

# Kids Korner

## No Kidding Goats Are Amazing In Olympics

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— It's amazing the fun you can have with pygmy goats. The Just Kidding Around 4-H Pygmy Goat Club found out exactly how much goats can be when they participated in the Pygmy

Olympics held recently at the Lancaster County 4-H Fair. The Olympics included an obstacle course in which team members needed to lead a goat without dragging or choking it over the Billy Goat Gruff's Bridge, The Long Jump, The Terrible Tarp.



Goat olympian champions at the Lancaster 4-H Fair, from left, are Laura Blank, silver medal winner; Mark Graybill, gold medal winner; and Monica George, bronze medal winner.



Little Miss Muffet (Erica Auker) and her pygmy goat took first prize in costumed competition sponsored by Just Kid-din' goat club.

Members played musical feed-bags in which the four legs of the goat and the person had to be on the bag when the music stopped. Again no pushing, shoving, dragging or choking the goat to make it cooperate.

The pygmy power walk required the goat to follow his or her owner.

The piggliest pygmy was determined by the goat that ate all the grain in the dish the fastest.

The hind-leg balance required a goat to remain on hind legs for at least 5 seconds without the owner touching the goat.

Treats were allowed to encourage the goats.

"The more you work with goats, they better they cooperate with you," said Mark Graybill winner of the gold medal.

Just like in the regular olympics, Laura Blank received a silver medal and Monica George received a bronze medal.

Fifteen members participated in the event that was designed to show the audience how much goats can be trained to do.

A costume show revealed the creativity of members.

All in all the fun events showed how good sportsmanship and creativity can prevail.



Beach Pals Monica George and her pygmy goat are reserve champions in costume competition at the 4-H Fair. Notice the pygmy is wearing a swim suit, towel, and sunglasses for the occasion.

## Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

### Why are slugs so slimy?

The slow-moving, stalked-eyed critters use the slime to move around and protect themselves.

Most slugs you find in your family's garden are about 2 inches to 3 inches long. Some can be as small as a quarter inch, and one kind can grow as long as 7 inches. Whatever the size, all slugs belong to a group of animals called gastropods, which means — literally — belly-footed.

Gastropods also include shelled snails. So, you can think of slugs as "shell-less" snails.

That bottom foot, or the base of the slug, is one big muscle. By contracting the muscle in waves from the front to the back of the base, the slug slowly creeps forward. The slugs secrete slime to help them grip and glide over smooth and rough surfaces.

The slippery mucus also helps slugs keep their skin moist. Most slugs live in rich, damp soil — far away from the drying sun — where there is plenty of decaying plants, animals and fungi to eat. (They also seem to like garden plants, which really annoys gardeners!)

It takes slugs about a minute to move 3 inches, which makes them easy targets for hungry critters. That's why slugs are most active at night — it's easier to escape being eaten.

Scientifically yours,

Twig

