



Last N' News

A publication of the
Iowa Dairy Goat Association
Guinevere McIntyre, Newsletter Editor

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2019 Winter

LaMancha kids, photo by Sara Goemaat of Sunny D Acres



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All the best from Iowa Dairy Goat
Association to you and yours
Wishing you a dairy goat-astic 2020!



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Examining Goat Behavior

By George F.W. Haenlein, Ph.D. Professor, University of Delaware

This is the last of a multi-part series of scientific observations of goat behavior.

This issue's focus is the epimeletic, etepimeletic, agonistic, and shelter seeking behavior of goats.

Ingestive Eliminative

Allelomimetic behavior is a range of activities in which the performance of a behavior increases the probability of that behavior being performed by other nearby animals.

Sexual

Agonistic (Antagonistic)

Epimeletic behavior is that of giving care to others, nurturing.

Etepimeletic behavior is calling or seeking attention or care.

Shelter-seeking



Recorded grade dairy goats sharing pumpkins, photo courtesy Breezy 4, Robin Wisgerhof

The study of goat behavior, like so many aspects of the recorded knowledge of the genus *Capra*, is sketchy at best. Many inferences to the behavioral patterns of goats have been drawn from the more abundant and detailed information available on the closely related genera of sheep, deer and antelopes. While many behavioral characteristics of these

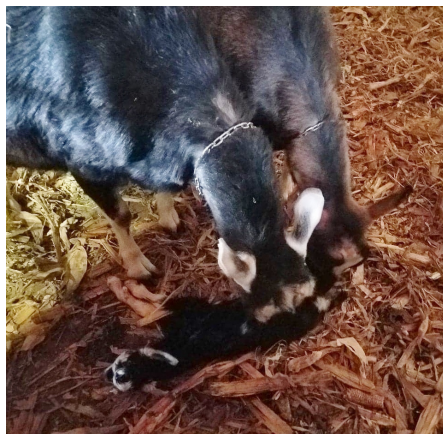
genera are indeed similar, it is important to realize that several basic behavioral differences occur. It is these unique aspects of goat behavior that must be understood by the goat owner so that their management system is not at odds with the natural ways of the herd. An understanding of the caprine way is sure to present a twofold benefit to the owner. First, it will enable them to provide a more thorough and efficient management system, thereby deriving an economic benefit. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, a greater knowledge of goat behavior will help cultivate an enhanced appreciation and enjoyment for the species.

Eight basic behavioral systems are generally recognized but the two most interesting in regards to goats are their ingestive and allelomimetic behavior. Sexual, antagonistic, epimeletic (care-giving) and etepimeletic (care-seeking)

behavior, while also important, are predominantly of a seasonal nature.

Epimeletic Behavior (care-giving, maternal)

The doe will separate from the rest of the flock when kidding time approaches. After the kid is born, she will lick the youngster clean of any afterbirth and may even eat the afterbirth. The licking of the kid has a general stimulatory effect on it, and if necessary may be done also by the manager in the form of a brisk rubbing with a clean dry cloth or wad of straw. The doe may give a parturient call, consisting of a short, low pitched bleating either to her young or in response to the call of any kid. If a strange kid should approach her, however, she will rebuke it.



Two Alpine does engaging in afterbirth cleaning and stimulating the newborn kid, photo courtesy Ma's Acres, Judi Nayeri

Constant contact between the doe and the kid, with much sniffing and licking on the doe's part, is necessary for the formation of an early close bond and imprinting. If a kid is removed at birth from its mother and returned before 2 hours have elapsed, the doe will accept the kid; later, it may be rejected; certainly after 3 hours.

Acceptance of a kid can be achieved through forced exposure if the doe is restrained, tranquilized or fooled by washing the kid with the doe's scent. This procedure is difficult and time consuming, and may take as long as 10 days before acceptance is complete. In a flock situation, subordinate does may allow any kid to nurse after a brief bonding period of about 10 minutes. Bonding in goats is primarily based on olfactory cues.



