

# Kids Korner



At first glance for Josh Nolt, Ephrata, it was a sheep trespassing in his father's pasture or was it a goat? He couldn't quite tell. A closer look at the wild animal determined it had the head of a sheep and the body and legs of a goat. It played by no rules as it jumped puddles and ran wildly through fences when three horses and riders tried to corral the undisciplined intruder.

## Goat Or Is It A Sheep On The Run

**CAROL STARK**  
Ephrata Review

**EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.)** — At first glance for Josh Nolt, Ephrata, it was a sheep trespassing in his father's pasture on State Street. Or was it a goat?

He couldn't quite tell. A closer look at the wild animal determined it had the head of a sheep and the body and legs of a goat. Yet it ran like a deer.

It played by no rules as it jumped puddles and ran wildly through fences. It was on the property for a week but no one could catch the spunky animal and no one seemed to claim the wild intruder.

A call to Leroy Horst, animal catcher, Bownmansville, last Saturday brought the quick action of three horses and riders, Jay and Tom Weaver, and Horst to corral the undisciplined intruder.

The animal ran through fences again making a break up Route 322 to the Route 222 bypass. The chase was on as the funny looking animal ran like a deer down the highway, at estimated speeds of 50 to 60 miles per hour.

West Earl Township Police were summoned to the incident and as Sgt. Pierce responded the animal passed him on Route 222

going the opposite direction. "It passed me going at a high rate of speed. I couldn't believe the funny looking animal could travel so fast," stated Sgt. Pierce.

On the trail was Horst and the Weavers in hot pursuit.

After a chase of about 12 miles, the animal finally left Route 222 on the Oregon Pike exit and went into a pasture. A lariat was thrown by Horst but the animal quickly dodged it. Another quick drop from the horse, and the animal was finally caught and taken to the New Holland Sales Auction, where it was sold for a mere \$39 on Monday.

The Ephrata Review learned on Tuesday that the animal probably belonged to Ephrata's Lloyd Gerhart, a well-known exotic animal owner and expert. Three months ago many of his exotic animals were released by an unknown person. Lost from the Gerhart animal farm were a mother Barberdo sheep and two young ones. These exotic animals are a wild breed of sheep from Northern Africa. They are raised in the wild and are hard to train in captivity. Still at loose is the mother Barberdos sheep. If you see a sheep that looks like a goat, runs like a deer, and doesn't like people, call Lloyd Gerhart at (717) 733-2425.

## Protect Pets From Winter Harm

NEWARK, Del. — When winter winds bring freezing temperatures, people beat a fast retreat indoors to the warmth of their homes. Pets aren't always so lucky. Every year in the United States, many animals are left out in severe weather conditions by unthinking owners.

"Long periods of cold without shelter can result in hypothermia, which can be fatal," says Dr. Paul Meckley, animal science professor at the University of Delaware. "Thought their fur coats provide some warmth, pets, like humans, need protection from the harsh winds, freezing temperatures, sleet and snow that Old Man Winter brings."

Keep cats and dogs inside as much as possible when the temperature drops, advises Meckley. Old, very young or short-haired pets are especially susceptible. Never leave them out in cold weather.

According to Meckley, healthy pets may be left outdoors year-round only if gradually acclimated. Over time, they will develop heavier coats to help keep them warm through the winter. But pet owners must provide adequate shelter, food and water.

"Pets that spend most of their time outdoors need more calories in the winter," Meckley says. "Give them about a third more food to help them generate the warmth they need. Remember to provide them regularly with fresh water in freezing weather."

For both indoor and outdoor pets, shelter from wind and rain is essential. Wind chill is even more harmful to your pet than cold temperatures. Keep the dog house dry and draft-free, positioning its entrance away from the wind and covering the opening with burlap or an old rug. The floor will stay warmer if it is raised a few inches off the ground, and a layer of straw or pine shavings will provide extra comfort. Cedar shavings are not recommended, says Meckley, because they contain volatile oils which, when inhaled, can cause liver damage over time.

"Dogs that are used to being

indoors don't grow thick coats and may shiver when taken out in the cold," Meckley says. "Pet owners should consider buying them a coat to wear on their daily walks."

"Also, salt and chemicals spread on icy sidewalks can burn the pads on your pet's feet," he warns. "When the unsuspecting animal tries to lick its feet clean, the salts irritate its mouth. After your pet has walked on the sidewalk or driveway, wipe its feet with a damp paper towel or cloth."

Warm engines in parked cars, trucks and farm equipment makes enticing and dangerous sleeping places for cats. Before starting the engine, Meckley suggests banging on your vehicle's hood to scare away furry hitchhikers.

Taking these precautions will help keep your pet safe and comfortable throughout the winter months.

**MILK AMERICA'S HEALTH KICK**

# Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

**Why do bears hibernate?**

Bears don't hibernate through winter. They just go into a really deep sleep.

It's easy to understand why you might think bears hibernate. In fact, wildlife specialists are finding that the different kinds of winter sleep have a lot of similarities.

Hibernation (say HIGH-brr-nay-shun) is a way some animals survive winter. When the days get shorter and the temperature starts to drop, hibernating animals — like ground squirrels and skunks — curl up in a tight ball inside a nest, cave or burrow. Then, they gradually lower their body temperature until it's almost equal to the environment. They breathe only two or three times a minute, so they aren't using much energy. An animal that's a true hibernator is cold and unable to do anything.

Bears aren't true hibernators because they stay relatively warm all winter. Their temperatures drop a little during the long snooze, but only by a few degrees. Even though they curl up to conserve energy and slow down their breathing, they can wake up during the winter and move if they need to.

Almost all winter sleepers, though, eat a lot of food from spring through fall to stock up on body fat. As they are sleeping through winter, their bodies get nourishment from the fatty reserves. And true hibernators will wake up early and forage for food if they didn't put on enough fat.

One more thing — baby bears are born during the winter. They nurse from their resting Momma Bear until spring. By then, they are big enough to travel with the family to search for more food — and start the process all over again.

Scientifically yours,  
Twig

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