

Memo – Conditional Use 300 East Magellan Lane (Pygmy Goats)

City of Elk Ridge, Utah
Planning Commission Discussion and Decision
July 14, 2016

Regarding: Discussion and Decision concerning a conditional use permit for housing pygmy goats at 300 East Magellan Lane

Zoning: R-1-15,000

Lot Size: 0.34 Acres approximately 15,000 square feet

Background:

The applicant has requested a conditional use to house two pygmy goats on the property. There are several different breeds that range in size similar to an adult dog such as a German Shepard (with more body girth) up to the size of a miniature pony. According to the National Pygmy Goat Association pygmy goats are communal animals that thrive in herds but are not well suited to be kept as single pets. Attached are a few articles found on the National Pygmy Goat Association web site that provide a feel for the goats needs.

Title 10, Chapter 18 Land use Animal Regulations of the Elk Ridge City Code is the applicable code governing conditional use permits for animals. Per Table 10-18-C under Section 10-18-8 Applicable Zones the subject property allows common household pets as a permitted use and hobby animals as a conditional use. Livestock are not allowed in the R-1-15,000 Zone. Common Household Pets are defined in 10-2-2 Definitions and 10-18-4 Common Household Pets, and are self-explanatory including domesticated cats and dogs and small creatures that can be kept in cages inside a home. Hobby Animals are defined in 10-2-2 Definitions and 10-18-5 Hobby Animals and include: “chickens, ducks, pigeons, miniature horses and other like animals approved by the planning commission.” In the case of Pygmy goats they are not listed and thus would need to be approved by Planning Commission as “other like animals.”

If the Planning Commission determines that Pygmy Goats apply to “other like animals”, then the Planning Commission will need to determine if the conditions will be met and determine if there are additional conditions that may be applied to mitigate neighborhood specific, site specific or animal specific issues given rise due to the unique nature of the permit application. A livestock management plan will need to be provided by the applicant in order for the Planning Commission to be able to make a determination if conditions in the code and other conditions that may be required by the Planning Commission will be met.

It seems that the most like hobby animal listed in Section 10-18-5 is the miniature horse. While the size of the pygmy goat may be smaller the conditions required by code for shelter and fenced living area, setbacks, maintenance of living areas and feed storage would be similar.

10-18-5-C States the requirements for miniature horses and it is recommended that the Planning Commission begin consideration of the allowable conditions using this criteria:

C. Miniature Horse Requirements: The owning of miniature horses is allowed for noncommercial use where permitted by the city zoning ordinance, owners may keep a maximum of one miniature horse provided:

- 1. The miniature horse must be kept and maintained in a fenced corral area constructed to prevent escape.*
 - a. All feeding shall be within the confines of this area except for the allowance of grazing nonimproved areas on the owner's property.*
 - b. The corral area shall be closer to the owner's residential building than neighboring residential buildings.*
 - c. A stable or other suitable shelter shall be within the corral area for protecting the animal from the elements.*
- 2. Feces and odor shall be kept within the confines of the owner's property, and shall not be reasonably noticeable to neighbors.*
- 3. A livestock management plan must be submitted as part of the conditional use permit process and approved by the planning commission. A livestock management plan shall include a drawing of:*
 - a. The owner's property and adjoining properties.*
 - b. Location of any structures on these properties.*
 - c. The location and size of corral area and placement of stable.*
 - d. Setbacks from corral area to all structures.*
 - e. Feeding area.*
 - f. Any other information pertinent to mitigate any adverse effects that could occur.*

Additionally table 10-18A Hobby Animals Table lists the minimum required area for a miniature horse is 1,500 square feet.

One issue that requires some consideration is the number of pygmy goats that would be allowed. The code only allows one miniature horse per lot. However, pygmy goats are communal and do not do well as singles. Pygmy goats may be smaller than a miniature horse but at the same time if both a male and female are kept together the goats may have 1 to 4 kids as often as every 9 to 12 months. While the kids

may be weaned and living off solid foods in as little as three weeks the situation can quickly spiral into a greater number of goats than permitted causing enforcement headaches for the City and neighborhood tensions.

