

## *Dislocated Shoulder*

Last year we purchased two Spanish and Boer Cross Goats for our growing herd. They're about 200 pounds each and took some muscle to get them loaded onto my truck. We named them "Dream Catcher" and "Red Cloud". We put them in a small pasture with Boer Goats. The pasture has a few small shelters, water tubs and a hay feeder.

One day after coming home from work, I noticed the hay feeder was knocked over and Dream Catcher was missing. I went to set up the hay feeder and noticed Dream Catcher was trapped under it. I remove the hay feeder and helped her up. She was a bit wobbly and she was limping, holding her right leg up. I checked it for broken bones cuts etc. and found no problems until I noticed her shoulder wasn't quit right. After further exam, it appeared that she dislocated her leg from her shoulder.

We took her to our Vet to see what he can do for her. He told us to give her Flunixin Meglumine, 3 mls for three days. It helped a lot in getting her to walk around with out pain.

Our Vet gave us some bad news that her joint is badly damaged and it would cost us \$3,000.00 to fix her. But he also said that

Dream Catcher would learn how to get around with a bad leg and live a normal life. He also pointed out that if we were in a business to raise Meat Goats for the market, we would have to put her down or sell her to the meat market, as it would not be cost effective to keep her.

We decided to keep her and see what happens. After a month have past, she was walking around like nothing has happened.

Another month past, she was running around like nothing has happened. I checked her shoulder and it appeared that her leg went back into the shoulder socket, not perfect though, not as bad.

Now it's been a year since her injury, with no signs of ever been injured. She runs around and butts heads with others to let them know that she's boss. She's pregnant and the due date is December 5<sup>th</sup>. If you saw her today, you wouldn't believe she had a dislocated shoulder.

We looked back at our decision not to spend \$3,000.00, as we could not see it as a good business practice since as we would never get that money back from her or even profit from her, and we see that we made the right decision in not going thru with the operation and not selling her off to the Meat Market. Keeping her and letting nature take its course paid off.

This may have worked for us and it may or may not work for you. Every situation is different and you would have to make a decision as to what you think is best. The decision you make all depends on if your keeping Goats as a hobby, pets or as a business.

*Letter from Faron Stubbert, Little Piece of Heaven Farm, Cottage Grove Oregon*