

How to nurse Kids

(baby goats)



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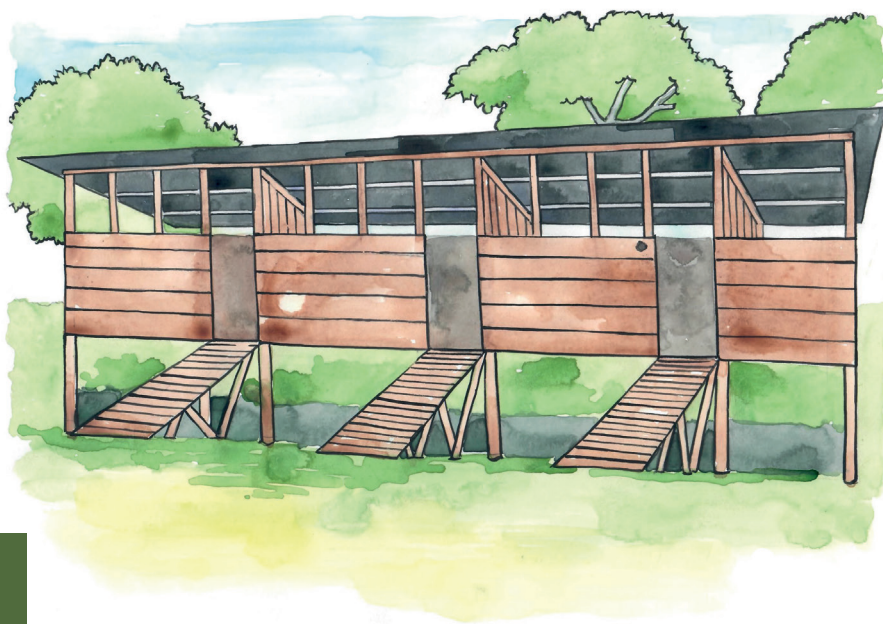
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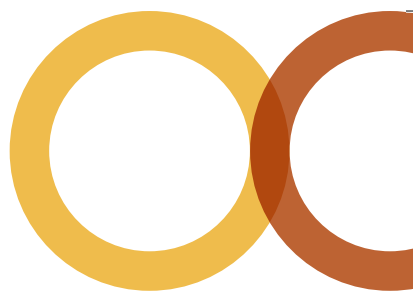


It is exciting when your goats deliver kids! However, they require excellent care to help them grow up. **Follow these tips to keep your new kids happy and healthy: -**

Housing

Keep your kids in a dry, clean shelter that is protected from the wind or breeze with enough room for them to lie. Maintain a temperature of 10 and 25°C in your kid pen and increase the warmth during cooler months. Use hay bales, tarps, or plastic sheets around the exterior of the pen to achieve this. Make sure the kids do not chew the plastic, as this is harmful and can lead to mortalities.





Bedding

Use clean bedding like straw, sawdust, or wood shavings to keep the moisture level down. Wet kids can get hypothermia leading to other infections like pneumonia.



What is Pneumonia in Goats?

Pneumonia is lung inflammation in goats. It leads to swelling of the lungs and chest, affecting both adults and kids. It is one of the leading killers of goats and it happens mostly during spring and summer when there is a lot of moisture. Kids generally struggle to maintain their body temperature, and this puts them at risk of pneumonia.



Feeding

Goats are ruminant animals – this means they have a four-chamber stomach. The rumen is one of the chambers that needs a little help to develop as a kid begins to wean. Weaning usually begins at around four weeks of age, though it can happen at six to eight weeks.

Follow these guidelines to help its development during this time:

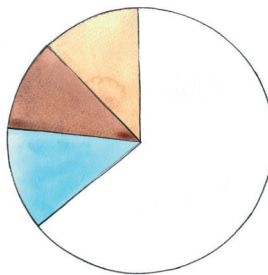
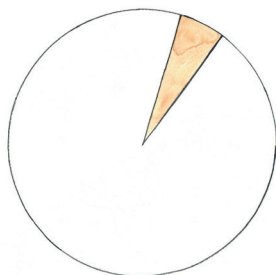
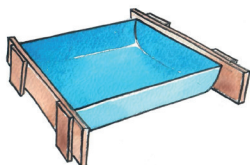


At one week

offer small amounts of grain to jump-start rumen development.