One day spent shadowing city staff will provide an appreciation for the number of hours that are spent by staff listening to and dealing with neighborhood issues. If the Planning Commission determines that the presence of two pygmy goats may be mitigated to the point that their impact is no greater than that of a miniature horse, (assuming that the conditions were right to approve a permit for a miniature horse on the same lot) it would be wise to consider a requirement that the permitted animals be two female goats. And the conditions for allowing a male goat would be approved only in zones permitting livestock to make it easier to maintain the permitted number of animals. The subject property is not located in a zone permitting livestock.

It is also important to consider that if the pygmy goats are determined by the Planning Commission to be “other like animals” a precedence will be set for permitting creatures other than those defined in the code. It is recommended that if this is the case, the Planning Commission defines the likenesses that are applied to this determination so that similar considerations can be applied in the future allowing the conditional use permitting process to be administered consistently.

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Attachments: Applicable City Code, pygmy goat information articles from the National Pygmy Goat Association.

Chapter 2 DEFINITIONS

10-2-1: CONSTRUCTION OF WORDS:

10-2-2: DEFINITIONS ENUMERATED:

10-2-1: CONSTRUCTION OF WORDS:

Words in the present tense include the future and the future includes the present; the singular number includes the plural and the plural the singular; the word "lot" includes the word tract or parcel of land; the term "erected" means constructed, altered, moved or repaired; the words "shall" and "must" are always mandatory. The term "district" is synonymous with the term zone; the term "ordinance" is synonymous with the term code. Words not included herein, but which are defined in the building code, shall be construed as defined therein. (Ord. 12-05, 11-27-2012)

10-2-2: DEFINITIONS ENUMERATED:

For the purposes of this development code, certain words and terms are defined as hereinafter set forth:

COMMON HOUSEHOLD PETS: Considered to be dogs, cats, rabbits, and smaller animals such as domesticated rodents, fish, parrots, parakeets, canaries, guinea pigs, hamsters, nonpoisonous reptiles, turtles, and other like animals that can be purchased in a licensed Utah pet store. See section [10-18-4](#) of this title for limits.

CORRAL: A fence or other barrier used for the confinement of livestock for which the primary source of food is provided from other than grazing of grass or herbage growing on the site.

HOBBY ANIMALS: Includes chickens, ducks, pigeons, ferrets, and other like animals approved by the planning commission. Roosters are not allowed as a hobby animal. The number of dogs and/or cats above what is allowed as common household pets are considered a hobby animal. See section [10-18-5](#) of this title for limits.

LIVESTOCK ANIMALS: Where permitted by the city zoning ordinance, livestock animals are allowed based on the land area of the lot and land provided for the livestock management area. The amount of animals allowed is based on the size and type of animals as shown in section [10-18-6](#) of this title. In some zones livestock animals are considered a conditional use and must be approved by the planning commission. See section [10-18-6](#) of this title for limits.

Chapter 18 LAND USE ANIMAL REGULATIONS

10-18-1: INTENT:

10-18-2: PURPOSE:

10-18-3: EXISTING ANIMAL USES:

10-18-4: COMMON HOUSEHOLD PETS:

10-18-5: HOBBY ANIMALS:

10-18-6: LIVESTOCK ANIMALS:

10-18-7: KENNELS:

10-18-8: APPLICABLE ZONES:

10-18-9: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT:

10-18-10: WILD ANIMALS:

10-18-11: DEFINITIONS:

10-18-1: INTENT:  

This chapter establishes the land use regulations for animal uses and possession within the limits of the city of Elk Ridge. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

10-18-2: PURPOSE:  

The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that animals may be kept within the city in a manner that does not jeopardize the health or safety of its residents or cause a nuisance. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

10-18-3: EXISTING ANIMAL USES:  

The keeping of any animal which existed lawfully prior to the effective date hereof which is not allowed under this chapter, may be continued as a nonconforming use, except that if the nonconforming use is discontinued for one year or more it shall then be deemed abandoned and any future keeping of animals shall be in conformity with this chapter. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

