



LAMBS/KIDS

REARING BOOKLET

FOR PET DAY OR GROUP DAY

Updated Sep 2023

Introduction

This booklet has been written to act as a briefing for judges and competitors so that uniform standards are applied for School Pet Days and Group Day.

This activity provides a link between school and home and between school and community.

It helps to develop in the child an understanding and love for animals as well as self-reliance and resource in carrying out a chosen task.

The learning outcomes should enable the child to:

- Rear a pet lamb/kid successfully
- Learn the daily and weekly requirements for caring for a lamb/kid
- Train and prepare a pet lamb/kid for school pet day
- Identify scouring and footrot and know the action to take if this develop
- Describe a number of behavioral traits characteristic of lambs/kids
- Observe when a lamb/kid has had enough to drink
- Devise a way of measuring the weekly growth of a lamb/kid – height, length and weight. Keep these measurements on a graph if able to do so
- Discuss orally the activities associated with rearing a lamb/kid

What to do before you get your calf

- Research about how to care for a newly born lamb/kid
- Make a shelter for the lamb/kid. Prepare a pen with a shelter in it in a sunny position free from draughts.
- Discuss the reasons for providing a shelter
- Think about names for your lamb/kid

What to get before your calf arrives

- A lamb/kid needs somewhere to **sleep**
 - A **shelter** and enclosure
 - A **cover** to keep it warm
- A lamb/kid needs something to **eat and drink**
 - **Milk** (Lamb milk replacer)
 - A **Bottle and lamb teat** to feed it milk
 - **Water**
 - A **Bucket** for it to drink the water
 - **Hay**
- Things to **train and clean** your lamb/kid with
 - **Brush**
 - **Face cloth**
 - **Collar**
 - **Lead**
 - **Practice ring**

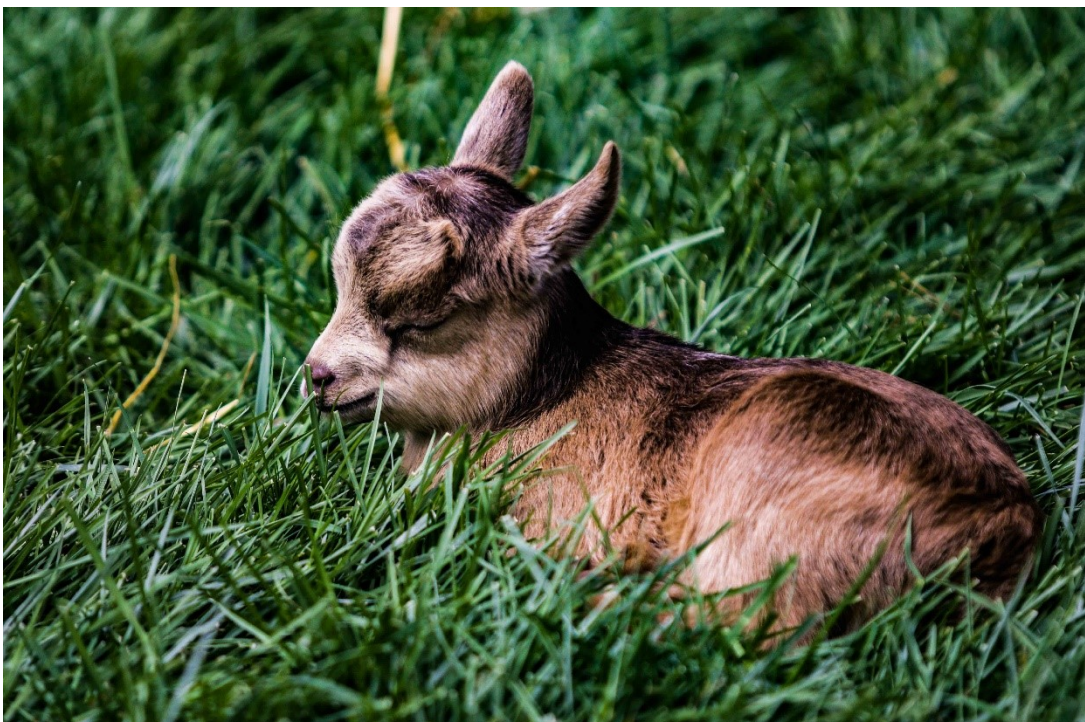
Once you have all these things you are ready to get your lamb or kid

Once you get your lamb/kid

- Find out the lamb/kid birth date and breed.
- Give your lamb/kid a name
- Make sure it is put in its nice shelter to be warm and dry

Feeding Your Lamb/Kid

- A newly born lamb/kid must have its mother's milk (Colostrum) for 4 days from birth.
- After 4 days feed your lamb four times a day or follow instructions of your lamb milk replacer.
- As the lamb/kid grows bigger and gets older provide more milk while reducing the feed times, continue to feed your lamb/kid as per instructions on milk replacer until they are able to eat sufficient grass. Usually it is necessary to provide two feeds daily up to the age of 12 weeks old.
- Keep bottle and teats clean, as dirty equipment can cause scouring
- If you are unsure about feeding procedures then talk with your local vet to make a plan



Daily Care

- Feed your lamb/kid regularly every day.
- Observe when it has had enough – the flanks become level with its sides. Never allow it to have a bloated look
- Clean your bottle after every feed
- Check it always has fresh clean water
- Make sure its shelter is clean and not wet or muddy
- Soon the lamb/kid will need tether with a secure stake, which can be shifted from time to time. Initially the tether needs to be short
- Brush daily and use a damp cloth to clean around its face, under the legs on each flank and inside the ears
- Check it is happy and healthy, if your lamb/kid looks a little sad or has runny poo talk with your parents and ring your vet if needed
- Check the lamb/kids cover, make sure it is not too tight, if it is going to be a hot day remove the cover. Give the cover an occasional wash
- Take the lamb/kid for a walk using a collar and lead with a snap hook on one end

Other tips:

- Make feeding time grooming time. After a few days of having the lamb/kid, rub over the lamb/kids body with your hands while it is drinking.
- Handling and leading at feeding times rapidly develops an affinity between animal and child. Don't be too anxious about making the lamb/kid lead in the early stages. Talk to it in a friendly way while feeding and gradually get it accustomed to its collar and to walking freely. Never pull or drag the lamb/kid, as once it develops into a "puller" it is very hard to remedy

Weekly Care

- **DO NOT** bath the lamb/kid. Soap and detergent remove the natural grease and water repellent quality of wool. The lamb/kid could contract pneumonia
- Lengthen the tether as the lamb/kid gets used to it
- Loosen the collar gradually as the lamb/kid grows



- Watch for scouring (diarrhea). This attracts flies and the lamb could become flyblown, if not treated the lamb may have to be put down. Consult a Vet without delay!
- Have lambs docked by a vet. It needs an anti-tetanus injection when docked especially if a ring is used
- If the lamb/kid becomes lame ,has a limp or kneels down to eat it may have footrot, a bacterial disease. Contact a Vet to discuss what to do, it might be something other then footrot, it could be joint ill which will need to be treated
- Ask your vet about drenching for worms, check for lice and keds
- When tethering your lamb/kid up make sure not to leave it alone for the first few times, incase it becomes tangled in its lead.
- Make sure to keep checking on your lamb/kid after it is used to being tied up. Remember to have water available while it is tied up.
- Once your lamb/kid is used to having a collar and lead on then you will then be able to practice leading.

PREPARING FOR PET DAY OR GROUP DAY

Commence training the lamb from an early age. Make some time each day to play with the lamb. Talk to it quietly when feeding and playing with it.

- Lambs and kids must be born between 20th July and 25th September
- No washing or artificial bleaching of lambs or kids. Dagging permitted. Spot sponging allowed on the day
- Animals only to be fed tidbits and bottles whilst tethered and in the designated area (tidbits and bottles **MUST NOT** be brought to the competition rings)
- Lambs and kids must only wear collars – no harnesses are permitted

Any evidence of any of the above mentioned will lead to elimination from Group Day

**ANY SICK LAMBS OR KIDS ON THE
DAY MUST STAY HOME!!!**

PEN SET UP

- When setting up the rings for a school field day, provide scrim or sacking surrounds to reduce distractions for lambs. The leading ring is sometimes 20m x 20m for group day and 12m x 12m for the local school pet day.

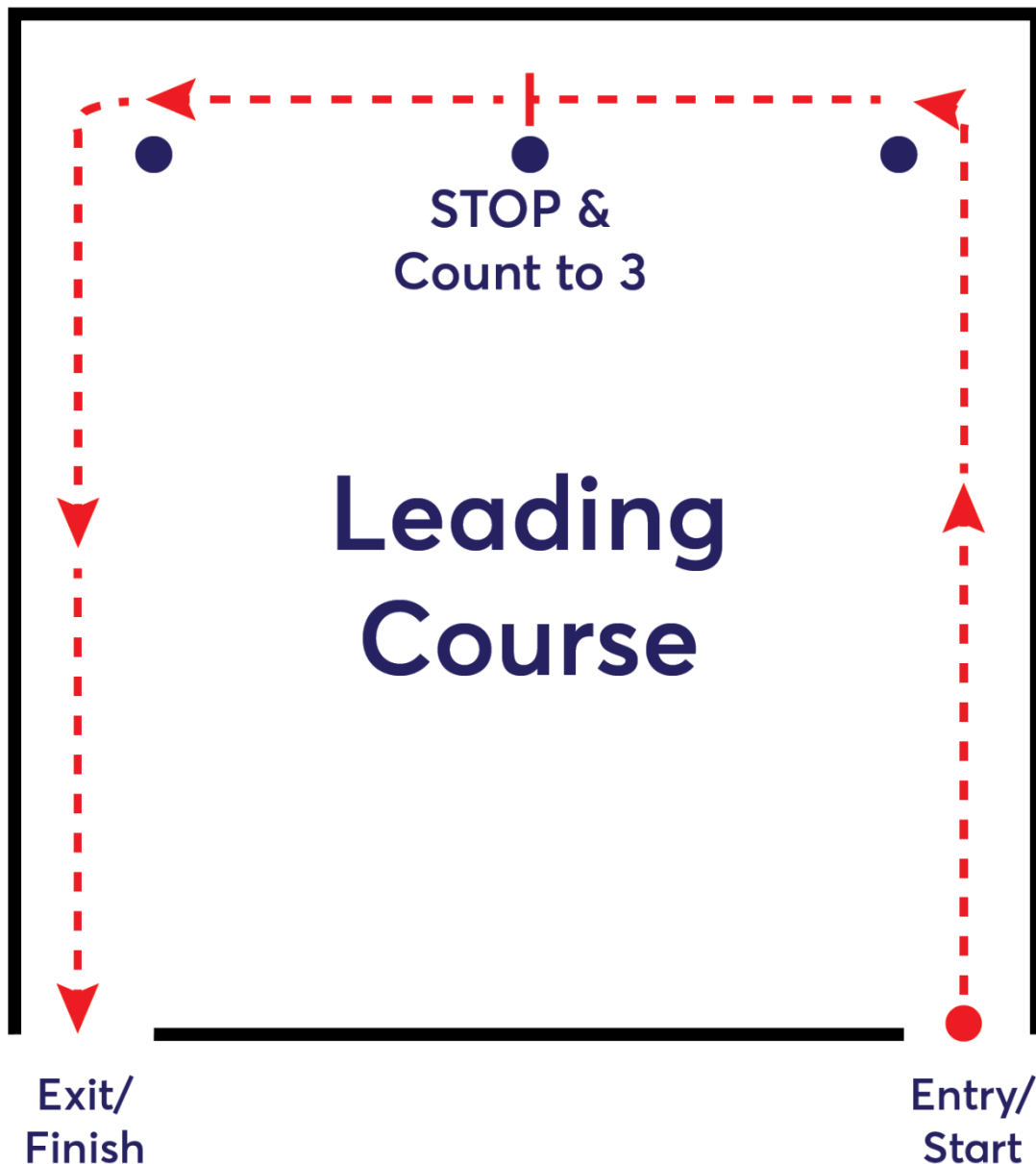
NOTE TO JUDGES

- NO concessions to be made for children's age in championship events.
- It is the schools job to ensure that all children competing are made aware of the rules and guidelines.

Leading

The event is to assess the co-ordination and co-operation of the child and the lamb/kid

- Daily practice can result in a perfect lead at the school on pet day
- Lead the lamb/kid anti clockwise round the ring stopping at the middle peg, stop, count to 3 before moving on



- Walk at the same pace as the lamb/kid, walk upright and keep to a straight line. Lamb/kids and child need to move in tandem with right/ left legs in line

Leading continued...

- Steer the lamb/kid by moving the hand that is holding the lead to the left or right. Make sure the lead from the rope/collar around its neck is not too tight or too loose
- All control should be exercised by the right hand on the lead. **DO NOT DRAG YOUR LAMB/KID**
- The right hand should grip the rope palm upwards
- The left hand should grip the rope, knuckles upwards, leaving a loop of slack rope between the hands
- There should remain only about 30-45cm of tail end of the rope hanging free from the left hand. **NO LOOP OR TRAILING ENDS**

