

HAVING AN ANIMAL FOR CALF CLUB DAY

Calf Club Day at Ngatea Primary School has been held every year in October since 1949.

Calves, lambs and kids must be born between 1st July and 1st September.

Lambs and kids must be born after 1st July and before 1st September.

Calf Club will start at 9.30am sharp. You will need to have your animal at school by 9.15am so that you have time to collect your number and be ready to start on time.

Every animal will compete in four events:

Calves

- Obstacle course
- Leading
- Rearing and Handling
- Type

Lambs / Kids

- Obstacle course
- Leading
- Calling
- Rearing and Handling

To assist with running of calf club there will be a "Mystery Envelope" fundraiser and Grocery Raffles on the day and a small auction. Kids First also run a tuck shop on the day so come prepared.

The day will end about 2.15pm with a grand parade of all the animals and the option for children to do the parade in fancy dress. The presentation of the Champion of Champions Trophies and the Most Obvious Pet Rosettes will also be at this time.

To Children Competing

Congratulations on looking after your animal - ENJOY YOUR DAY.

It is expected that following rules will be adhered to while competing in Calf Club:

- Please be quiet around the rings, do not call out as children are competing.
- Please be ready and listen to your Steward, they will advise when it is your turn. Parents please ensure your child is where they are meant to be.
- Please do not hit or kick your animal - sometimes animals can be like us and not want to do as they know they are meant to - do not get upset at this.
- Calves are not to be clipped.
- An Animal diary/care guide must be completed.
- Parents are not to enter the rings at any time.
- Areas are roped off to be fair to all competitors so please stay away from these areas.
- No one should be leaning on the scrim (sacking around rings) at any time.
- We encourage you to bring family and friends to enjoy the day. If they are unfamiliar with Calf Club's please let them know about the rules around the day.
- All 1st and 2nd placegetters are to go to the Championship Ring for Championship round. All 1st placegetters will be judged again and the 2nd placegetter of the Champion will be required to compete.
- If you are not present at the Championship Ring you will miss out, so please stay where you are asked until the judging is complete.
- The judge's decision is FINAL - any complaints are to be addressed to the committee.

- Fancy dress is a non competitive fun event that children can do in the grand parade.
- A Preschool section will be held immediately at the completion of the lamb/goat judging. 4 year olds only of siblings at the school. No calves please. This is a fun event to encourage participation in later school years.

Judging

Judges are unpaid volunteers who often take time off work to make Calf Club the success it is. Without them the day could not proceed, therefore they are very much appreciated by the competitors, parents, committee and school.

If you have an interest in becoming a judge, please pass your interest and details onto the committee and they will see they are passed on to the appropriate people.

Calf Projects

Once you have chosen your calf you should take over responsibility for its care and feeding, if it is possible. The farmer will help you with the food mixtures, this is very important as it will allow your calf to grow into a healthy well-reared animal.

Feeding time is a good time to groom your calf. Regular brushing maintains a clean and healthy skin. Commence at about three weeks old by rubbing over the calf's body with your hands while it is drinking. At the first sign of loose hair brushing should commence. There are a number of good brushes etc. available at the vets and rural supply stores. NEVER pluck or trim the calf.

Once or twice before the day, on a fine warm day, you may want to wash your calf. Use luke warm water. Wash all over with a cloth. Remember to wash thoroughly hooves, ears, and under the chin where dried milk is likely to stick. After this wash, rub dry with an old towel and brush the coat to restore the hair to its natural direction. Only use animal approved washes to avoid damage to the skin. Speak to a vet for advice.

It is a good idea to cover your calf, especially if it is cold and wet. Remember to take it off on hot days. Always check the cover each week to see that the straps are not too tight and rubbing the hair off the calf.

During grooming, look for lice on the neck, brisket and between the front legs. If discovered early these small black creatures can be eradicated using an anti-lice product from the vet.

Once you have gained your calf's confidence by talking to it, patting it and sitting with it, it will be time to start training it to lead. Always do this gently and remember the correct way

to lead. Talk to your calf as you lead it around; call it by its name. This will help it to become used to you.

Clipping of calves is not allowed at Ngatea School Calf Club.

Calves must receive two vaccinations to protect them from Clostridial diseases that can lead to sudden death as well as Leptospirosis. They need these vaccinations from 4 weeks of age and must have a booster at 8 weeks of age. Local vet clinics will do this free of charge for calf club animals.