Nubian dam and kid, photo courtesy H Mill Iron Nubians, Shellie Hensley

Continued, bottom of page 3

Letter from the President

Greetings,

As we head into winter, I hope everyone has had a successful breeding season. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Dave Peffers; the new IDGA President for 2020. For those that may not know me, I have been one of the IDGA Directors for the last 3 years. By profession, I am an Engineer for Vermeer Corporation. With respect to goats, my family owns Misfit Manor in Pella, IA, where we raise Alpines and Lamanchas. While my family is relatively new to dairy goats (bought our 1st goats in 2016), we have had the opportunity to be heavily involved. From involvement in all IDGA events over the last 3 years, participating in multiple shows, linear appraisal, and DHI, we have learned so much but realize there is so much more to learn. My goal is to continue our dairy goat education but to also to help others gain knowledge about these wonderful animals.

I wanted to say thank you to James McDaniel for all of his efforts as IDGA President over the last 2 years. James will be continuing as show chair for the Iowa Spring Classic in 2020. We have a new member to the board this year; David Willey. Many know him as "Hannah's dad" or have met him as one of the ring stewards at the Iowa Spring Classic. David has a willingness to help where necessary. Please welcome him to the board. We also have a new Secretary for 2020; Beth Buscher Konen. Many have met Beth at the Iowa Spring Classic and the IA State Fair as one of the ring secretary's. She has helped with numerous other IDGA things behind the scenes.

With respect to IDGA, 2020 is expected to be an exciting year. We continue to plan events for the upcoming year. Please keep an eye on the Event Calendar on the website, Facebook posts and upcoming newsletters to see what and when the various events will occur. Some events to look for:

Share-A-Kid Applications
ISU Block and Bridle Event (Animal Learning Day)
Showing / Fitting Clinic
Iowa Spring Classic
IA State Fair

If there are events (new or previously held) that members would like to see IDGA sponsor or if members ever wanted to be more involved, please feel free to contact myself or one of the other Board members. We are always looking for new ideas. As our mission statement reads, "For the improvement and promotion of the dairy goat, its products, and its breeders."

Please remember that this is your organization and the Board is here to serve you.

Best Regards,
Dave Peffers

Etepimeletic Behavior (care-seeking)



Nigerian dwarf dam with kids, photo courtesy Black Eagle Nigerians, Pat Blank

Within a short time after birth, the kid will begin a tentative search of the doe's body, trying to suck at numerous locations along the doe that can be grasped in the kid's mouth. Often, nursing will be attempted between the doe's front legs. Eventually,

the nipples are found and true nursing begins. After the first day or two, a normal kid will have no difficulty in promptly locating a teat when hungry. While nursing, the kid may often be observed to "butt" at the doe's udder, which serves to facilitate milk letdown, thus increasing the amount of milk available to the kid. The sucking reflex of the kids enables them to be easily transferred to a "lambar" or bottle, allowing the doe to return to the milking herd soon after the kids have received an adequate intake of colostrum.

Young kids, if captured, held, or hurt will emit a high pitched general distress call, which is capable of conveying

Continued, page 4

emotional distress. Even the most novice goatsman has no trouble recognizing it as a distress call. Adults will also "baa" rather stridently when separated from the rest of the flock. This accounts for the fact that when several herds are merged, there is usually a great deal of noise while the goats mill about, trying to locate their herd members.

Agonistic Behavior (antagonistic)

Bucks engage in a form of rearing and butting in order to establish dominance for the formation of a flock hierarchy. While animals such as sheep approach each other and butt head on, goats stand about 4 to 6 feet apart, then rear up so that their body is at right angles to their opponent, with their head turned and facing toward the opponent. They then pivot and lunge forward and down to the ground, coming together in a sharp crack. This difference between sheep and goat behavior enables the two to be kept together with little conflict between them.

The establishment of a social hierarchy among the bucks



New buck in the pen, photo courtesy Pepper Woster, PepHer Gravy herd

results in the selection of the dominant (alpha) buck, who is responsible for flock safety and the breeding of the does. The other bucks in the flock, because they do not breed, are peripheral males or "social castrates". If the buck is not fertile or of low fertility, then the flock kidding rate will be low, even though several fertile bucks may be available.

The dominant buck is aggressive during the breeding season, but during the rest of the year he is content even to be pushed around by the leading female (queen). This queen is the true leader of the flock, and usually achieves her rank by virtue of having the most descendants. The dominance of the mother over her young is maintained throughout life.

It appears that dominance may be established by such factors as relative age, play fighting, and whether or not the goat is horned. A horned female may be dominant over a hornless male.

