

Goat Tips

It is normal for some goats that are hiking loose to stray 10-20 yards back to eat while you travel they will run to catch up only to stop and nibble a tasty plant and let you get ahead again. They will rarely let you get out of sight though, this eat and run behavior will decrease as the goat tires after a couple of miles and they fill their belly's. Most goats file in behind or in front you plodding steadily along on the trail at your pace.

If you have two or more goats, you will notice that they seem to compete for positions on the trail after they get it worked out remember the hiking order. If you have to tie the goats together in a string tie them in the proper order attaching the carabineer to the gray strap NOT the handle on the top pannier. It will make the difference between an orderly hike and a tangled mess.

When a goat stops in front of you to eat and blocks the trail keep walking and go around his back side the best you can and he will then turn and start walking again just as you pass him, if unable to pass then act like you are and make the same noise like walking in place, or gently pull on his tail with a lets go. Remember if you stop they all stop. While walking some goats will push you to the side and off the trail just step back and around the back side of the goat to the other side and then he may start pushing you the other way just keep stepping to the other side they just want to be next to you this should stop in a little while.

While walking up or down Switch Backs always lead the goats and keep your group close together at all times while on the trail you are all part of the herd and the herd stays together for safety and no one gets lost.

Things that would make a goat want to stop or lay down are saddle sores, rubs, injuries, and sharp objects poking the goat from the inside of the panniers or saddle pad, also remember the goat is hauling most of the weight, slow your pace down or you will wear him out early. If the goat still doesn't want to go, you should take some time to make sure everything is ok before going on and that the goat is not over loaded. If the goat is breathing hard or panting slow down or stop and rest. Goats walk at about 2 miles per hour depending on trail conditions Don't out walk them.

A goat is a hiking companion as well as a pack animal. You need to be their best friend and at the same time be the boss you are the alpha of the herd the goats look up to you for what to do.

Rule Number One: Don't ever chase a goat away from the scene of its crime. You cannot catch him and the goat knows it. Just making it leave the areas is not a correction. In the goat's way of thinking it won the confrontation and you may actually be teaching the goat to play games in which it tries to see how much stuff it can get out of the bag before dancing away just out of reach. To the goat this is fun, but to the humans in camp it leads to thoughts of goat murder. A correction is made by contact with the goat. Anything you squirt or throw that contacts the goats is the same as if you touched it. Be careful if you throw something to make sure it isn't going to hurt the goat. **Pain is not necessary It will not work** only the verbal command and something to contact the goat and make it move away.

Rule Number Two: When teaching camp manners, NEVER feed a goat people food. Once a goat gets a piece of your bread or some of your potato chips you will be mobbed every time you eat. It is annoying for guests when the goats are pushing and shoving them, hoping for a hand out and potentially dangerous for children. Save the people food for people. If you are eating and a goat steps up for a sniff or nibble of your lunch tell it "NO" or "BACK" and make the goat back off. Squirt it or push it back with your foot or knee or open hand. Don't pet or scratch your goat while you are eating. The goat will learn to go elsewhere or at least keep its distance when you are eating. With a little thinking, you can adapt this training to include the whole cooking area. If you have an extra persistent goat (usually one that has been fed) then you may have to tie it while cooking and eating. Teaching them camp manners is simply teaching them what things they are not allowed to do or areas they are not allowed in.

A little fore thought on your part can stop a lot of problems before they happen. If you leave panniers or backpacks with great smelling stuff in them laying around, out of your area of control; then don't surprised when the goats start poking into all of the bags pulling out clothes and food. Yes they can open zippers.

Especially with goats in camp always keep the food under your supervision. Do not allow any goat to sniff around any pannier bags. The bags should be an "off limits item" at camp. Using the command of "NO", point at the goat and back it up with a squirt or small pine cone if necessary. BE CONSISTENT; don't let a goat get away with any negative behavior without correction being made. Remember don't chase a goat away. At night the food should be pulled into a tree in a "bear proof" manner. If there are no bears in your area then put the food inside the tent, or tie the goats up.

As far as the tent is concerned never allow any goats inside. Goats are one of the few animals that enjoy being inside and once in, they will charge in every time the door is open. If you are sleeping on the ground without a tent, then rely on the "BACK" command and a few well placed squirt bottle corrections to teach an acceptable zone around you so that you are not getting stepped on or peed on while you try to sleep.

Do not allow anyone to squirt your goats for fun. They trust you to praise them when they do well and correct them when they mess up. If the goat gets squirted for no reason it will be confused and may think it has done something wrong.

Do not allow the goat to do something sometimes and then correct it for doing it at other times. Decide what is acceptable behavior in the beginning and stick with it. Be consistent!

Do not grab a goat by the horns, they don't like it. It will cause them to start using their horns when interacting with people. Goats will hit each other with their horns especially at feeding time and the other goat may get pushed into a person, (please watch your young children).

Do not holler and carry on at the goats for reasons beyond their control, do not lose your temper, argue or fight with each other, goats do not like contention among people a trusting relationship is built around consistency. Talk calmly to and pet the goats thought out the day they need your approval and they will give you their best.

Feeding Goats Goat's eat the same as deer they brose all day and night. At the end of each day give each goat a small hand full of the pink treats provided (Calf Manna) as a thanks job well done (with a vitamin B1 in the bottom of your hand for the first three days of your trip with the treats.) While you are setting camp have a person take the goats over to a close by meadow so they can eat for about 45 minutes or until they start playing then take back to camp, and do this about every two hours or so as you hike for about 10 minutes so they can get all the food they need to maintain there energy.

