

# Pygmy Goat Medal Test Study Guide

## SILVER LEVEL

### STUDY Bronze Study Guide

**Breeding:** Pygmy goats are precocious breeders, bearing one to four young every nine to twelve months after a five month gestation period. Pygmies are year-round breeders. Does are usually bred for the first time at about fourteen to twenty months, although they may conceive as early as two months if care is not taken to separate them early from bucklings. The process of birthing for goats is called kidding. Once a doe has kidded, she is said to have freshened.

### Kidding:

**First stage labor** may begin 24 hours before delivery. Signs of first stage labor include:

- pawing the bedding, nesting, and restlessness
- looking back at her sides
- white discharge (mucus plug) from the vulva; vulva becomes flabby
- doe hollows out, lifts tail and becomes vocal (calling for her kids)
- The doe will become soft around the tail head as the muscles relax to allow delivery.
- This stage of labor may last for only a few hours or it may last for 12 to 24 hours. There is no need to get excited unless you notice the color of the discharge changing to bright red.

**Second stage labor** is signaled by labor pains and pushing.

- You may notice a water bag presenting. This is normal. The water bag may break or remain intact.
- A second bag may appear with darker fluid. Again, this is normal.
- Following the presentation of the water bags, the doe will normally get down to business.
- She will usually lay down to strain and may bleat loudly. The doe may stand, turn around several times and paw the bedding, then lay back down again to push. This routine may happen several times.
- You should begin to see, as the doe strains, a glimpse of the tip of the nose or tips of the kid's toes.
- If you see a nose on top of toes that are pointed up, you are in for a **normal delivery**.
- If you notice a nose but no toes or toes and no nose you may have to offer assistance to the doe.
- Assuming a normal delivery, the nanny should deliver a kid in less than 30 minutes after beginning to push.
- Clear the kid's nose with towels and lay the kid by the doe's nose if she doesn't get up to clean it off.
- If your doe doesn't seem to be cleaning the kid jump in and briskly rub the kid as dry as you can get it.
- Using your clean scissors, trim the umbilical cord to about 3 inches and dip it in the 7% iodine. Do not trim the navel (umbilical cord) too short or it may begin to bleed.

**Stage three labor** is the delivery of the afterbirth.

- This may take up to 24 hours. Don't hurry the process by pulling on the afterbirth.
- When the afterbirth is passed, remove it from the pen. Don't let her eat it.
- You will notice a bloody discharge from the doe's vulva for 2 to 3 weeks. The discharge should become less bloody and more clear as time passes.

**Teeth:** Goats have 32 teeth- 8 front lower teeth (incisors) and a "Dental Pad" (Gums) on the front top, these are used for biting off leaves and small branches. In the back on both top and bottom are the pre-molars and molars (24 in all) they use for chewing.

**Anatomy—Muscles & Body Parts**

Back	Brisket	Chest Floor	Chine
Escutcheon	Heart Girth	Loin	Neck
Rump	Teat	Thigh	Topline