10-18-4: COMMON HOUSEHOLD PETS:  

Common household pets are considered to be dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, and smaller animals such as domesticated rodents, fish, parrots, parakeets, canaries, guinea pigs, hamsters, nonpoisonous reptiles, turtles, and other like animals that can be purchased in a licensed Utah pet store. Limits are placed at two (2) dogs and two (2) cats and two (2) ferrets per residential lot, five (5) months of age or older. Additional cats can be permitted by obtaining a conditional use permit through the planning commission through the process listed under section [10-18-5](#), "Hobby Animals" or [10-18-7](#), "Kennels", of this chapter. No more than six (6) rabbits are allowed as common household pets. Other small animals listed do not have a number limit. All common household pets must be kept in a nonnuisance condition and be raised for noncommercial uses. Chickens, ducks, and other like animals are considered hobby animals. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

10-18-5: HOBBY ANIMALS:  

Where permitted by the city zoning ordinance, hobby animals include chickens, ducks, pigeons, miniature horses and other like animals approved by the planning commission. Roosters are not allowed as a hobby animal. The number of cats above what is allowed as common household pets are considered a hobby animal. The total combined number of hobby animals allowed is six (6) animals per residential lot, except additionally up to fifty (50) pigeons are allowed per residential lot.

Hobby animals are considered a conditional use and must be approved by the planning commission. All hobby animals must be kept in a nonnuisance condition. Table 10-18A of this section lists the types of animals allowed, numbers allowed, required living area, and living area setbacks from adjacent residential buildings. In zones that allow livestock animals as a permitted use, chickens, ducks, and miniature horses can also be considered under the livestock animals regulations in section [10-18-6](#) of this chapter.

TABLE 10-18A
HOBBY ANIMALS TABLE

Animal	Allowed Per Lot	Living Area Run, Pen, Coop	Setback From Adj. Res. Bld.¹
Cats	3 _ 6	n/a	25 ft .
Chickens	6	24 sq. ft.	25 ft .
Ducks	6	24 sq. ft.	25 ft .
Miniature horse	1	1,500 sq. ft.	50 ft .
Pigeons	50	2 sq. ft. per bird	30 ft .

Note:

1. Living area must be located closer to owner's residential building than to neighboring residential buildings.

A. Cat Requirements: Breeders or owners of cats are allowed to keep up to a combined total of six (6) hobby animals (that list a limit in section [10-18-4](#) of this chapter) per residential lot provided:

1. A conditional use permit is obtained from the planning commission.
2. Cats must have a proof of rabies certificate.
3. Cats may keep one litter intact until the kittens reach five (5) months of age; one animal from the litter may be retained until it reaches twelve (12) months of age. At no time may the holder of the permit retain more than seven (7) cats over five (5) months of age nor more than six (6) cats over one year of age.
4. Other provisions of this chapter are complied with and hobby animal or premises is not deemed a nuisance.

B. Duck And Chicken Requirements: Breeders or owners of chickens and ducks are allowed to keep up to a combined total of six (6) hobby animals per residential lot for noncommercial use provided:

1. A conditional use permit is obtained by the planning commission.
2. The coop/feeding and pen areas must be maintained and cleaned regularly to avoid odor.
3. The coop/feeding and pen areas must be closer to the owner's residential building than neighboring residential buildings.
4. Feed must be kept in a container that prevents vermin.
5. All feces and odor shall be kept within the confines of the owner's property, and shall not be reasonably noticeable to neighbors.
6. The coop/feeding area and pen area shall be maintained in a manner to prevent odor or feces from becoming a nuisance to neighboring properties.
7. Ducks and chickens must not be able to take flight into neighboring properties. If an animal is prone to flying, their wings must be clipped.