The development of dominance is enhanced by crowding and the use of small feeding areas, as the increased competition for the same food and space exerts an organizational pressure. Once a dominance order is

established however, it may remain stable for several years even though the organization of the flock itself changes as individuals are born, die or mature. Newcomers to the herd have to find their own level and establish themselves in the flock order, with the result of increased fighting for a short period of time. Any fighting is always on a one to one basis; there is never a gang attack on a goat, although one after another may fight against the same goat.

When alarmed, goats will stomp one forefoot and produce a high pitched, sneezing sound. Goat flocks exhibit a tendency to move about a short distance away, forming a thin line in front of the disturbance. If pursued further, they will



Cat Chloe faces off with the brave Green Ash Farm FL Ellie, photo courtesy Jessica Cochran Ross, Green Ash Farm

tend to break up from the group. This prevents them from being herded like sheep, which tend to bunch together while being pursued. This is one reason shy dogs have never worked well in goat herding attempts.

Young kids, instead of following their mother while she grazes, remain in one spot, "freezing" at the sign of any danger. By freezing, a predator (if that is the danger), may pass the kid without locating it.

Adult goats are also occasionally known to go into a catatonic state when scared or threatened. This response, which is similar to the opossum, was first recorded by Ivan Petrovich Pavlov, the Russian scientist who pioneered the classical conditioning experiments with dogs. He felt that goat response was related to some inhibition of the goat's normal self-protective impulse to run.

This unique response was studied again in 1961 at Cornell and Duke Universities, and the Institute of Muscle Research at the Marine Biology Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Shelter Seeking Behavior

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Nubian siblings in the sun, photo courtesy Cynthia Jo Olson-Kirk, Sunny's Prairie Lane Ranch

Shelter Seeking Behavior

Goats are generally quite hardy animals, being able to weather the heat and the cold comparatively well, so long as they are provided with a well constructed shed. If there's one thing a goat doesn't like, it's rain. Goats

will run to the nearest available shelter on the approach of a storm, often arriving before the first drops of rain have

fallen. They also have an intense dislike for water puddles and mud. Probably through evolution they have been more free of parasites if they have avoided wet spots. Goat management should copy this.

While hot weather poses no great problem to most goats, a high level of humidity does cause them stress. This will lower milk production, cause loss of body weight, and even may increase hostility within a flock. An interesting adaptation of shelter seeking behavior occurs among goats that are living in hot, dry and treeless areas. They have been observed to congregate and huddle during the midday heat, when it seems preferable to be apart from one another. This crowding occurs when the rate of heat taken in by the goat's body is in excess of its ability to dissipate heat. By crowding, the goats manage to reduce the intake of direct and reflected solar energy.

Billy Goat Cookies

Discovered in a September 15, 1965 issue of Ada (OK) Evening News: "A lady from San Francisco writes about Billy Goat Cookies which are said to have been a great favorite of President William Taft, one of the eatingest Presidents we have ever had. 'The name,' she says, 'has always intrigued me.' This is the story she heard Out West. It seems that a pioneer woman made a batch of her favorite cookies and put them on the window sill to cool. The family billy goat came by. A delicious whiff tickled his nostrils. He ate the cookies, one and all. But the woman was undaunted, a true pioneer. She made some more cookies using whatever she had on hand. The family enjoyed the new cookies so much that she made them many times afterwards and always called them 'Billy Goat Cookies.'"

Most sources point to these cookies being developed and popularized in the west. Back on the east coast, an article in the December 18, 1963 Springfield (MA) Union quips, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, but no, Ann Sherwood, there's nary a drop of goat's milk in Billy Goat Cookie!" This chatty article indicates that the cookies were named by a Virginia City housewife, and that "one day as a batch cooled on her window sill, the family billy goat, drawn by the heavenly aroma, made short work of the cookies, pan and all! Fact or fancy—Billy Goats are grand—no butts about it!" Wherever the recipe was invented, there is certainly a cohesive and believable story behind them!