When calves are eating a significant amount of grass (approx. 8 weeks) it is recommended that animals receive a drench for worms. This will also protect them from external parasites such as mites. Signs of illness in your calf can be seen as abnormal behaviours, off feed, change in faeces (blood, diarrhoea). Contact your vet for advice as early treatment is important as these are babies. Please do not bring sick animals to calf club as some illnesses are contagious to humans and animals.

Lamb Projects

Choosing

If possible, choose a lamb that is only a few days old and begin caring for it immediately. This helps to ensure that a strong bond is established between you and the lamb. Give your lamb a name.

Shelter

It is important that the newborn lamb is kept warm. Build a lamb's pen in a sunny position and place a shelter in the pen so that the lamb can keep out of the rain, cold winds or hot sun. Some form of bedding should be used in the shelter. Ensure the pen is secure from dogs.

A large box with shredded newspaper, sacking or hay is ideal for the shelter as this compensates for the warmth that a lamb receives from its mother. Keep the bedding clean by

renewing it regularly. The lamb must be kept warm, dry and clean and the area free from draught.

Feeding

A newly born lamb must have its mother's colostrums or cow's colostrum. If orphaned phone your local vet for advice on what to feed. Newborn lambs require 6 feeds daily. This milk must not be watered down. Warmed milk powder or cows colostrum must not be watered down. Milk powder may be a propriety brand that is formulated to feed new lambs. Ensure that the instructions on the container are read, understood and that the milk replacement is suitable for lambs. After approximately 6 weeks the number of feeds can be reduced to 4 times a day until nearly weaned. For example 7am, 11am, 3pm and 7pm.

Increase the supply of milk according to the lamb's appetite. An indication of "fullness" occurs when the lamb's flanks are level with its sides. Lambs should never look bloated. The lamb will need to be fed for a minimum of twelve weeks and should never be weaned until after the final show day. If a lamb refuses a feed it must never be forced as this can indicate health problems.

Health Problems

Lambs can go down hill very quickly when sick. Act quickly. Speak with a vet if you have any health concerns.

Lambs must receive two vaccinations 4 weeks apart. The first one at the same time as it receives a ring on it's tail as this protects it from tetanus. Ram lambs are recommended to be castrated as they can become too strong for children. This should be done at the same time as the tail.

Daily Care

The lamb needs to be brushed daily. The wool should be kept clean. It is especially important to keep the tail area clean as the longer this is left the worse it gets and the lamb can become very unpleasant to be with. A warm damp cloth may be used to clean the animal's underbelly, ears, face, eyes, hooves, and flanks for show day. After each feed wipe the lamb's mouth to avoid build-up of dried milk. A well-reared animal will be bright, clean, well grown and alert.

Training Lambs

Training and working with a lamb should start from an early age. Talk to your lamb and let it get used to its name. Whenever possible feed your lamb yourself, as this will encourage it to become friendly and teaches children responsibilities.

While out walking the child should encourage the lamb to walk beside him/her ensuring that the lambs front legs are in line with the child's legs and its head is held high. This encourages the lamb to become confident walking on a lead and close beside the child. (If someone else has to feed your lamb ask them not to talk to it, that way the lamb will get used to your voice only).

Kid Projects

Kid goats are some of the most 'fun' animals to rear. Once a kid goat has begun to be reared as a pet they become very loving and loyal to their handler.

Shelter

On selecting the kid give it a name. It is important that a young kid is kept warm. It will need a pen and a shelter so that the kid can keep out of the rain, cold winds or hot sun. Sacking or clean straw is ideal for bedding as this compensates for the

warmth that a kid receives from its mother. Keep the bedding clean by changing it regularly.

Feeding

Newborn kids require at least 6 feeds a day. Feed in small amounts and often for the first few days. After about three weeks you can reduce the feeds to 4 times a day. Never allow the kid to get a bloated look after feeding. This means the kid is greedy and drinking more than they need.

Kids begin to eat grass from about 1 week of age. At about 4 to 6 weeks you can slowly introduce your kid to pellets. Roughage such as pellets and hay etc helps to prevent scours. Remember to wash the bottle and teat after each feed.

Cleaning

Clean with a warm damp cloth around its face and ears and under the front and back legs daily and groom with a soft clean brush. Keep the hooves, the hair between the claws and around the hooves trimmed. This helps to prevent scold. Check for lice and drench for worms if necessary. Goats are more susceptible to worms than any other animals. Ensure faeces always look like pellets.