C. Miniature Horse Requirements: The owning of miniature horses is allowed for noncommercial use where permitted by the city zoning ordinance, owners may keep a maximum of one miniature horse provided:

1. The miniature horse must be kept and maintained in a fenced corral area constructed to prevent escape.
 - a. All feeding shall be within the confines of this area except for the allowance of grazing nonimproved areas on the owner's property.
 - b. The corral area shall be closer to the owner's residential building than neighboring residential buildings.
 - c. A stable or other suitable shelter shall be within the corral area for protecting the animal from the elements.
2. Feces and odor shall be kept within the confines of the owner's property, and shall not be reasonably noticeable to neighbors.
3. A livestock management plan must be submitted as part of the conditional use permit process and approved by the planning commission. A livestock management plan shall include a drawing of:
 - a. The owner's property and adjoining properties.
 - b. Location of any structures on these properties.
 - c. The location and size of corral area and placement of stable.
 - d. Setbacks from corral area to all structures.

e. Feeding area.

f. Any other information pertinent to mitigate any adverse effects that could occur.

D. Pigeon Requirements: The owning or breeding of pigeons is allowed for noncommercial use where permitted by the city zoning ordinance, breeders or owners may keep a maximum of fifty (50) pigeons provided:

1. Pigeons must be kept and maintained in a loft constructed to prevent escape.
 - a. The loft shall be constructed to contain the feces that can be maintained in a sanitary manner.
 - b. All feeding shall be within the confines of the loft. Feed shall be stored in rodentproof containers.
2. Each pigeon shall wear a leg band to identify the owner or keeper thereof. All records shall be open for inspection by the animal control officer.
3. The loft/feeding area must be closer to the owner's residential building than neighboring residential buildings.
4. Pigeons shall be kept in the loft except for exercise, training and racing.
 - a. Pigeons shall not be allowed to linger on buildings or property other than the owner's.
 - b. Pigeons shall be permitted to exercise twice a day under the control of the owner or keeper.
 - c. Pigeons shall not be released for exercise if they have been fed within the last four (4) hours.
 - d. Feces and odor shall be kept within the confines of the owner's property, and shall not be reasonably noticeable to neighbors.
 - e. The loft interior shall be maintained in a manner to prevent odor or feces from becoming a nuisance to neighboring properties.
5. Pigeon owners will assist the animal control officer in controlling the feral pigeon population within the city. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

10-18-6: LIVESTOCK ANIMALS:

Where permitted by the city zoning ordinance, livestock animals are allowed based on the land area of the lot and land provided for the livestock management area. Shown on table 10-18B of this section are the land use requirements on the types of animals, animals allowed per half acre, size of the livestock animal management area, and setbacks to adjacent residential structures. The numbers of animals allowed per half acre are not cumulative. A maximum of one species precludes any other species. For example, on a half acre parcel, two (2) horses may be kept, or four (4) sheep, or one horse and two (2) sheep, but two (2) horses and four (4) sheep are not allowed. If large and medium or small animals are kept on the property, the large animal requirements for the management area and setbacks shall be used. Unweaned offspring less than one year old of any

residing animal shall not be counted as part of the total animals allowed. In some zones livestock animals are considered a conditional use and must be approved by the planning commission.

A. Management Area: All portions of a lot devoted exclusively to the care and keeping of livestock shall be considered the livestock animal management area. The required setback to adjacent residential structures for pens and pastures in the management area is shown by the types of animal in table 10-18B of this section. Barns, sheds, coops, corrals, feeding areas, water troughs, stables, hutches, and other animal related needs shall be located no closer than seventy five feet (75') from an adjacent lot residential building. The structures must be closer to the owner's residential building than neighboring residential buildings. No portion of a lot devoted to a dwelling, yard, lawn, parking area, nonanimal related accessory structure, or the area between the front of the primary residential structure and the adjacent street can be included in the management area.

TABLE 10-18B
LIVESTOCK ANIMALS LAND USE REQUIREMENTS TABLE

Animal	Allowed Per 1/2 Acre	Livestock Management Area	Setback From Adj. Res. Bld.
Large animals:			
Horse, mule, cattle	2	3,000 sq. ft. per animal	75 ft .
Medium animals:			
Emu, ostrich, sheep	4	1,500 sq. ft. per animal	50 ft .
Donkey, miniature horse, llama, female goat	2		
Small animals:			
Chickens, rabbits, turkeys, ducks	10	12 sq. ft. per 10 animals	50 ft .