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar, packed
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- Dash salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup chopped dates
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts



Cream butter and sugar until light. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, and vanilla extract. Sift together flour, salt and baking soda and add to butter mixture. Stir in dates and walnuts. Drop rounded teaspoons of batter onto greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees until light brown on top, about 10 minutes. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

The Share-A-Kid Program

The Iowa Dairy Goat Association is always on the look-out for ways to help nurture a life-long appreciation of dairy goats and dairy goat products in youth throughout the state. The IDGA Share-A-Kid Program provides the opportunity for youth, 4th to 12th grades or an active FFA chapter member, and residents of the state of Iowa, to own a registered dairy goat kid, by way of a competitive essay application process. Doelings are donated by IDGA members. More information about the Share-A-Kid program can be obtained by visiting www.iowadairygoat.org or contacting Guinevere McIntyre at jasperfarm@live.com or 641-325-1585.

Applications for 2020 Share-A-Kids are accepted from Jan 1 to March 15, 2020 (postmarked). If you know of a special youth who should be considered, encourage them to apply, by either downloading the application at our website on-line or using the application included in this newsletter on page 9.

2019 was the most competitive year yet and the selection committee awarded kids to 10 youth across the state. In this issue we hear from Carter Goetz of Adair County, who was awarded a Nubian doeling donated by James and Jamie McDaniel of J&J Livestock, and Brayden Reed of Monroe County, who was awarded an Alpine yearling donated by Judi Nayeri of Ma's Acres.

Brayden Reed and Tawni



Brayden picking Tawni up at Ma's Acres, shown here with donor Judi Nayeri

My name is Brayden Reed. I am 13 years old and in 8th grade at Albia Junior High. My essay was selected through the Share-A-Kid Contest, and I received a yearling Alpine doe donated by Judi Nayeri of Ma's Acres. I have been an active 4-Her for 4 years and am a member of the Troy Good 4Hers Club in Monroe County. I live in Albia with my parents, Bryan and Amber, and my two sisters. My dad has a cow-calf operation and a hoop barn where he feeds the calves to market, and my mom is an Instructional Coach at the Albia Junior High and High School.

I found out about the Share-A-Kid contest from a local family that has received two does in recent years. My mom encouraged me to give it a try. I have shown Boer and Nubian goats at our county fair for the last 3 years. My family started breeding goats and every year we ended up with some bottle babies. I have wanted to feed them goat's milk instead of milk replacer for better production. Having a dairy goat such as Tawni will help me improve my goat herd.

After I got Tawni on April 30, 2019, I put her with my other dairy does for company. Tawni liked to chew stuff and was kind of a bully to the other goats and pushed them away. Tawni also liked to eat bananas. It was fun to spend time with her!

July was a busy month as I got Tawni ready for the county fair. I worked with her on setting up and I washed her. About one week before fair, I clipped her so she would be ready to be shown. She won Reserve Champion Dairy Goat at my county fair!

In September, I took her back to Ma's Acres to get bred to an Alpine buck. She got bred within two weeks. I can't wait for Tawni to have babies this February! My plan is to show both Tawni and her babies at the county fair next year.

I am so thankful for the Share-A-Kid essay contest. I have had so much fun with Tanwi. In the future, I hope to give back by donating a kid to the contest. I would love for another child to be able to have the opportunity that I have been given!



Brayden and Tawni in the car on the way home!



Brayden and Tawni at the Monroe County Fair

Carter Goetz and Pretty

Hi my name is Carter Goetz. I was one of the winners of the IDGA Share-A-Kid doeling. I won the Nubian doeling from James and Jamie McDaniel. After I got the call from the IDGA I got in touch with James and arranged a time to pick up the doeling, Pretty. When we got her home we put her in with my other kids. I showed her at the Adair county fair and the Iowa State fair. Pretty is doing very well. I have kept in touch with the McDaniels. In fact I buy all of my goat food off of them today. The McDaniels have been very helpful and accommodating to me. My plans are to show Pretty in 2020 as a dry yearling and breed her the spring of 2021. I appreciate the IDGA for putting on the Share-A-Kid program. This program has helped me out a lot, and hopefully it will help other youth excel also.



Pretty preparing to be shown in the Adair County Clover Kid Show

IDGA Junior Youth Ambassador, Taryn Peffers



This past year has been a great experience for myself as Junior Youth Ambassador. I've learned as well as taught, and some of the events I attended for the first time this year.

My year as Youth Ambassador started in early April, at the Block and Bridle Animal Learning Day at ISU campus. I, as well as the IDGA President James McDaniel and

IDGA Youth Coordinator Wendy Peffers, set up a stand about dairy goats. We brought ingredients to make slime and brought baby LaManchas and Alpines for the event and throughout the entire morning kept getting questions about the goats. It was amazing to be able to tell about and show kids an animal that usually is overlooked and to see how fascinated the kids are.

