

THE **HOW TO** TO A **GOOD LOOKIN' DO**



by **MARISSA TANKERSLEY**

Show day comes and show day goes – getting your project to shine in the showing takes time and practice at home says Scott Mauney, Ag Extension Agent for Palo Pinto County, Texas.

Mauney's comments and knowledge on show-prep come after 22-years in the extension field, countless hours spent with young kids and a lifetime of goat production. During his span in the business he's helped families place at all the Texas majors and find success at every level of showing.

first and foremost

Before worrying about show day prep, Mauney says that proper nutrition, health and pest control is a must. He suggests keeping a watchful eye out for any parasite problems and being proactive in treatment quickly. On the nutrition front he says that watching your animal eat daily can be one of the smartest moves. "You can tell exactly what you need to do different, if you just watch their appetite and eating habits," Mauney says.

environment

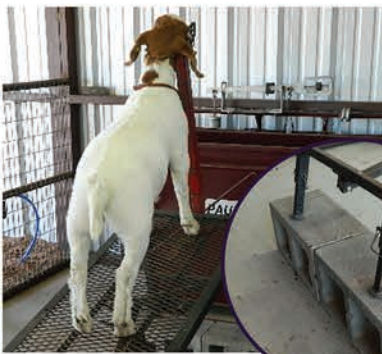
Another 'must' at home is keeping your goats in a good environment. "Goats don't do well with wind and water," says Mauney. Housing them in an area where they can get away from both will make a great difference. Mauney suggests keeping goats blanketed all the time. "Even in the summer we keep a light blanket on them," says Mauney. "When it get's real cold we'll put two or three of them on them to keep them comfortable and warm."

A 'hot box' is an area where the goats can escape the weather, equipped with heat lamps and sides. It can be used on cold damp evenings.



Interior view of a 'hot box'.

SHOWRING TRAINING Working your animal at home before entering the spotlight on show day can really pay off. Mauney has a few at-home tricks and tips which will allow the showman to look cool and calm, while the judge will be able to focus solely on the goat.



ELEVATED TRIMMING STAND

This will put the goat into the showing stance, while doing any grooming practices.

A ROPE TIE

Tying the goat with it's head up for 20 to 30 minutes a day will train the goat to stand with his head up. Mauney suggests only to do this with supervision. "Goats can twist and throw themselves, so we have to be sure they're watched closely every time they're tied," Mauney says.



HANDLING & CARE

Goats have a tendency to squirm and duck their bodies when they're handled. If you practice at home handling them like a judge would, Mauney says the goats will behave better in the showing. It is also important that your goats look like champions. Proper hair care is critical to completing that showing look. Mauney uses a weekly blow-out routine with a conditioner to soften and clean the hair.

SECRETS FROM THE SHOWBOX

Mauney says there are a lot of products out there for goat enthusiasts; however, when it comes to preparing for a show, he reminds showman to keep it simple. Packing a showbox with the essentials is key to showing success.

A POWERFUL BLOWER

No show day preparations are complete without a good blower.



BUCKETS AND FEED PANS

Goats have to eat, it's that simple. Making sure you pack buckets and feed pans to get that done is critical.



WATERLESS SHAMPOO

Mauney suggests finding a waterless shampoo that you prefer for quick showday cleaning. He reminds showman to clean the face and ears to get them looking sharp. For bigger cleaning jobs, he recommends a quality whitening shampoo.



FITTED BLANKET

Keep your goats clean and warm while at the show with a good, quality blanket.



SHOW COLLAR

It's important that a showman finds a show collar that works and is comfortable for them to use. Practicing at home will better prepare both the showman and goat.



WATER AND HAY

Mauney says he always travels with water to avoid the risk of a goat not drinking when they arrive at a show. He also suggest bringing hay as needed instead of hauling an entire bale.



CLIPPERS

Good clippers are a necessity, a set of clippers and sharp blades are a 'must-have'. Be sure you're comfortable with the clippers and only bring them along if you're show allows clipping in the barns.



Hair care is a top priority when trying to achieve that winning look.

hair prep

Before the clippers come out, work is done to get the hair ready. Mauney says blowing and working hair to keep it in good condition pays off when it comes time to clip. "Good conditioned hair can make the animal feel fresher to the touch," says Mauney. His regime on working hair includes a weekly blow-out, and working in a conditioning agent. When blowing through one, he first works out any dirt or foreign particles. Then brushes and blows the hair from head to tail in that direction, training it to lay smoothly.

the countdown

Two weeks prior to loading up and heading to a show, Mauney advises blowing out and working hair daily, including the leg hair. He also advises trimming the feet. "We always make sure to trim feet a couple weeks before show day, just incase we get too close on one," says Mauney.



If you're allowed and planning on drenching at a show that's another thing you need to start before leaving home. "When we drench we make sure to use a good, small, drench gun and start anything at least three days prior to leaving for a show," says Mauney.

snip snip

A stylish trim can set one apart from another on show day. Mauney generally clips the day before leaving for the show. He uses either a covercoat blade or an A2. "An A2 clips tighter, where as a covercoat

leaves a longer more natural look," says Mauney. "If you know a judge likes one clipped tighter, I'd go with the A2."

On the head he uses an A10, which is a wider blade and gets closer to the skin. "If the hair is too long on their head they look coarse and older," says Mauney.

Going around the base of their hoof, cleaning up in a straight line is a finishing touch that makes the legs look a bit longer and more polished.

travel time

Travel time can be crucial for a goat. Mauney suggests never fully taking an animal off water, and checking your precious cargo while on the road. "We generally stop every hour or so to check on the goats, make sure they're hydrated and monitor how they're taking the ride."

the BIG day

Showday is pretty relaxed if you do your homework ahead of time, says Mauney. He uses a waterless shampoo to clean the goats, and makes sure clean their faces and ears to get them looking sharp. He uses a real fine mist of a light-weight sheen spray to give the hair a fresh touch.

It all seems quite simple from the outside – however, Mauney says it takes patience and long hours to ensure the best success possible on showday. "The goat project is a great learning tool, kids gain great skills while still being safe," Mauney says. "And the goats, well they're just easy to fall in love with."

