

# SHOW PREPARATION

Tracey Wood – Pacifica Boer Goat Stud



## Showing

At Pacifica, our mission is to exhibit excellence in Boer goats by combining genetics, presentation and passion.

We are committed to breeding with vision, preparing animals to their highest standard and showing them to inspire confidence in the quality of the Boer goat both in Australia and internationally.

At Pacifica we celebrate the best in Boer goats and the people who raise them.



# Why do we Show Boer Goats ?

- Benchmarking and Improvement
- Education
- Tradition and Pride
- Personal Satisfaction
- Build Community
- Promotion and Marketing
- Social





# SHOW TEAM SELECTION

## Where to Start?

Structural Soundness

True to Breed Type

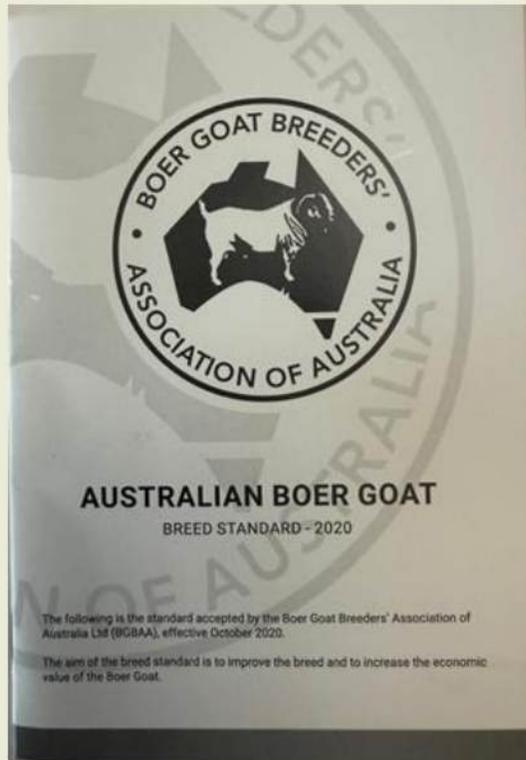
including Teats and Teeth

Condition

Age – Registered

Temperament

Indicative of your  
Breeding



## Now That You've Shortlisted

### **Look at the group as a whole.**

Is there consistency across your team ?

Consistency shows the strength of your breeding program

### **Do you have representation in most classes?**

Have you selected across the range of classes

Have you selected Bucks and Does ?

### **Keep Checking Back**

There is always one that you didn't select that "pops" when you least expect it

# FUELING POTENTIAL

The Role of Nutrition in Show Preparation



## **Genetics builds the foundation but nutrition and presentation complete the champion**

Good nutrition creates groundwork by providing the energy, muscle and finish needed for showing. However, feeding alone won't give you success.

The quality of your genetics are the starting point. Strong genetics determine structure, balance and natural potential.

Feeding can only enhance what's already there.

### **Genetics – The Foundation**

Sound structure, balance and natural muscling all begin with the right breeding.

Genetics determine the potential your goat can achieve.

### **Nutrition – The Builder**

Balanced feeding develops muscle, bloom and condition. It fuels growth, supports health and helps showcase the animal's genetic strengths.

## Informed Feeding

**Bucks:** Need muscle, not fat. Feed to highlight muscle development.

**Does:** Should be feminine and balanced. An overly conditioned doe hides femininity and structure.

**Kids:** Aim for A healthy young animal that carries enough muscle for its age to show promise in maturity.



# Nutrition-The Builder

*Feeding is a personal preference based on availability of feed, price, location and what works best for your situation. This information is a guideline only based on my personal experience at Pacifica.*

## Balanced feeding develops muscle

In preparing our goats at Pacifica, we worked on an average of 16-18% crude protein ration twice daily.

They are fed at 2 - 3% of their total body weight. (Reducing if there was wastage)

- Too much protein without energy → lean, rangy goats.
- Too much energy without protein → fat, soft goats.

Balance is what makes them pop with firm muscles and a glossy coat.

## Feeding Schedule

If possible, ensure animals have paddock access. Provides exercise and adds natural grazing into the mix

Consistent timing: 2 feeds daily at the same times each day if possible

Over a period of 12- 8 weeks before show-Increase concentrates gradually to avoid acidosis and bloat while still providing plenty of roughage.

Final weeks: Adjust ration depending on whether they need more finish (add energy/fats) or trimming down (reduce grain, more hay).



## Example Buck Mix for Muscle & Power

### **Roughage (50%)**

Good quality lucerne hay or cereal hay (ad lib).  
It keeps the rumen healthy.

