



MINI-GOAT NOTES

Tattoo Letter
for 2019

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Welcome to your “new” Newsletter!

While the website is being reworked, Mini-Goat Notes got a face lift too! What’s missing? **You!** We would love to share “your mini goat story.” Have a favorite picture you would like to share? Be sure to include name and breed of goat(s), owner and, if you didn’t take the picture, who did.

Letter From the President

Dear MDGA members,

I want to thank each of you for a wonderful year in 2018!

As I am looking forward to a new year starting, I’m so excited about the coming changes for MDGA. This year will be a big year for MDGA. We have already rolled out a new website that will continue to be developed and enhanced. There will be a lot of new features that will be useful for every member. If you are having trouble accessing the website, please be sure to clear out old bookmarks and history, and go directly to miniaturedairygoats.net

Our board has made some changes to the rules governing grade registrations. Please be sure to read the changes. You will find the update in this newsletter and online. The board has also voted for the positions for the board for the coming year. The new board positions take effect March 1, 2019.



Registry

Registrar - Jacqui Wilcox

(MINI-NUBIAN, MINI-SAANEN, & MINI-TOGGENBURG)
 registrar1@miniaturedairygoats.net
 360-225-1938

Registrar - Shelley Weber

(MINI-ALPINE, MINI-LAMANCHA, MINI-GUERNSEY, MINI-OBERSHASLI, & NIGERIAN DWARF)
 registrar2@miniaturedairygoats.net
 509-396-9922

DHIA

DHIA 305-Day Test Chairs

Crystal Eutsler & Mary-Ann Buchanan
 305day@miniaturedairygoats.net

DHIA 1-Day Milk Test Chair

Thanh Duong
 1day@miniaturedairygoats.net

Membership

Tiffany Wilcox

membership@miniaturedairygoats.net

Newsletter

newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net



President	Crystal Eutsler
Vice President	Dee Daniels
Secretary	Jill Hoenmans
Treasurer	Linda Sennott
Directors	Erik Brown Shelley Weber Jacqui Wilcox

I am excited to work with this team again! This team works hard, and is very interested in the betterment of MDGA and the mini breeds we represent.

Keep watching the newsletter for upcoming announcements about the website features and changes!

Best wishes to those getting ready to start the kidding season!

Crystal Eutsler

News and Updates

Website

A fresh face with more to offer members! Be sure you are using the most current links. Here are a few to help you:

<http://www.miniaturedairygoats.net/MDGA/> is the new Home Page

http://www.miniaturedairygoats.net/MDGA/?page_id=192234

has your registration resources

http://www.miniaturedairygoats.net/MDGA/?page_id=198203 for Milk Testing information

Grade Rule Changes

The following is an important change to the previous policy regarding accepting new grade animals to the registry:

From January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 the descendants of all new grades registered will no longer be able to grade up to attain Purebred status; grading up will stop at American status.

Offspring of grades, from MDGA registrations on file prior to January 1, 2020, will be exempted from the "American status only" and will be eligible to grade up, provided that there is an unbroken line of registered animals in good standing with MDGA.

At the end of the day December 31, 2020 the Registry will close the book to accepting New Grade animals; no further grade animals will be entered into the registry at that point. Existing grades will be held to the official rules under which they were registered.

Milk Test 2019 - Reminder

For those participating in Milk Test, you must be, or have, a certified tester as well as a calibrated scale prior to your first test date. Proof of both must be received by MDGA prior to your first test day. http://www.miniaturedairygoats.net/MDGA/?page_id=198203

MDGA by the Numbers

MDGA ended 2018 with 806 members.

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Members as of February 13, 2019) 292 - including 68 Life Members

Registrations as of February 12:

Mini Alpine	1063	Grade Mini Alpine	60
Mini Guernsey	19		
Mini LaMancha	4397	Grade Mini LaMancha	236
Nigerian	567		
Mini Nubian	9250	Grade Mini Nubian	441
Mini Oberhasli	452	Grade Mini Oberhasli	17
Mini Saanen/Sable	176	Grade Mini Saanen/Sable	37
Mini Toggenburg	135	Grade Mini Toggenburg	5

Ready! Set! Kid!



While many are well underway with kidding season, others may be just getting started, and, for some, this may be a first time experience. Here are some things to bear in mind as you prepare for your homegrown "entertainment units" and future herd member.

A couple of basic facts to keep in mind: Normal body temperature for a goat is 101.5 F to 103.5 F; Gestation is typically 150 days - 147-155 days is considered full term. Anytime your animal is "off," taking their body temp will help identify if there is

more going on than the start of labor.

