

Adorable Baby Goats, Vito and Pedro

On Thursday, May 21st, two of the cutest baby goats that we ever did see were brought to Happy Trails from a neglect situation. They were kept in overcrowded conditions along with young bull calves and much larger sheep, rams and goats. Left in their situation much longer, they would surely be trampled, as the very old, very young, or very sick often are in these types of conditions.

We named the little 2 month old brown male goat, Pedro, and his counterpart, a 3 month old white male goat with a brown face, was named Vito.



Both were examined by our field service vet, Dr. Randy Alger. As cute as they were, they did indeed have health issues that needed addressed. Both were diagnosed with upper respiratory, and both were completely infested with lice. Blood tests later revealed that also both tested positive for coccidia. The little guys had their long hooves trimmed, were deliced, given anti-biotics, given blood tests, had a fecal samples tested, and put on a healthy nutrition program. Vito has suffered a botched dehorning job at some point in his young life, and his horns are continuing to grow once again. He is still an un-neutered male. Pedro had been banded at one point in his life — a horrible yet common practice forced upon many male animal species in the food production industry as a way of “neutering”. A band is affixed tightly around the young animals testicles, cutting off the blood supply, until they shrivel up and fall off. I simply can’t imagine how uncomfortable and painful that has to be for the baby animal, since it is, of course, normally done without any medication or anesthetic.



Both baby goats are continuing to recover daily, their small bodies on the right road as their medical and nutritional needs are now being met. They eat, drink, run and play like babies are supposed to do, and they do this all in the spacious yard at Happy Trails with no worries about being trampled by other larger or scary animals. Some of their best friends are the chickens that peck the ground around their feet.

They do miss Odessa the goat, however, while she is having her eye surgery at OSU. She and the babies came from the same overcrowded conditions, and once at Happy Trails, they relied on each other for strength and comfort. They would snuggle together in one of the shelters as they peacefully fell asleep in a little pile of goats. Sometimes it takes a youngster to help an older creature feel young again, and that is exactly what these two little clowns are now doing for Tatiana the sheep. Since she hadn't been walking much due to her painful hooves, they encourage her to follow them out into the yard. They talk to her and tell her of all the wonderful sights and sounds and smells that she will experience if she follows them. And you know, it's been working!

Tatiana has been venturing out more and more into the big yard, and curiously following the much more adventurous baby goats. They are helping her, encouraging her, and inspiring her to get up and to be active and to enjoy life! Who says that we can't learn from our much younger friends?



Though we expect Pedro and Vito to fully recover from their health issues, it is not being done without a degree of expense.

SPONSORING PEDRO OR VITO

Cute as a button, Pedro and Vito are in need of sponsors to help us defray the cost of their medical expenses. Their initial vet visit, medication and treatment, and a subsequent follow-up check-up has now cost us \$367.25.

If you would like to help sponsor Pedro or Vito, we will be happy to send you a photo of the little buggers as they begin to grow up healthy and strong, and an update as to their recovery progress. Donations marked "Pedro" or "Vito" can

be sent to: Happy Trails, 5623 New Milford Road, Ravenna, Ohio 44266, or can be made through PayPal on our website (though PayPal does take out a fee for this service) at www.happytrailsfarm.org.

ADOPTING PEDRO OR VITO

Pedro and Vito are now best buddies, and we are hoping to find a home where they can be adopted together if at all possible. Pedro apparently was banded as a youngster, so he is a fixed male. Vito is still an intact male, and will need neutered in the next several months when the vet recommends that he is healthy enough to be neutered. We are seeking a home where these babies will have a large yard in which to play and enjoy life, and will have a safe and cozy shelter to protect them in all types of weather. If you are interested in adopting Pedro and Vito, call Happy Trails at 330-296-5914.

