



Some help with trimming a goat or sheep hoof:

Goats and sheep both need hard dry ground to wear down their hoof properly.

But once the hooves have overgrown then hard ground can cause further damage by forcing the overgrown hoof wall into an abnormal position

Yet soft ground fosters infection.

You do need to check & trim the hooves at least 2-3 times a year; more if they are kept on soft grass & /or fed energy-rich or protein-rich feed concentrates.



This is what you hope to achieve:-

Try to get the bottom edge of the hoof parallel to the coronet, and the front edge parallel to the heel. This may have to be achieved slowly, over 2-3 trimmings.



If you find hollows where the hard hoof has lifted away from the sole, it is best to trim the wall well back, so as not to provide pockets for infection, & so the separation does not widen with walking
Brush the hoof completely clean and give it a wash so you can see well into the crevices.

BUT If you find sores or abrasion between the toes: you may be facing FOOT SCALD



Grossly smelly, tender feet may have FOOT ROT



Very overgrown ["Persian slipper"] toes, with a bleeding sole and the animal walking on its heel means LAMINITIS



For these & other abnormal conditions, please ask us for further advice and therapy.

You are very welcome to bring your goat or sheep into Penguin Vet: we will trim the hooves for you, teach you how to do it yourself, provide any therapy needed, and determine a future plan to keep the hooves healthy.

PHONE [03] 64371331 for an appointment