



Established in 1942



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September 12, 2017

To whom it may concern:

On the above date I examined 18 goats confiscated by Thurston County Sheriff's Department at the Thurston County Animal Service Center. The findings are in the table that follows. Identification is based on the tag numbers that are on the goat's collars if present; if not present, a description. My primary veterinary concerns, after examination of the animals in question, regarding the housing and husbandry of these goats while in the possession of Thurston County are as follows:

1. The female doelings, especially the individual labeled Nubian Doeling with Horns, are underweight and should be housed separately from the adult females and fed a diet appropriate for young ruminants.
2. The above mentioned doeling has not been dehorned while the rest of the herd has been. This would have been done at the farm, had the doeling been left with the herd.
3. Based on my discussion with the Thurston County staff responsible for the care of these goats, this year's kids have been inadequately vaccinated, receiving only a one CD&T vaccine in July with no booster in the label recommended 4-6 week time frame.
4. The adult bucks are being allowed to mount and sodomize the young bucklings.
5. The bucklings have not been castrated, and although they are of an age that still could be done the surgical complications and pain associated with the procedure are greatly increased. Surgeries at an appropriate age would have been done at the farm had the bucklings been left with the herd.
6. There are lameness issues within the herd that are not being addressed.
7. During my 16 years of practicing as a large animal veterinarian I have been a part of multiple animal welfare cases in involving Sheriff's departments of Lewis, Thurston and Pierce Counties. Never has there been a time when animals were confiscated prior to a veterinarian examining the animals. The only times that animals were confiscated was when the owners of the animals in question failed to comply with the health plan the examining veterinarian had put forth. I find the confiscation of these animals to arbitrary and capricious.



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September 21, 2017

To whom it may concern:

During the last week I have completed the development of a herd management program for the goat herd of Lattin's Cider Mill. I recommend the confiscated goats be returned to the owners of Lattin's Cider Mill where they have a monitored herd health and nutrition program in place under my supervision. Once returned I will continue to provide veterinary oversight of care and treatment of the goat herd. The management program is summarized below.

1. Visual identification of all goats in herd.
2. Recording and maintaining treatment records for each animal in the herd.
3. Staff training for Body Condition Scoring, lameness evaluation, hoof care, animal handling and administration of vaccines and medications.
4. Implementation of vaccination and medical treatment protocols.
5. Monitoring of the compliance of the established herd management program.

If there are any further questions please feel free to contact me at the above numbers.

Sincerely,

Jason Humphrey, DVM