Soaked Sugarbeet Adds fill and smoothness without excess fat

### **Concentrate Mix (50%)**

Over 2 feeds - AM & PM

Chaff of preference

40% Barley or Oats (energy)

35% Lupins (protein + energy)

20% Faba Bean (protein, muscle builder) (or 10% Soybean meal) \* note

5% Canola Oil helps with coat shine and condition.

### **Supplements**

Free-choice good quality goat mineral block

For Does adjust the mix to Roughage 60% Concentrate 40%

# TOP TO TAIL

Trimming your goat isn't as daunting as you may think.

The purpose is to enhance its conformation and showcase its natural strengths.

A trim highlights clean lines, correct structure and balance, allowing the judge to see your goat at its very best.



## **Prepare**

Ensure you have all your equipment ready and a reasonably quite area to work.

## **Secure**

Do you have a handler or a way to secure your goat so it stays calm and safe

## **Drying pens / area**

After you have washed do you have a clean area where the goat can dry and be fed.

## Trimming

At Pacifica, we believe in presenting goats as close to natural as possible. I have never liked the look of an over groomed goat, especially the bucks and we **never** shave our animals.

Our aim has always been to enhance, not alter. We focus on tidying and blending. This approach ensures our animals look authentic, balanced and true to type allowing their natural conformation and strengths to show through in the ring.

I usually trim before I wash and then correct anything that needs attention after they are dry and the coat has settled.

The fundamentals are to concentrate on the Head, Coat, Legs, Feet and Tail to bring out your goat's best features.



### Trimming the Head

Trim the forehead to remove the "bump" in front of the horn base, just enough to achieve a continuous, sweeping curve that runs from the nose to the tip of the horns, enhancing the nobility in the goat's profile."

Horns can be sanded to give a smoother appearance and oiled on the day of the show to darken

### Coat

Keep the coat smooth and even taking out any rough bumps or twirls. A stripping comb works well to take out coarse hair. Always work in the direction of the coat with long strokes. Your aim is to create a smooth body line. The bucks will always take more time and effort, especially around the hair on their neck.

### Legs

Bucks may need some additional trimming on their legs. Take care trimming around the hocks as clumsy trimming can create the visual impression of hockiness even if your goat is structurally correct.

### Tail

Trim lightly to tidy without removing too much hair. An incorrect trim can visually shorten your goat. For bucks, it's often best to leave the tail as natural as possible, which gives a stronger masculine look.

### Feet

Trim hooves regularly in the lead up to a show and then last trim about a week before the show. Don't forget to tidy the Dew Claws to enhance the pasterns

## Washing - Its not all about the dirt



**Washing** your goat is one of the most time consuming but also one of the most important steps in show preparation. Its not just about getting rid of the dirt, its about presenting a healthy, polished coat that highlights the animal's quality and muscling and ensures they look their absolute best in the ring.

Wash 1-2 days before the show so the natural oils return and the coat settles. If at all possible tepid water is best. At minimum wash on a warm day.

I tend to wash my bucks first. If they get a bit grubby before the show they can always be spot cleaned on the day and a good judge will always see through a bit of dirt.

Kids are next. The first time a kid experiences being washed it can be stressful so do them early in case they scour from the stress.

Does are last in line but always a couple of days prior to the show.

# STEPS TO A WINNING WASH



## **Prepare**

Pick a day when the weather is warmest. Prepare your tools, holding and drying pens and stand. Secure your goat safely with a halter or rope.

## **Stain removal**

Spray any stubborn stains and the backs of the bucks' legs with a stain remover designed for livestock or use some shampoo straight from the bottle on a cloth.

## **Check for Lice**

Use your fingers or a fine toothed comb to part the hair down to the skin. Focus on areas where lice are most common, the neck, shoulders, topline and around the tail. A magnifying glass can help.

## It's a Process

**Before you start**, if you have a blower, give the coat a good go over to blow out any dust and dirt in the coat

Wet down the coat using tepid water if possible. Soak right through to the skin This can take a bit of time due to natural oils in the coat. A hose with variable spray nozzle can help.

Apply the shampoo. For standards you can use a purple whitening shampoo specifically designed for livestock. This helps neutralise yellow stains and brightens the coat. With your reds there is an option to use a colour shampoo, but I found it unnecessary for our reds.

Work top to bottom, massaging into the coat with your hands washing gloves or a soft brush. Concentrating on the dirtiest areas such as the belly, tail and legs.

Avoid soap in the eyes ears and nostrils and don't forget to wash the does udder and the buck's testicles!