Loading Panniers- It is not recommended that you put equipment on the goats that you are not willing to carry yourself for that get a horse Try to keep the volume as close to the same in each of the side panniers and within about ½ pound of each other, and heavy items at the bottom, load only soft or smooth items that will be next to the goat in the side panniers. Pull all draw strings closed and tuck inside. The top duffle pannier should not weight more than one side pannier secure the items inside the top pannier so they do not shift to the side with the two straps inside.

Saddles- Give the goat a good brushing before saddling and after saddle is removed, check saddle pad and strips for burs and sharp items, stand on left side of goat and place the saddle forward on goat and slide back into place (the wood part should be one finger width past the shoulder blade) do not slide saddle forward on goat place butt strip into position and lift the goats tail, Attach the chest strap with the clip, then do up the sternum strap pull down and up at the same time then engage buckle, the strap should be about 2 fingers width aft of the front legs or more, and on the sternum bone and not on the soft part of the belly when tight you should just get two snug fingers between the goat and the strap at the bottom, three fingers it's too loose. Make this check one more time before you start hiking some goats will inflate their chest and the saddle will be too loose. Now take each leg at the knee bend the hoof up and back and then lift the knee up to at least a 90 towards his chin to pull and stretch the skin under the sternum strap so it will not bind and cause a sore when walking.

Hanging the panniers- make sure the gray strap is between the saddle and the pad before hanging the panniers undo and layout head to tail, support the weight of the first pannier until the second one is on so not to twist the saddle, do up the center strap and pull to just take up the slack and a little more so it is not on the goats sides but not so much that it can rock left to right, then place the top duffle on and snap all 4 clips two each side and secure with the gray strap through the loop snugly. Tuck the leach under the gray strap so it will not drag and you can get to it if needed.

At end of day remove saddle and panniers as one unit from the left side of goat, brush goat down good and apply bug repellent if needed, check for saddle sores and let goats browse in or near camp. Place all equipment together under a tree or cover to keep dry, run highline for night time, put rain tarp up for goats if needed, give each a vitamin B-1 and a treat, and offer them some water from the dish after you have tied them for the night before you go to bed.

Water- Goats do not like to get their feet wet or be in the rain but will if need to. When crossing small or large streams let the goats see where you crossed they will rock hop, jump, or look for another way, or just walk through and get wet if not you may need to lead them across be careful and don't fall in. once you cross stop on the other side if they are thirsty they will drink pause till they have all had the water they want then move on. They may drink up to a gallon of water at a time and may not drink again for several days. At the end of each day offer the goats a drink of water from the water bowl provided or take them down to the stream or lake to drink.

Highline- Setup the highline as close to tents as you can but not to interfere with camp. Attach one end of highline rope around the base of appropriate size tree and use the screw in stake for the other end with the carabiner hooked to the ring, the line does not need to be tight and should be on the ground, then each goat may be attached with his leash hooked to one of the red loops with the carabiner. **It is not recommended** that you tie or highline the goats and leave unattended you are putting them at risk and they do not like to be left alone. Once at camp the goats are usually left loose until bed time this is there dinner time. Keep a close eye on the goats as they may follow any one that walks by your camp.

Goats will get hypothermia if left in the rain and cold the same as people.

Goats will get Altitude Sickness the same as people: slow down, lighten their load, rest often, and offer water or energy drink do not over hike the first two days so you and the goats have time to adjust.

Trail etiquette- All livestock have right away over hikers, bicycles, and ATVs. Horses and mules have right away over goats. Most horses and mules are spooked by goats, when horses are seen let them know you are there and you have pack goats and you are getting off the trail to the LOW side to let them pass (about 40 feet or more and stand still) while talking to the horse people as they pass so not to spook the horses (when a horse spooks it will most likely run uphill). Lamas and goats should be ok side by side on the trail. Goats are very social animals they like to stop and visit with other people on the trail, If you see other people coming down the trail take hold of the leach and lead the goats past until they are out of sight and tuck the leash back under the panniers without ever stopping, also if people are coming up from behind and need to pass it is best to move off the trail and let them get out of sight before moving on. Use good judgment, common sense and be polite.

Dogs- Have all people control their dogs as most all dogs will want to chase and bite at the goats if this happens do what you need to too disable the dog (try using the water first then a big stick or...) be careful handling strange dogs you may get bitten. The dog owners are responsible for their dogs and they should be on a leash at all times.

AT ALL TIMES KEEP YOU'RE DISTANCE FROM BIG HORN SHEEP AND AVOID CONTACT AT ALL COST.

INVENTORY LIST

Per Goat Rental

Cost of items if lost or damaged

1. Two or more goats with collars & name tags \$800. ea
2. Leash (one per goat with carabiner) \$27.
3. Saddle (with gray strap & pad) \$190.
4. Panniers (one set of 3 per goat) \$165.
5. 10 X 12 Tarp (rain shelter) as needed \$70.
6. Twine (for use with tarp) as needed \$0.
7. Highline rope with two carabiners \$40.
8. Ground stake (one end of highline rope tie out) \$10.
9. Water bowl (2.5 qt) \$25.
10. Grooming Brush \$8.
11. Scale (0-50# for weighting panniers) \$35.
12. Squirt bottle (used for discipline) \$5.
13. Bug repellent (as needed) \$0.
14. Bear bag (as needed) \$30.
15. Treats (one bag for all goats per day) \$0.
16. Goat coats (as needed) \$55.
17. First Aid Kit (first aid for goats book, wound dressing spray, gauze, vet wrap, vitamin B-1, gloves, leave no trace & outdoor ethics info cards.) \$40.
18. Bucket w/ lid used to transport smaller items. \$10.

BY HIGH UINTA PACK GOATS.

GOAT APPROVED

