

Showing Dorpers and White Dorpers by Andrea van Niekerk of Dell Dorpers & Dumisa White Dorpers

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Just a quick note:

This is how I work my stock, I learn't most of these methods from breaking in horses & bulls for shows and sales with my mom and grandfather. My way might not work for you. I will not take any responsibility if someone kills a sheep by over feeding or by halter training using my methods. Accidents can happen very easily and usually to your best. Please be very careful at all times.

HOW TO PICK YOUR SHOW TEAM:

Go on a Dorper and White Dorper Course with a South African Inspector

Always pick stock with good straight legs and good feet and a good bite, not overshot or undershot

Do not pick sheep with skew pasterns and bad feet you will NOT fix them

Ewes must be feminine, with a straight topline and well balanced

Rams must be masculine, with a straight topline, well balanced and even sized testicles

○ **White Dorpers:**

- Make Sure they are white with no brown markings anywhere
- There are exceptions the brown spot can be 10cm in width and length on the head, neck and underline of the animals body.

○ **Dorpers:**

- The black is not allowed past the shoulder and not allowed over the knee
- The Dorper is allowed black on the feet, but not past the joint going up to the hock
- On the reproductive organs the black marking must be less than 10cm width & length

FEEDING

Expensive Option (Better feed)

RUMEVITE STUD RAM RATION

Get this from Landmark, CRT, Rodwells or Elders

(If you need to know how to feed the Rumevite ration please contact me)

OR

Cheaper Option

REIDS STOCKFEED at Colbinabbin Phone: 03 5432 9273

Custom Grain Mix for Sheep

RAMS:

- Start feeding rams 2 months before the show
- Cereal hay at lib (Barley or Oaten)
- 300grams grain mix per day per ram for the first 2 weeks
- Up it to 500grams grain per ram per day for the next 2 weeks
- One month before the show the rams come in and get shorn so feed them 300 grams per ram in the morning and 300 grams mix per ram in the afternoon
- Also One month before the show bring the rams in at night feed them at the shed and before you feed them in the morning work them.
- When they do get fed they will get a reward by feeding them after work

MATURE EWES:

- Cereal Hay or Pasture at Lib
- Ewes are very difficult, if they get to fat at a young age they might go barren
- Ewes heavy in lamb don't feed any grain, just hay or pasture
- Ewes early in lamb don't feed grain, just hay or pasture
- Ewes with lambs at foot, start feeding 300grams mix per ewe per day 6 weeks before the show
- One month before the show get her shorn and bring her into the shed at night with lambs, feed the ewe 200grams grain mix in the morning and 200grams grain in the afternoon/evening.
- If the ewes udder starts to get really big as though she is about to get mastitis take her off all grain mix

MAIDEN EWES:

- Cereal Hay at Lib or pasture
- Start them on 200grams grain mix per ewe per day one month before the show
- 3 weeks before the show go up to 200grams grain mix per ewe in the morning and 200grams grain mix in the evening

RAMS & EWES:

In the shed in the evenings I always mix the grain with about a ½ a 5 litre bucket of oaten chaff that contains no oats

**IF ANY OF YOUR SHEEP GET THE DIRREHIA TAKE THEM OFF GRAIN FOR A FEW DAYS AND TREAT THEM WITH SCOURBAND. THEN INTRODUCE THE GRAIN SLOWLY
GRAIN CAN KILL STOCK!**

!The Fun Starts!

HALTERS:

Chain Halters and Sheep Show Rugs Contact:

Brad and Danielle Mcintosh at 0408 445 221 or email at brad.mcintosh@bigpond.com.au

Rope Halters Contact:

Graeme Collins

0408 510 327 or 0354 882261 or email gpmcollins@iprimus.com.au

HALTER TRAINING:

Few Tips:

I usually work the rams in the morning and the ewes in the afternoon or visa versa

Always try put a halter on your good stock from 4 to 6 months old, they never forget it.

Just put the rope halter on them a couple of times and once they get older they will be much easier to handle, especially rams.

Everytime you take the halter off make sure the ram stands square

Start training 2 months before the show

- The first 2 weeks always work your sheep every second day.
- Put the show team in the race and put halters on them in the race.
- Tie them up in the race for about 15 minutes
- Rub them with an old rag or a feed bag all over
- Take all the halters off and let them out and then feed them

6 WEEKS BEFORE THE SHOW

- ❖ Tie them up outside the race for about 15 minutes about 1 meter apart
- ❖ I don't like them right next to one another as one might jump up onto the other and then they get tangled and could get hurt (so can you)
- ❖ Make sure when you letting the ram go hold him under his muzzle and pull the halter off

- ❖ DO NOT just pull it off while he is jiggling around you as he will NEVER ever stand still in the show ring
- ❖ If he really jumps around after 15 minutes then leave him there for longer or until you are happy with his behaviour
- ❖ Once he is good let him go as this is the REWARD
- ❖ Always remember to give them a reward

Always give your sheep and yourself a day or two off every week, so you both don't go sour!

TRAINING THE SHEEP TO BE LED:

4 WEEKS BEFORE THE SHOW

- They must be shorn
- Put the chain halter on
- Hold the halter
- Take a looped rope and put it under their bum or tail
- As you pull the front pull the back rope
- Make sure you are facing the sheep at all times, they love jumping on you (especially ewes)
- Once the sheep takes one step forward make sure you release the pressure
- This is the pressure release method
- Do this for about 15 minutes everyday for one week
- Once the sheep is walking well, take the tail rope off
- Two weeks before the show the sheep should be walking without the rope

ONE WEEK BEFORE THE SHOW:

WATER:

Put one teaspoon of molasses in a 5 litre bucket of water and only allow them to drink this. Or get some Powerade or Energade cooldrink and poor some of that into their water, so they get the taste of it. Don't need a lot of it.

Washing product:

Any animal washing products

We use Hoss Gloss animal shampoo, get it usually from a saddlery

- ✚ Watch the weather, try choose a nice sunny Day to wash your sheep
- ✚ On the Monday make sure you trip their heads, if you need a demo please contact me, I can explain in writing
- ✚ You leaving on the Thursday
- ✚ Wash your sheep on the Wednesday
- ✚ Put them out of the dirt and in the sun to dry
- ