

# GOAT HOOF TRIMMING

By Lacey Hughett | Illustrations by Lacey Hughett

Typical goat hoof trimming should be completed every two to three months. Goats allowed to walk on natural, rocky materials or concrete may require less frequent trimmings and goats raised on dry-lots with built up bedding and fallen hay may require it more often. Spring and fall are especially important, as folds in overgrown hooves

can trap mud and moisture, creating the perfect environment for bacteria to invite rot and scald.

You can use hoof trimming shears or even garden shears, and some companies make grinding discs that attach to power tools. Be sure to disinfect your tools, especially when working with mud, moisture, and possible hoof rot.

**1** Hold one leg firmly by the ankle and close to the body.

**2** Scrap away any debris with closed shears.

**3** Cut away the hoof wall that has folded underneath the foot. Scrape away extra debris as needed.

**4** Cut down to the white sole. Follow a growth ring parallel to the hair line.

**5** Trim any rough edges of inner hoof between the two hoof halves.

**6** Carefully snip away small pieces of the heel until it is the same level as the toe.

**See pink? Stop trimming!**

A pink sole means you're nearing the blood supply.

If bleeding occurs, sprinkle blood stop powder the on area.