B. Animals Not Listed: Any animal not listed in table 10-18B of this section can be approved by the planning commission finding that the animal is similar size and nature to an animal listed. Only one male goat or rooster can be allowed by the planning commission finding that the applicant submits a livestock management plan that details how the noise and smell of the animals will be addressed. For a male goat or rooster, the livestock animal management area size and setback to adjacent residential structures distance shall be twice the requirement set forth in the table. Pigs and mink are not allowed within the city.

- C. Requirements Exceptions: Exceptions to the standards listed in table 10-18B of this section can be requested and must be presented by the property owner through an animal management plan to be heard by the planning commission. In no case shall large animals be allowed on acreage less than half an acre. Approval of the plan by the commission shall be considered a conditional use and shall be subject to all required conditions. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

10-18-7: KENNELS:

Where permitted by the city zoning ordinance, kennels are allowed for any purpose, including boarding, breeding, buying, grooming, letting for hire, training for fee, or selling. Kennels are considered a conditional use and must be approved by the planning commission.

- A. Indoor Animal Room: The basic intent of these regulations is to see that all animals receive proper care, that they are being treated kindly, properly fed, and that their surroundings are being kept in a sanitary condition. Indoor cages shall have a length and width that exceed the animal's length from the base of the tail to the tip of the nose by at least six inches (6"). Cage height shall exceed the animal's height by at least four inches (4"). Small puppies may be caged together using their combined length according to the above formula. Cages shall be so constructed and be of such material as to be maintained in a sanitary condition. Diseased animals must be maintained apart from healthy animals in suitable and separate quarters. The animal or cage room walls and floors shall be of material easily cleaned and kept in a sanitary condition. The room shall be properly screened, insect and vermin proof. It shall be properly ventilated to prevent drafts and remove odors. Heating and cooling should be provided as required, with sufficient light (preferably natural) to allow observation of animals, and sanitation.
- B. Exercise Facilities: Animals shall be removed from indoor cages and be provided with an exercise yard for their use for such periods as determined by the size, age, and condition of the animal. The outdoor area shall be provided with windbreaks, roofing, and shelter adequate to protect the animals from the weather. They shall be adequately drained and maintained in a sanitary manner. Adequate and sanitary means of disposing of droppings shall be provided. All kennel runs shall be fenced (chainlink or welded wire); such fence to be separate and apart from property boundary fence. Kennel runs shall have a minimum free and clear area of ten (10) square feet per dog. Indoor shelter, except where animals are caged, shall have a minimum of six (6) square feet per dog. When the minimum area is provided it should be supplemented with exercise yards for dogs which are maintained for extended periods.
- C. Requirements: Each kennel must have a current valid business license. Such licenses are required to be displayed and readily available for inspection by any authorized person. A kennel record must be kept available for inspection, such record to show: the name, current address, and telephone number of the owner of the dog; the date the dog entered the kennel; the reason for its being in the kennel, i.e., for boarding, sale, breeding, grooming, etc.; the description of the dog (age, breed, sex, color, etc.). On any dog over four (4) months of age, a current valid rabies certificate shall be maintained as a part of this record, as long as the dog is maintained in the kennel.

Kennels shall not be left unattended for a period in excess of twenty four (24) hours. All animals shall be supplied with sufficient good and wholesome food and fresh water as the feeding habits of such animals require. All areas of kennel runs, yards, food storage, and auxiliary buildings shall be subject to inspection by authorized persons. An emergency name, address, and phone number must be posted in a conspicuous place at the front of the property for use by authorized persons. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

10-18-8: APPLICABLE ZONES:

Table 10-18C of this section lists each animal use and the zones within the city; each use is either permitted or is allowed as a conditional use. A conditional use permit must be approved by the planning commission finding that any adverse condition can be mitigated and following the requirements of section [10-12-33](#) of this title. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

