

# Right from the Start

## Outline

### Goats

#### *Characteristics*

- Gregarious
  - They tend to gather in groups. This instinct is also referred to as the “flocking instinct”.
- Head butters
- Good jumpers
- Sure-footed
- Naturally curious
- Prone to escape from pens
- Good sense of hearing
- Easily startled
- Wide field of vision
  - Goats can see almost everything around them and into the distance.
- No weapons
  - Flee instead of fight
- Establish a hierarchy



#### *Equipment*

- Rope halter for training
- Neck chain with a protective hand grip
- Grooming tools
- Neck chain for exhibition
  - Chains should have a piece of plastic or a leather grip where the handler can hold to reduce pinching risks.



### *Flight Zone*

- Distance that animals like to keep between themselves and a threat of danger
- Animal's safety zone
- Varies among animals
- Increases when an animal is excited or approached from the front

### *Common Injuries from Goats*

- Slips and trips
- Bruises, cuts and scrapes
- Muscle strain
- Back strain
- Blisters
- Burns (rope and electrical)

### *Injury Prevention*

- Wear closed-toe shoes or boots with non-slip soles.
- Wear gloves to protect your hands from rope burn, chain pinches and grooming tools.
- Keep the practice area clear of debris to reduce tripping/slipping hazards.
- Work with your goat often to reduce their flight zone.
- Handle goats quietly and calmly.
- Exhibitors should always be supervised by an adult.

