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Relaxed Diary + Talk Topic

Friday 31st October 2014



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Relaxed Diary

Being with animals...

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Today Chutney had some time outside with the 'girls' (although as you can see, he was on a long line - David being at the other end). Prior to coming to live with us, Chutney had spent all of the last 15/16 months inside a stall with various other billy goats, all of whom were destined for the abattoir. Although his fate with us is uncertain (more of that another day), whilst he is here, we certainly don't want him to spend all his time indoors, especially if our goats are outside and so away from him.

Chutney is older than previous goats we have bought (Briar from last year was just seven/eight months old) and as explained yesterday, being 75% Boer means he is a big, powerful animal. So far mind you, we are amazed at how calm he is being - his previous owners told us he was not handled much and had never been walked on a collar and lead. As with all new animals, safety is a major factor when handling and moving them: our safety, the animal's safety and the safety of our other livestock. If in doubt David could have dropped his end of the line at any time; equally, if Chutney started to get too excited being near the girls, having him on the line would hopefully mean we could either get him away or keep him still(ish) whilst we got the girls away.

In the end Chutney behaved impeccably and the girls were happy enough to smell him (Pickle, second photo) and challenge him to a head butting session (Curds, first photo) but because we were holding him, they were able to get away if they wanted to - which in the case of Cheddar and Gorge, they did!!!

When Cheddar and Gorge come back into season in just over a week, we will supervise the matings and have them in a small space so that if either of the girls is unhappy, we can move in and remove them. Fingers crossed, all WILL however, go well!!

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Talk Topic

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Chutney has had a great first day with us and has been really well behaved. However, as we know he was not handled that much by his previous owners and because he is now in a new environment, we are being very careful to handle him safely in order to hopefully prevent either him or us, or indeed of our other animals, getting hurt or stressed in any way!!

Do you think you can EVER truly trust an animal, even your own pets? Why do you think the way you do? Can you give examples?

If you meet an animal you don't know (a pet or a farm animal) how should you behave with that animal? What advice would you give to others? Are there any 'golden rules' you should follow when you are with animals?

Do you think some humans understand and can handle animals better than other humans? Why do you think this is? What about you? Do you enjoy being with animals? Do you trust them? Do you think they trust you?