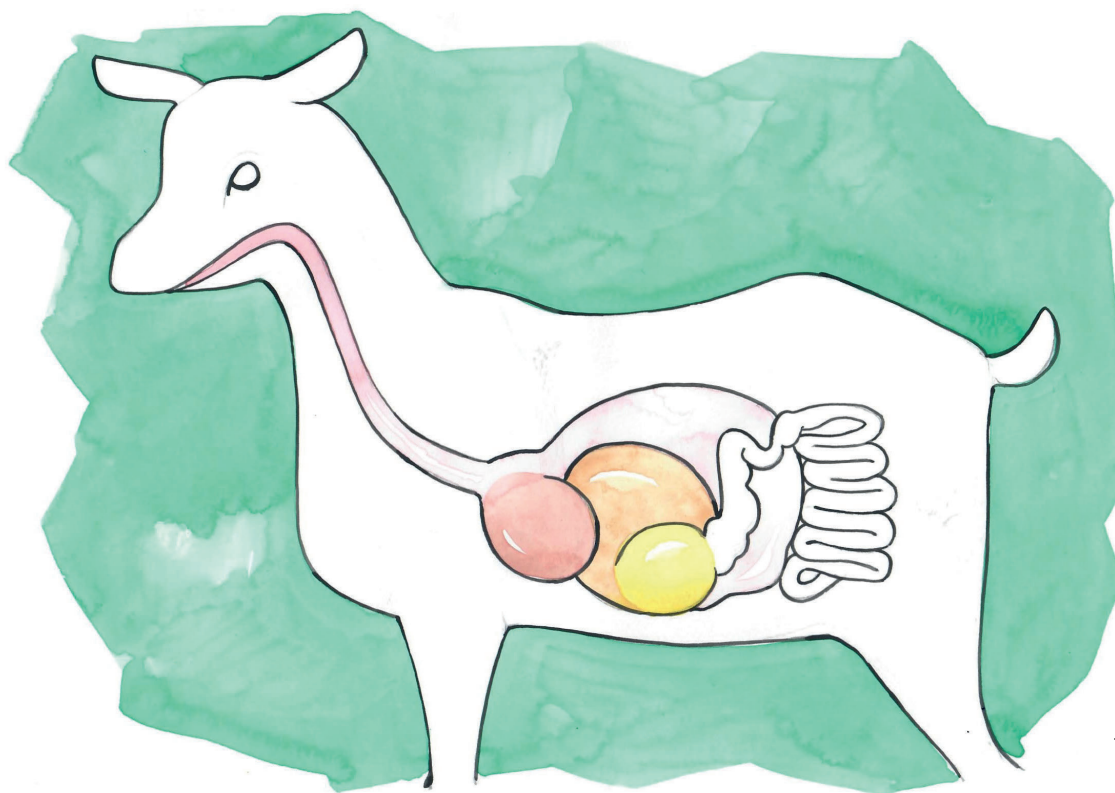
At one month

offer hay, small amounts of grain, fresh water, and pasture time.



Slowly decrease milk (if bottle-feeding) until the kid is eating like adult goats.

Provide your kid (and adult goats) with loose goat minerals to support muscle growth and milk lactation. A mineral block may be too hard for a goat's soft tongue, but you can also offer one in addition to loose minerals.



A goat's diet is mostly plant matter—including grass, hay, leaves, bark, and weeds—around 80%—because the roughage helps its rumen function properly.