Rinse thoroughly until the water runs clear and no suds remain as any leftover shampoo can irritate the skin and leave the coat dull.

Coat conditioning is optional. I always included this step as it just gave an extra level of clean. If you do condition, ensure the coat is rinsed well with no residual.

Towel-dry first to remove excess water. If you have microfibre towels this works well to soak up the most amount of moisture.

Brush to ensure the coat lays in the right direction and if you have one, use a cattle blower to dry. Continue to brush while you dry to create a smooth finish. If you don't have a cattle blower a hair dryer will help.

Make sure the goat is as dry as possible and then as a final finish spray lightly all over with a finishing spray to help protect the coat from dirt and grime.

When finished pen the goat and give them feed to help encourage them to stand until completely dry.

## ON THE DAY

### Arrival & Set-Up

Arrive early to allow for unloading, penning and settling goats.

Check pen allocations and set up bedding, water and feed.

Hang the appropriate collars and leads on pens in readiness

### Final Grooming & Touch-Ups

Brush through coats and wipe down any dusty or dirty areas.

Spot clean white areas or legs if needed.

Check feet and tails for a tidy finish.

Use a grooming cloth or finishing spray for last minute shine.

### Health & Comfort Check

Ensure goats have fresh water and light feed. Hay is best

Double check for signs of stress, scours or coat issues.

### Exhibitor Readiness

Don't ignore your dress code.

It won't help the presentation if you look a mess.

Dress neatly in show appropriate clothing and wear safe, closed footwear. No cros!



# THE IMPORTANCE OF RING ETIQUETTE

Your success in the show ring is not only measured by the quality and presentation of your goat but also by how you the exhibitor present and conduct yourself. Professional behaviour and good ring etiquette shows respect for the judge and your fellow exhibitors.

## Key Elements of Ring Etiquette

**First Impressions Count** – The way you present yourself and handle your goat reflects directly on your stud and reputation.

**Respect for the Judge** - Attentive behaviour ensures the judge can do their job without distraction. Be Attentive – Watch the judge and ring steward at all times and follow instructions.

**Fair Competition** – Professional conduct upholds the integrity of the show and promotes goodwill within the industry

**Showmanship** – Judges take note of exhibitors who are composed, confident and supportive of their animals. So stay calm and handle your goat quietly and confidently, even if the animal misbehaves.

**Never get between the judge and your goat** - In the line up stand your goat in front of you. If you need to adjust the animals stance try to do it while the judge is not watching you.

**Respect Others** – Give space to fellow exhibitors and avoid blocking the judge's view.

**No Distractions** – Avoid loud talking, unnecessary movement or behaviour that draws attention away from your animal.

**If you win or place in your class** - be gracious and congratulate the exhibitors beside you.

**Professional Exit** – Win or lose, thank the judge and leave the ring with dignity.

**Before leaving the show** - thank you fellow exhibitors, the stewards, organisers and any others that assisted with the show.



**Thank you for attending  
and remember**

**Showing goats is about more than ribbons it's about pride in your animals, your accomplishments, the friendships you make and the reputation of excellence you build for you and your stud.**

**Every time you step into the ring, you are not only presenting your goat, you are presenting your hard work, dedication and professionalism.**

**Remember, preparation and presentation go hand in hand. A well prepared goat handled by a confident, respectful exhibitor always makes an impression.**

**So I hope you can take what you've learned today, put it into practice and step into the ring knowing you and your goats are ready to shine.**



**Glo White Shampoo** - An outstanding formula to clean, brighten, whiten and remove stains and yellow tinges. Highlights white markings, whitens tails and manes and brightens all coat colours. Does not contain bleach. From \$14.00

**Good Earth dishwashing liquid** -I use to dilute the purple shampoo. Fill a tuff tub with water and mix in purple shampoo and good earth. Use a container/cup to pour over the animal after you've wet the down. Helps the shampoo soak in and makes the purple shampoo last longer. \$3.00

**Livermol Blu** - Especially formulated to shift stubborn marks, stains and dirt from coat, mane and tail of animals of any colours. Its effectiveness is quickly visible by brightening darker and whitening white and grey colours. Fast acting, it dries to a glistening finish after the first wash and easily removes the most difficult manure and grass stains \$35.00 average

**Show Sheen Finishing Mist**- Original ShowSheen is now enriched with Pro Vitamins and Silk Proteins to shine and strengthen better than ever and helps to repel dust and dirt to save grooming time. Absorbine Finishing Mist is perfect for last-minute touch-ups, has a continuous, quiet sprayer that won't spook your pet and even sprays upside down. \$49.99