The second event I attended and helped at was in early May, when the IDGA Showing and Fitting clinic took place in Bondurant. I led a class of twelve-year-olds on the basics of showing and gave tips on showmanship. I very much enjoyed being able to pass on the knowledge that had been taught to me when I had been a participant in

earlier years at the Showing and Fitting clinic.

The next event I attended was local. Thursdays in Pella, an event put on by my hometown, was hosting an Ag in the City night. I and Youth Coordinator Wendy Peffers, as well as IDGA board member Dave Peffers, set up a milking demonstration and brought baby goats to the event and educated those who came by about what a dairy goat is and why they look the way they do (we brought LaManchas). A phrase I heard that was used multiple times was these must be llamas. I had to tell multiple children that dairy goats were not llamas, and in hindsight it was pretty funny.

I also handed out ribbons at the Polk County Fair dairy goat show. Throughout the entirety of the show I handed ribbons to the kids showing. At the end, I learned I was supposed to lead the Clover Kids dairy goat show. This was a learning experience. I had never talked on a microphone to little kids before, and ended up being assisted by past IDGA Youth Ambassador Jamie Randol. This event helped me realize that I still have communication skills I need to work on.

My last event I did this past year was at the Iowa State Fair. I participated in something called 'Have You Herd?' and gave a twenty minute presentation on dairy goats and answered questions. I enjoyed this event because I was able to bring my goat Rosemary, who loves attention, and let some kids get up and personal and touch Rosemary. The kids thought it was the coolest thing.

Overall, I believe my year as Junior Youth Ambassador was a success. I was able to teach families about dairy goats and represent dairy goats at different functions throughout the year.



Taryn Peffers winning the 4-H Alpine class at the 2019 Iowa State Fair

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2020 Share-A-Kid Contest Entry Form

Each year, the Iowa Dairy Goat Association promotes interest in dairy goats in our state. One of the ways we encourage our young people in this aspect of agriculture is through our Share-A-Kid program.

Winning applicants are selected from the essays they send in. This statewide contest is open to youth in 4th thru 12th grades and who are a member of IDGA, 4-H, FFA, or other agricultural groups. We can only award one goat per family per year; however, siblings are encouraged to apply.

The entry form, as seen below, must accompany the essay. Be sure to complete the form with all required signatures.

The essay of 100 words or more, should tell why the applicant would like to have a dairy goat, how they are going to take care of her (food, shelter, and medical care), if they have ever raised a goat before and if not, who will help them, why they love goats, and what they love about goats. Spelling, content, and effort count. The essay can include drawings, photos, or any other creative touches. No essays will be returned, and if your essay is selected, it will be given to the donor, so be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

Breeds available are: Toggenburg, Oberhasli, LaMancha, Saanen, Alpine, Nigerian Dwarf, Nubian, and Recorded Grade.

Goats are herd animals; potential homes with no current companion goats will need to make plans to acquire a companion for their Share-A-Kid doeling, and should note how they plan to do this in their application. Also, dairy goats are disbudded and can be at a serious disadvantage when housed with horned animals; potential homes with horned goats should demonstrate readiness to house their Share-A-Kid doeling separately from the horned herd, and with an appropriate companion goat.

Within the first year, winners are required to show their animal at a county fair or open class goat show, submit regular health updates to their assigned mentor/donor, and write a brief article for the IDGA newsletter, Last'N News, about their doeling. If within one year of receiving their goat, the winner finds that they cannot keep their doeling, the donating party is to be contacted concerning the goat's future. Winners are not required to give a doe kid back to the program, but are encouraged to do so.

Everyone will be notified by late April about the status of his or her entry. Questions? E-mail Guinevere McIntyre at jasperfarm@live.com.

Entries will be accepted postmarked from January 1st to March 15. Please mail your entry to:

Guinevere McIntyre 4853 Hwy T-38N Grinnell, IA 50112

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ email _____

Breed 1st Choice: _____

Breed 2nd Choice: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Club/Chapter: _____

Club/Project Leader Signature: _____

Club/Project Leader Phone number: _____

Veterinarian Signature: _____

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