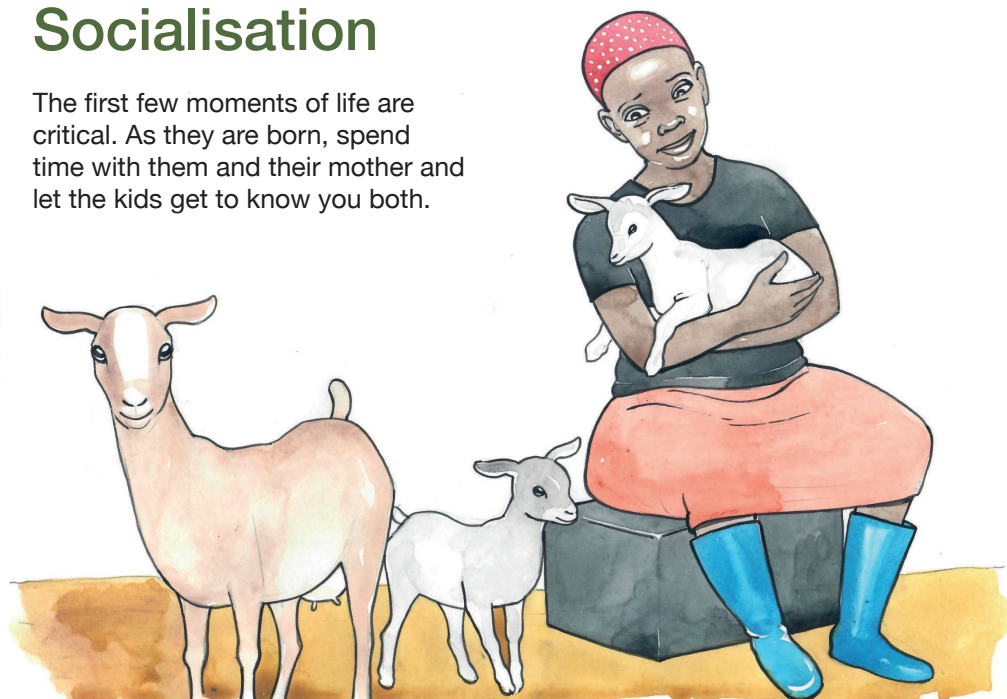
Prevent your kid from transitioning too quickly—a fast transition to hay could cause bloating and digestive issues. Add the following to a goat's diet:

➤ About 15% pasture, weeds, or hay pellets (i.e., hay in a more digestible form).

➤ Only about 5% should be grain (known as goat feed).

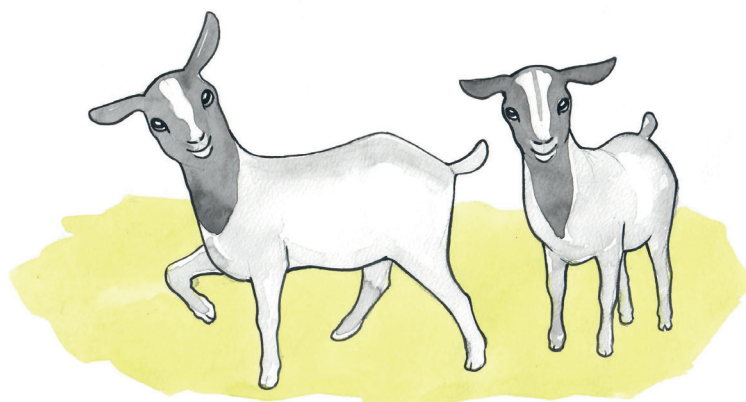
Socialisation

The first few moments of life are critical. As they are born, spend time with them and their mother and let the kids get to know you both.



Allow your kids to socialize with other goats. By so doing they will view you as another member of the herd.

Prevent the kids from mixing with sickly adult goats. The kids' immune systems are not as strong as an adult goat, any exposure to disease can easily affect them.



Vaccinations and parasite control

While some immunities will be inherited from the mother's milk, there will be some diseases that your kids won't be immune to. Vaccinations will prevent common diseases in your kids.

- At around 30 days of age, administer Clostridium and tetanus vaccinations.
- Clostridium will help prevent overeating disease types C and D.
- Administer a CD&T booster shot 3-4 weeks later. While you can administer vaccinations by yourself, it is best to learn from your veterinarian or have them perform the vaccination for you.

