

ANIMAL BITES

 ISSUE 08
 SUMMER 2016


THE SAFE YOUTH NEWSLETTER - FOR KIDS WHO KNOW THAT ANIMALS MATTER.

Welcome to issue eight of the SAFE Youth newsletter.

This issue of Animal Bites is all about goats. That's right, goats! Goats are playful, intelligent, fun-loving animals, but not everyone is kind to goats. Some people eat them or take the milk meant for their babies or even tie them up on the side of the road all by themselves.

In this newsletter you can find out all about goats and some easy ways to help them.



ANIMAL PROFILE: GOATS

Scientific name:

Capra aegagrus hircus

Goats belong to the family Bovidae. This group of animals also includes sheep, cattle, bison, buffaloes, antelopes and gazelles.

Lifespan:

Domestic goat breeds normally live between 15 and 18 years. According to the Guinness World Records, the oldest goat that ever lived was 22 years and five months old.

Ancestry:

Domestic goats come from wild goats, much as dogs came from wolves. DNA and archaeological evidence suggests goat domestication began around 10,000-11,000 years ago. This means that, along with sheep, goats have been part of humans lives for longer than any other animal, aside from dogs.

Humans and Goats:

Goats and sheep appear to be the first wild herbivores (plant eaters) to be tamed by humans. They were first domesticated in the Fertile Crescent, which is made up of parts of modern-day Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. Goats are used by humans for their meat, milk, and fibre. Goats are widely spread around the world because they are so adaptable to extreme climates and many types of landscape.



Goats in New Zealand

Goats were introduced to New Zealand during the period of European colonisation (when Europeans came to New Zealand). They were brought in for milk, fibre, and weed control. Many escaped from farms and others were intentionally released and are now thriving in the New Zealand countryside on grass hills, in forests and on scrubland. These are known as feral goats. They are considered a pest, but they are just like any other animal; they think, feel and want to live.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

Baby goats are called kids and when a mother goat gives birth it is called kidding.



KIDS (BABY GOATS)

HORNS

Goats' horns come out the top of their head whereas sheep's come out more on the side. The horns of Bovidae, such as goat, sheep and cows, are true horns; they are not shed each year as antlers are in deer. True horns have a hard, bony centre with an outer layer of hard material called keratin.

EYES

Goats have rectangular pupils that are horizontal. These pupils stay parallel (level) with the ground so when they put their head down to feed they can still see predators approaching.

STOMACH

Goats, like cows and sheep, have a four-chambered stomach. They also bring their food back up (regurgitate it) and chew on it again; this is known as ruminating. This process along with the four-chambered stomach allows goats to maintain themselves on grass, weeds, shrubs and hay.



INTELLIGENCE

Goats are naturally curious and intelligent animals. They have been shown to solve puzzles and look for help from people when they cannot solve them. Goats are also able to change their behaviour based on their human audience. It was previously thought that only cats, dogs and horses could do this.

TEETH

Goats have 32 teeth. Like cows and sheep, they do not have teeth at the top front of their mouth; instead they have a hard pad that is excellent for gathering large amounts of grass or other plants.

EMOTION

Like other animals, goats have emotions. They can be happy, sad, or frustrated. Researchers have been working on how to tell a goat's emotions, meaning we could know what makes them happy or sad.

Goats' fur is made of keratin. Most goats have an outer layer of coarse hair for protection and weather proofing, sometimes called guard hairs, and an inner layer of more fine, downy hair for warmth.

ANIMALS IN TROUBLE

GOAT MILK

Unfortunately, drinking goats' milk is no more humane than cows' milk. Goats are still forced to become pregnant and have their babies taken away from them shortly after birth. Their horns can be removed and males can be castrated, without anaesthetic. Females are no longer of use to the industry when their milk production drops below a certain point so they are killed.

GOAT MEAT

According to statistics New Zealand, in 2014 there were over 97,000 farmed goats in New Zealand. These farmed goats only get to live a short amount of their natural life span because they are killed young. Many of these are goats used for meat and are killed at around eight months. Young goats can be dehorned, or have the tips of their horns removed. Not only is this painful but it can also lead to "scurs", which are partially formed horns. Scurs are prone to damage and can grow in strange curves and spirals. They can even grow back into the goat's head,

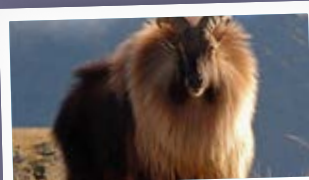
causing infection, or grow into an eye, causing blindness. Young, male goats in the industry are castrated at four to six weeks of age, without anaesthetic.