While waiting for time to creep by, (and then fly by) being prepared for the actual day means having supplies on hand, and, whenever possible, access to a great goat vet or experienced goat friend - if only for moral support. Preparing for kids means preparing to assist your doe, while having the patience and restraint to not interfere unless it becomes necessary. A handy "kidding kit" should include some basics, such as non latex gloves, lube, thermometer, nasal aspirator, iodine spray (a small shot glass can be used to dip if not a spray bottle,) a drenching syringe, a tube feeding kit and notepad and pencil. If your temperatures are still below 50, a heat lamp and a box or tote filled with fresh clean straw will give the kids a nice warm place to rest. A clean bucket of warm water with molasses makes for a tasty reward and energy boost for a doe who has just given birth. All buckets should be hung so that kids can't fall in.

As her time approaches, she will show behavior changes that may include staying apart from her herd mates, less friendly (or more, if normally standoffish) and spend time "nesting." As initial labor begins, loss of interest in food and restlessness can be observed, as she works through beginning contractions. You may or may not see the actual mucus plug being expelled, but discharge is a good sign that she is working on delivering. In most cases, a doe won't need assistance, and your calm presence may be all that is needed. If things don't progress, and she has been straining, you may need to check kid placement. Thoroughly wash your hands, don the gloves and lube up. Inserting just a few fingers, push in gently, you may find multiple kids trying to come at the same time, or a head turned back or other undesirable presentations. Have a vet or experienced breeder on standby at this time is priceless. Regardless of the situation, staying calm and reassuring, and not rushing to "fix" will go a long way in helping you doe, the kids and you get through this.

As each kid is born, whether you are leaving with dam or bottle raising, getting them dry, and making sure there is no fluid or mucus blocking air passages, is the first priority. Making notes about birth order, sex, markings and birth presentation are also helpful when

registering as well as for future kidding notes for that doe. The next priority is making sure each kid gets some colostrum, as this allows the dam to pass on her immunities. The earlier a kid gets this, the higher the rate of absorption of the benefits. Delaying reduces the effectiveness and can leave the kid at risk.

The entire process will be over when the doe passes the afterbirth - which can take up to several hours. Pulling on this can cause tears and keep it from being completely expelled. As a kid nurses, hormones are released that help with the uterine contractions to finish expelling, stimulates more milk let down and starts the bonding process between doe and kid(s). This is also a good time for a doe to have human bonding time with her "milker."

Domestic goat joins elk herd west of Loveland

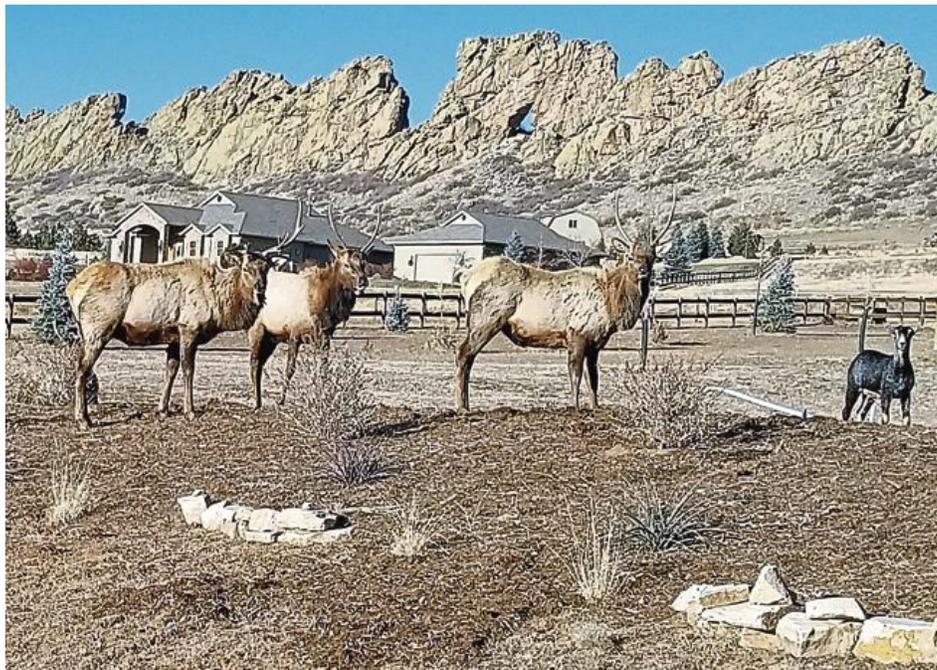
'He's become quite the legend around here'

By Pamela Johnson

Reporter-Herald Staff Writer

POSTED: 12/17/2018 06:40:41 PM MST

A goat hangs out with elk in a neighborhood near the Devil's Backbone west of Loveland in this photo taken recently by a resident. (*Jeff Swanty / Courtesy photo*)



A little black goat appears to have joined an elk herd near the Devil's Backbone, causing wonderment and a bunch of photo snapping among residents in the area.