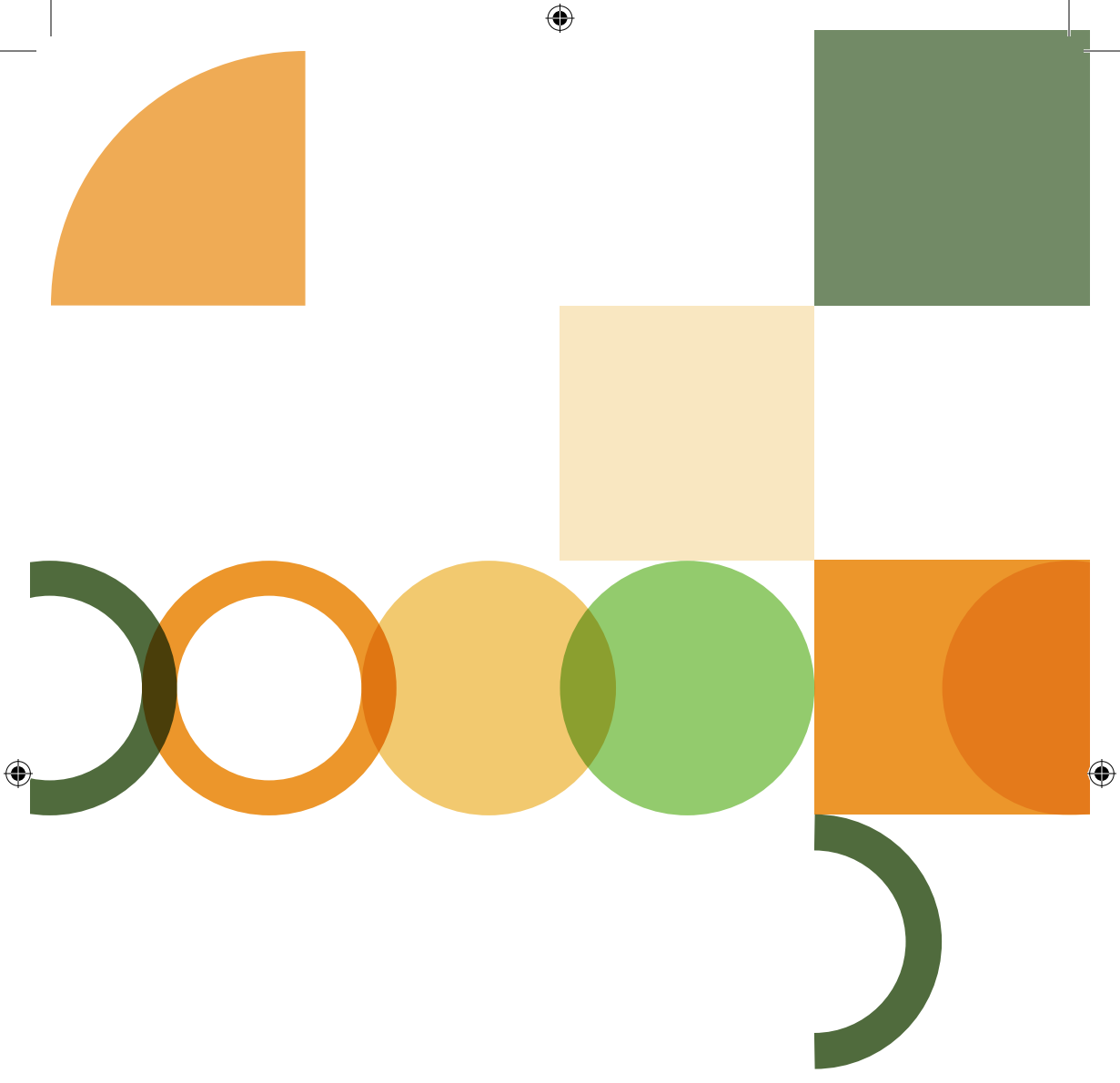
Umbilical cord care

Trim and disinfect the umbilical cord within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the kid's stomach. You can use iodine to disinfect the area.

Weaning

Behaviour scientists recommend keeping kids with their dams for at least 6–7 weeks before weaning.

Receiving kids is an exciting time for any farmer! To maintain this excitement, careful management of the kids is required. Following this guidance will help get the basics right and increase your chances of growing a healthy herd!



For more information about our business models or trainings on how to take care of your goats, visit us at:

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