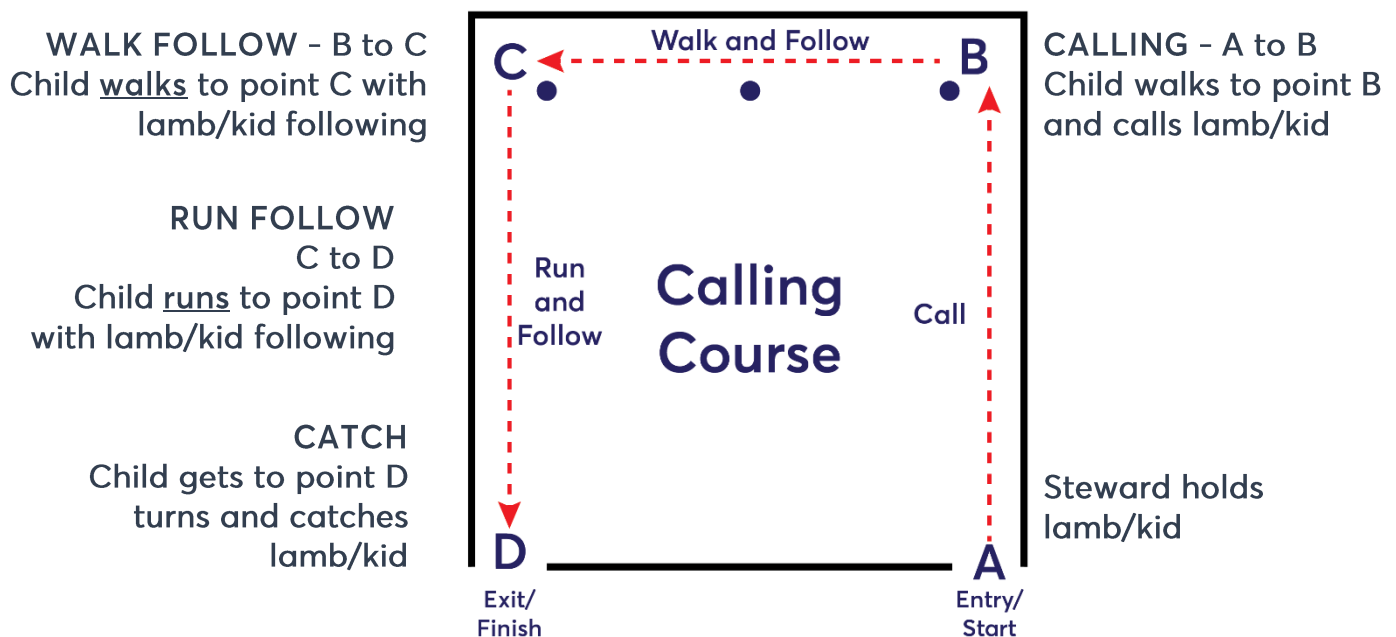
The following actions will be penalized

- Releasing the right hand grip on the rope at any time
- Touching the lamb with the hand during the competition
- Hitting the lamb with anything
- Jerking on the lead



Call and Follow

- To train the lamb/kid to call, stand some distance from it with a bottle of milk held behind your back. Call it by name. When it comes, give it a gentle pat and feed it. By the time of the school pet day the lamb/kid should come when called, even if you don't have the bottle of milk in your hand
- Practice over and over again around the same kind of ring as will be used for the school pet day
- Have someone hold the lamb/kid. Move to the first peg and call it. When it comes, you may make contact (optional)
- Walk to the next corner peg with the lamb/kid following close behind
- Run along to the next peg with the lamb/kid running behind. Practice catching the lamb/kid and putting lead back on, quietly near the ring exit



NB: These stages can be taught by giving the lamb/kid a drink at each stage while it is young. When it gets older, give it a drink at the finish only and then gradually dispense with the drink altogether.

Care And Attention

Rearing

This section of a is usually assessed at pet day under the following headings:

Care ,Cleanliness & Condition

- Have a name for your lamb/kid, know its birthday and breed
- On the day be prepared to discuss various rearing activities
- Make sure your lamb/kids ears, face, legs, hooves, flanks and under stomach are clean for pet day

Some question you may be asked:

- What is your Lamb/Kid name?
- What do you feed it on?
- How much do you give it to eat (drink)?
- How often do you feed it?
- Who feeds it when you are not there?
- How have you changed its food as it has grown up?
- What happens if it has too much to eat?
- Where do you keep you lamb/kid during the day?
- Where do you keep your lamb/kid at night?
- How old is your lamb/kid
- When was it born?
- What breed is it?
- Do you know some other breeds of sheep/goats?
- What is you breed best suited for?
- How have you trained your lamb/kid to lead?
- How have you trained your lamb/kid to come and to follow you?
- Name various parts of your lamb/kid's body?
- What disease/pests can your pet get and how do you stop the problem?
- How do you keep your lamb/kid clean?

AND REMEMBER, HAVE FUN!!!

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