Training

Take the kid for daily walks and introduce it to a variety of interesting obstacles such as walking a plank and jumping onto and over logs. Introduce one obstacle at a time and once the kid has mastered it move onto the next interesting challenge.

While out walking the child should encourage the kid to walk beside him/her ensuring that the kid's front legs are in line with the child's legs and its head held high. This encourages

the kid to become confident walking on a lead and close beside the child.

Dangerous Plants for Lambs and Kids

The following plants are NOT good for kids: Rhododendron, rhubarb, tomato plants, oleander, ragwort, deadly nightshade, potato plants, daffodils and other bulb plants, lantana, sour thistle.

Leading and Obstacle Course

The leading and obstacle course are probably the most important events because both demonstrate a bond of understanding between the animal and child. The reaction of the animal to the child reflects the work and effort done over a good number of weeks.

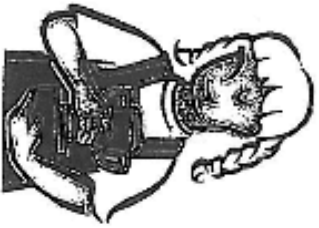
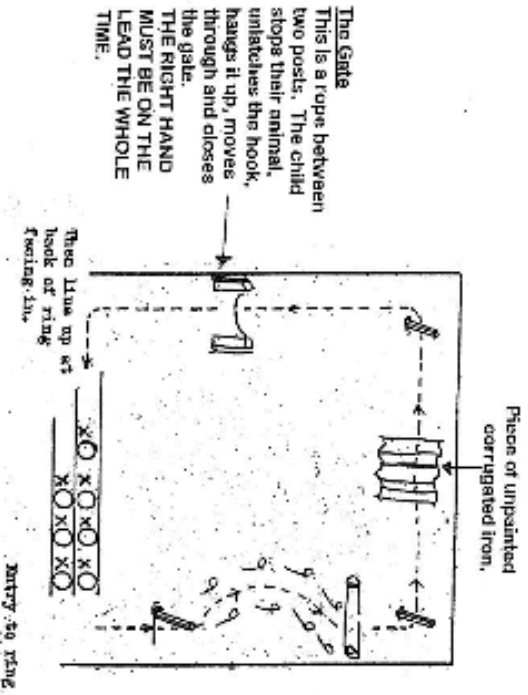
A successful round of the Leading and Obstacle course means a great deal to the child. It is the only event in which both animal and child may be seen working together as a team and the only event that may point to an over zealous parent who could be inclined to make too great a contribution to the rearing of the animal.

Commence training with short leads. The right hand is the steering wheel and brake and should be about 10cms from the animal. Just a slight pressure with a forward or backward motion will start or stop the animal. You can talk to the animal. Tell it to 'walk; or 'stop'. Always walk level with the animals shoulder and soon it will learn that your pace is the speed at which to travel.

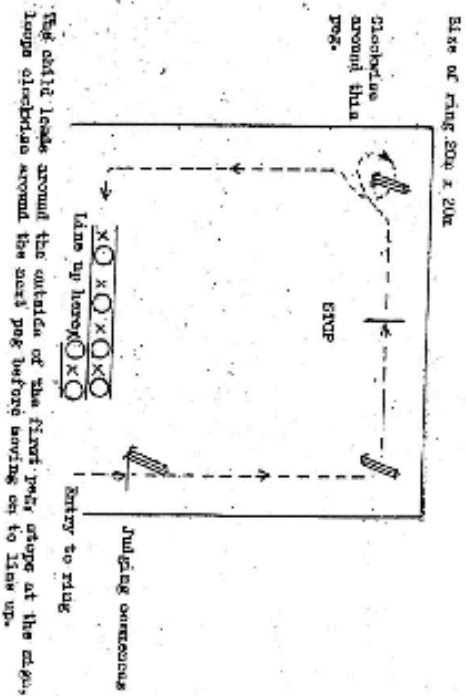
Do not release your right hand

Try to get your animal used to other people and different noises and objects. Study the diagrams and set up similar rings at home, and practise your leading and obstacle course, and calling for lambs/kids.

OBSTACLE COURSE



THE LEADING COURSE



THE CALLING COURSE FOR LAMBS AND KIDS