TABLE 10-18C
APPLICABLE ZONES TABLE

P = Permitted use	C = Conditional use
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Zone	Common Household Pets	Hobby Animals	Kennels	Livestock Animals
R-1-15,000	P	C		
R-1-20,000	P	C		
R-1-12,000	P			
RR-1	P	C		P
R&L-1-20,000	P	C		P ¹
HR-1	P	C		P
CE-2	P	C		P
C-1			C	
PF				
Hillside cluster overlay	P	C		P ¹
Senior housing overlay	P			

Note:

1. Raising of livestock animals for noncommercial use only.

(Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009; amd. Ord. 10-1, 1-26-2010, eff. 2-11-2010)

10-18-9: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT:

Notwithstanding the allowance of the types of animals considered a household pet, or where permitted by the city zoning ordinance, any animal use that is listed in a zone as a conditional use must be approved by the planning commission subject to all required conditions. The planning commission shall review conditional use permits in accordance to the standards contained in section [10-12-33](#), "Conditional Use Permits", of this title. The planning commission shall conduct a public hearing in accordance with section [10-12-37](#), "Approval Processes And Requirements", of this title. The planning commission must find that the proposed use can be mitigated. Once approved, if the use later violates this code or causes situations that become a nuisance to adjoining property owners the conditional use shall be subject to revocation by the code enforcement officer.

A. Suspension Or Revocation Of A Permit: The suspension or revocation of a conditional use permit shall be determined because of violation of rules or regulations on the following grounds:

1. Falsification of facts in conditional use application.
2. Violation of any established ordinances or regulations relating to noise, odor, building, or zoning ordinances.
3. Conviction on a charge of cruelty to animals.

The city inspector shall inform owner of such violations by written notice and establish specific and reasonable period of time for the correction of such violation(s) found. An opportunity for appeal from any notice or inspection findings will be provided if a written request for a hearing before the planning commission is filed with the department within two (2) weeks of notice. (Ord. 09-3, 7-14-2009, eff. 7-17-2009)

National Pygmy Goat Association

(The Official Breed Association of the Pygmy Goat)

<http://www.npga-pygmy.com/default.asp>

The Pygmy

The Pygmy Goat is hardy, alert and animated, good-natured and gregarious; a docile, responsive pet, a cooperative provider of milk, and an ecologically effective browser. The Pygmy goat is an asset in a wide variety of settings, and can adapt to virtually all climates.

Pygmy goats are precocious breeders, bearing one to four young every nine to twelve months after a five month gestation period. Does are usually bred for the first time at about twelve to eighteen months, although they may conceive as early as two months if care is not taken to separate them early from bucklings. Newborn kids will nurse almost immediately, begin eating grain and roughage within a week, and are weaned by three months of age.

Feeding and housing requirements for Pygmy goats are modest: a draft free 8' x 10' shed furnished with elevated sleeping and feeding places will accommodate four adult animals. An attached outside enclosure with at least 4' high fencing will provide the fresh air and exercise these active, fun-loving goats need. They are very sociable and are happier in a herd atmosphere or with another goat as a friend. A basic diet of roughage in the form of legume and grass hay, bark, brush, and dry leaves [may need] to be [supplemented](#).

In Defense Of The Buck

by Lydia Hale

For many years, I have been distressed by the wild tales and misconceptions that are spread about the male animal, THE BUCK. I would like to bleat out a few of my observations and feelings on the subject.

The buck is an indispensable member of any good Pygmy goat herd. Because of his important role in the herd, he should be given the very best possible care in feeding, housing and companionship. I am convinced that many of the problems that occur with a buck are created by keeping him separated from the does, alone and miserable. Frustrated and bored, a buck can become difficult to live with.

I do not recommend keeping a buck as a pet. He is incredibly strong and, despite his small size, his urges for mates and food are great, making him hard to handle unless his keeper uses some intelligence. [. . .] A Pygmy wether can be a good companion for him and can help keep the buck's frustration to a minimum.