HUNTING

In New Zealand feral goats are considered a pest animal, so can be hunted at all times during the year. Unfortunately, hunting is cruel. Not only does it take the lives of these animals but also hunting kills are not always instant and animals can suffer prolonged deaths.

TAHR IN NEW ZEALAND

Although not strictly goats, tahr are very closely related to goats and are also widely hunted in New Zealand. Again this is because they are considered pests. Tahr, too, can suffer prolonged deaths from hunting.



TAHR

TETHERED GOATS

Many goats in New Zealand are tethered (tied up on a rope) on the side of the road by themselves. This is sad, because goats are intelligent, social creatures that live in groups. They are some of the most naturally curious and freedom loving animals. Tethered goats often do not have proper access to the water they need. Goats need shelter as well, because they have very little fat beneath their skin to keep them warm. Goats are not always provided with good enough shelter to help keep them warm and dry when tethered. Tethered goats can be strangled by their tethers or hit by cars. Dogs can even attack them as they cannot run away because of their tether.



TETHERED GOAT



TIPS TO HELP ANIMALS

1 DRINK PLANT-BASED MILK RATHER THAN COW OR GOAT MILK

Just like cows, goats suffer on commercial goat milk farms. You can help these goats by not drinking goat milk. Try plant-based milk such as soy or almond.

2 GO MEAT FREE

Goats have feelings just like your cat or dog. Like all animals, they feel pain and want to live. Though little goat meat is consumed in New Zealand, you can still help by not eating goats.

3 AVOID HUNTING

Hunting is cruel. Animals can be wounded rather than killed and may suffer slow deaths. Don't go hunting and encourage people you know not to go hunting.

Tahr

Just like feral goats, you should avoid hunting tahr and encourage others not to hunt them either.

4 ADOPT A GOAT

Goats can be affectionate, curious companions. If you and your family want to adopt a goat, make sure you have proper housing, a fresh supply of water, good food and good fencing. Remember to get your goat desexed, especially males who can become aggressive if they are not desexed.



5 LET GOATS BE FREE

You should never tether a goat. Sadly, it is still legal to tether goats in New Zealand and some people still do this. If you find a tethered goat who looks in trouble, let the property owner know. Explain to them why tethering goats is cruel, and see if they would consider letting their goats run free on their property.

You can also check and make sure they have proper shelter, a fresh supply of water and sufficient food, all of which must be provided for tethered goats under the animal welfare act for goats. Inform the property owner if the goat does not have these, or let the SPCA know.

KIND FOOD

The best thing you can do for animals is to stop eating them. Try this easy meat-free tagine!

NOTE:

You may need some help from your parent for this.

Pumpkin and Chickpea Tagine

UTENSILS:

- Tagine or a frying pan
- A casserole dish if using a frying pan
- Measuring cups
- Measuring spoons
- Something to stir with

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 C pumpkin cut into cubes
- 3 Tbsp. Moroccan spices
- 1 Tbsp. cumin
- 1 onion diced
- 4 cloves of garlic
- 2 red peppers roughly chopped
- 3/4 C olives
- 3/4 C prunes
- 1 can chickpeas
- 2 tins tomatoes
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. white pepper
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Sauté (fry quickly in hot oil) the onion, garlic and spices for five minutes in a tagine pot, a cast iron camp cooker or a large frying pan.
2. Add the other ingredients.
3. Place the lid on the pot and put into the oven for 1 1/2 hours or until tender. (If using a frying pan transfer to a casserole dish).

To make the couscous

1. Place couscous in a bowl and cover it with boiling water for five minutes.
2. Add the chopped herbs, cardamom, raisins and almonds and mix through.

COUSCOUS

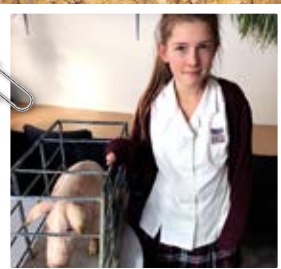
- Boiling water
- 1 C couscous
- 1/2 C almonds chopped
- Handful of fresh coriander chopped
- Handful of mint chopped
- 1 tsp. cardamom
- 1/2 C raisins



SAFE KIDS FOR ANIMALS

This is where we recognise your action for animals.

