottle of 250 mls in the evening.

Week 11

Stopped supplementing.



Millard Farm Peppercorn (AG172), now owned by Mara Davison of Blenheim

Housing

Stage 1:

Very young kids were kept warm, clean and dry on the kitchen dining table, with the room warmed from the kitchen fire. A cover was kept over the cage so they could feel safe and secure while getting used to our touch, smell, voice and the indoor environment. The bottom of the cage was covered with newspaper topped with pea-straw and hay. An old pure wool jersey was tucked in the corner of the cage (this was later replaced with a folded towel for ease of washing).



Stage 2:

As the kid/s became bigger, stronger and more assertive, they were transferred to the hay barn where there was room for walking around and playing. Fresh water was available and there was clean hay for nibbling on. An open container was covered with an old blanket and towels to keep out the draughts and the kids would snuggle up together. Safe behind the chain-mesh gate separating them from the others, they socialized with the older goats in preparation for being assimilated into the herd.



Alison Sutherland

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If you have a story about the Arapawa goats, some advice or experience you are willing to share, or something you want to know about the goats, please email it to me at either of the above email addresses. The next NZAGA newsletter is due out the first week of November.