

Sheep and Goat Hoof Trimming and Health

Overgrown hooves can make it difficult for sheep and goats to walk. Hoof trimming makes the hoof flat and follows the same angle as the hairlines at the top of the hoof.

The sheep/goat's hoof has a split that allows dirt and manure to build up, creating the perfect space for bacterial and fungal growth. **This makes hoof trimming essential. Check hooves every 4–6 weeks.**

Two Main Hoof Problems

- **Hoof rot** is highly contagious and produces severe odor and pus. It can cause fever, loss of appetite, and hoof deformity.
- **Foot scald/lameness** is a non-contagious inflammation between the toes. It causes the hooves to be sensitive to touch and have a bad odor. It can cause reduced weight gain and grazing on the front knees.

How to Trim the Hooves

1. **Restrain the animal.**
2. **Clean the hooves** with a hoof pick for clear examination.
3. **Trim the excess growth of the hoof wall.**
4. **15–18% zinc sulfate solution baths** are recommended.
5. **Contact a veterinarian** if you find anything unusual.

Remember!

- **Overgrown hooves can lead to lameness and hoof rot.**
- Move animals to dry pastures.
- Ensure pens are clean and well-bedded.
- Trim hooves frequently.
- Disinfect trimming instruments.



Trimmer tool



Dirty



Clean

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