SAFEYOUTH
Kids' Voice 4 Animals



MAEVA (12)
CHRISTCHURCH

Maeva made a speech about factory farming in her school speech competition. She was selected to represent her class and made it all the way to the finals, giving her speech in front of the whole school. She got a medal and a certificate for getting into the finals. We are sure she taught a lot of people about animal suffering and hopefully changed a few hearts and minds at the same time. Outstanding work, Maeva!



KRISTA (12)
AUCKLAND

Krista has started a petition to end the cruel practice of greyhound racing in Auckland. She has also been raising money for the animal sanctuary, in Matakana. Amazing, Krista!

Sign Krista's petition at change.org, just search Greyhound racing Auckland or use this tiny URL: <https://goo.gl/7hmNeJ>. You can also share her petition with your friends and family.

NIKOLAS (11) AND VINCENT (8)
CHRISTCHURCH

Nikolas and Vincent have been taking good care of their companion rabbit, Gandalf. They make sure he has fresh water, good food, space to run around outside and shelter. Great job, guys!



MAJA (12)
AUCKLAND

Maja has been doing a petition asking Countdown to drop cage-eggs. She has also been protesting and demonstrating at her school and outside Countdown. In her spare time, she and a few friends even managed to run a vegan cooking class. It is extraordinary how much she does for animals. Fantastic stuff, Maja.

You can find Maja's petition at chang.org by searching Countdown please stop selling cage eggs! You can also use this tiny URL: <https://goo.gl/RbkJOO>.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

13
TO FIND!



SAFE YOUTH PROFILE

For the second year in a row, for his birthday, Nicky asked his friends to bring money as a donation for SAFE instead of presents. He raised \$115. Great stuff! This was such an amazing and considerate gesture that we thought Nicky more than deserved to be our SAFE Youth profile for this newsletter.

Name: Nicky

Age: 10

Hometown: Christchurch

Favourite animal: Fox

What got you interested in wanting to help animals?

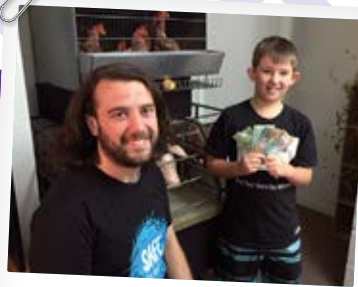
My family and I love animals. That's the kind of house I grew up in, so to me it is always the right thing to do.

What is your favourite veg food?

Nachos and Mum's coconut ice cream with custard.

Anything you want to share about animals?

We have had all kinds of animals in our house. We currently have three cats (Louie, Rose and Onix) and one dog (Max). We also have three chickens (Lucy, Sarah and Henny) and two cows (Sonny and Cher). Until recently I also had two rats, which were the best pets ever. At the moment we also have a mother duck with her five babies living on our pond, which is pretty cool.



NICKY'S SECOND BIRTHDAY DONATION.

HOW TO JOIN SAFE YOUTH

If you would like to join SAFE Youth, simply photocopy this page, fill in the form below and cut it out then send it to SAFE, or sign up online at SAFE.org.nz/safe-youth



I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN SAFE YOUTH.

Name:

Date of birth:

Street address:

Suburb:

City:

Phone number:

Email:

Name of Parent/Guardian:

JOINING SAFE YOUTH IS FREE!

We will send you three newsletters per year and keep you up to date with any SAFE Youth events.

SEND YOUR ENTRY FORM TO:

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE ANSWERS - Difference in the left picture compared to the right:
1. Cloud on right of picture is raining 2. Bird is black 3. Goat has no grass in her mouth 4. Goat has no tail 5. Goat's spots are a different colour 6. Goat's back leg is missing 7. Goat's toes/hovoes are black 8. Goat on top of shelter is missing 9. Baby goat in shelter is missing 10. Plant on the left side of shelter is a different colour 11. Plant at the bottom of picture is missing 12. Cloud in top left hand corner is missing 13. One of the trees on the left of the shelter is missing.