A buck needs a firm hand and a gentle touch but, given that extra bit of love, he will reward you with his loyalty and responsiveness. Most bucks are intelligent and seem to know immediately those who genuinely care for them. Young children should not be given a buck to care for, and under no circumstances must a buck be teased or allowed to play butting games. Too quickly, such games turn

into very rough play. We permit no visitors to touch the horns of any of our goats. Instead we encourage them to lead and control the goats by their collars.

Opinions about the odor of bucks vary, and I have had many a heated argument about it. Personally, I do not find this odor offensive; I greatly prefer it to other barnyard smells. Ever had a whiff of a chicken or duck pen on a warm summer's day? And how about rabbits? If the Pygmy buck's quarters are clean and he has access to plenty of fresh air and outdoor exercise space, you will find very little to complain about.

With a buck, good management is essential, but even more important is liking him. For a long time, I thought we had just been lucky to have three bucks of exceptionally good nature, but having met several other bucks lately, I realize that this is not just a matter of luck.

Be considerate to your buck, spend some quiet time with him, and you will have a good friend.

Excerpts from:

Hale, Lydia, and Ellen Kritzman, eds. *Pygmy Goats: Best of Memo (1976-1981)*
National Pygmy Goat Association: pp 31

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Housing

by Lydia Hale

Many books and articles have been written about housing for dairy goats, but there is little material available that pertains specifically to Pygmy goats. Much of the available information about dairy goats is varied [. . .] but all the authors are in agreement on two essential requirements; shelter from wind, rain and snow; and freedom from stress. Pygmy goats are no exception in their needs for these two things.

In my recent travels to various parts of the country, it was interesting to see how very differently herds of Pygmies are managed. [. . .] Breeders in the southern sections of the United States need to provide only very basic shed type structures [. . .] while in the northern areas, it is an entirely different matter. Substantial barns are a matter of course to provide protection from wind, rain, snow, and severe cold for not only the goats, but also their owners who appreciate some comfort while doing the daily chores.

In planning a barn for Pygmy goats, ease of cleaning and finances may determine just what structure is feasible. No matter how simple the housing is to be, it should be large enough to accommodate the herd without crowding (allowing approximately 15 to 20 square feet per animal), and it should also be draft free [. . .].

Pygmies love niches to which to jump and sleep. Ours are constructed against the walls of the stalls about two feet up off the floor, and the area underneath is a perfect haven for young kids if the older goats get restless and rough in their play. Built-in hay mangers keep the hay up off the floor and cut

down, somewhat, on the amount of hay wasted – a problem that seems universal with goats. So much for the mistaken idea that goats will eat everything! They are by far the finickiest eaters of all animals. Once the hay has dropped on the ground it becomes “bedding” fit only to play or lie in [. . .].

Drinking water, fresh and clean, is essential to all goats and they should be encouraged to drink as much as possible. Several years ago, Bob gave me the nicest Christmas present ever – a hot water heater for the barn. Now we can easily provide warm water all winter, and how they love it!

The flooring in the goat stalls can be of wood, concrete or, best yet, clay. The wood will hold the odor of urine and will rot out eventually. Cement, although easy to keep clean, is cold and damp. We have found that a thick layer of clay on top of a gravel base is perfect for goats. It packs down into a hard surface which can be swept out when the stalls are cleaned; it holds no odor, and a new layer of clay can be applied every two years or so to freshen it up. Any moisture soaks through the deep bedding and on down to the gravel base. We have no problems with too much moisture in the air even when the barn is closed completely in mid winter. Warm, moist air can cause respiratory problems and lead to serious illness. Good ventilation and fresh air are a must for goats.

Exercise yards, grazing areas and/or paddocks surrounded by good fencing are best located adjacent to the sheds of barns where the goats can have access to their stalls and come and go at will.

[. . .]

Good secure fencing is a worthwhile investment. It not only keeps the herd where it should be, but also protects from outside predators [. . .].

Excerpts from:

Hale, Lydia, and Ellen Kritzman, eds. Pygmy Goats: Best of Memo (1976-1981)
National Pygmy Goat Association: pp 22-23

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Assessor's Parcel Number