People who have seen the bull elk and the little black goat a few times over the past week said the goat hangs out and runs with the herd, traveling from spot to spot along U.S. 34, Glade Road and in the neighborhoods on the west side of the Backbone.

"We are convinced he thinks he's an elk," said resident Lisa Bounds. "It's hilarious."

And, according to resident Josiah Engblom, the much-smaller animal stuck very close to one of his friends when he was threatened by a few coyotes. Engblom said he saw the elk and the goat bounding through a field on the south side of U.S. 34 on Saturday morning with coyotes in chase.

"They did an about-face," said Engblom. "The elk stood up on his hind legs, boxing up. The goat was right next to the elk for defense. ...

"The coyotes just kind of gave up."

Shelley Coldiron saw the goat a week ago and posted its picture on Nextdoor, a social media site that focuses on specific neighborhoods. Since then, people have been sharing photos and sightings of the goat, keeping an eye out for him and "his boys."

"He's become quite the legend around here," said Coldiron, who lives in the neighborhood.

"They're definitely looking out for him."

Suzie Halvorson, who works with Coldiron out of her home near the Backbone, shared a video she took of the goat crossing a road with the much larger elk. He was right in step with the wildlife, as usual, she said.

"When they're walking around, he's like second or third in line," added Halvorson.

The behavior described by the neighbors is anything but typical for elk, according to information from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Jason Clay, spokesman for the wildlife agency, said elk keep to themselves and do not usually mingle with other species.

"You don't typically see them intermix with other animals," he said, noting that there is a threat of domestic goats spreading disease if they mix with bighorn sheep, also known to roam that area.

"(Elk) really, for the most part, tend to stay by themselves. It doesn't sound like typical behavior."

But according to residents, this little black goat is anything but typical.

They do not know where it came from, though some theorize that a brother and sister ran away from their herd when they were weaned in 2017. At first, some spotted two goats with the herd, but now there is just one.

"It seems like someone is missing a black goat," added Bounds.

But who? So far, no one seems to know.

What they do know is that the goat appears to be one of the herd now.

"It's like five or six elk and this black goat right up there with them," said Engblom. "They are inseparable."

Pamela Johnson: 970-699-5405, johnsonp@reporter-herald.com.

*Have a story you think members would enjoy? Send to
newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net*

Mini-Goat Notes Directory

Members

Idaho

Bit O'Bliss Farm

Rathdrum, ID 83858

Brendaprice@bitoblissfarm.com

<http://www.bitoblissfarm.com>

(208) 818-4275

Breeder of mini Nubian and Nigerian dwarf goats

Kentucky

Dee Daniels

Smiths Grove, KY 42171

dee.daniels71@gmail.com

<https://buckcreekstables.weebly.com>

(270) 792-3868

Buck Creek Stables, KY

Mini LaMancha

4 years DHI & Live shows

Virginia

Circle J Farm, Sharon Joyce

Spencer, VA 24112

sejoyce59@gmail.com

<https://circlejfarm17.weebly.com>

(276) 692-7573

Breeder of registered Mini Nubians with focus on improving udders, milk production, and conformation.

Little Garden of Eat'n, LLC

Stanardsville, VA 22973

jill@littlegardenofeatn.com

<http://www.littlegardenofeatn.com>

(434) 990-9309

HHFLGE Mini-Nubians. G6S Normal, CAE free

Texas

Rafter O at Cordova Creek - Kerry O'Neal

Canyon Lake, TX 78133

kerry@raftero.com

<http://www.RafterO.com>

(830) 312-3292

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Washington

Daystar's Farm - Jacqui Wilcox

Woodland, WA 98674

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<http://www.daystarsfarm.com>

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Clubs

Texas

Hill Country Mini Milkers

TX

hillcountryminimilkers@gmail.com

<http://www.HillCountryMiniMilkers.org>

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Join us!

Shows/Events

May 25, 2019

KY Mini Dairy Goat Classic

Edmonton, KY

2 Ring

Dee Daniels

dee.daniels71@gmail.com

(270) 792-3868

Want to list your farm, business, club or event? You can easily fill out and pay online at the link below.

Pricing

Farm/Standard Listing

Annual listing (6 issues) - \$20

Per issue listing - \$5

Club Listing - \$15 (all 6 issues)

Show/Event - \$10 (listed until event)

http://www.miniaturedairygoats.net/MDGA/?page_id=290158

Correctly identify which picture goes with the person, and get a free Newsletter Directory Listing!

Send you answers to newsletter@miniaturedairygoats.net

- Crystal Eutsler, President
- Dee Daniels, Vice President
- Linda Sennott, Treasurer
- Jill Hoenmans, Secretary
- Erik Brown, Director
- Shelley Weber, Registrar
- Jacqui Wilcox, Registrar
- Tiffany Willcox, Membership
- Ed Kinser, Judges Training Chair
- Mary-Anne Buchanan, DHIA Chair

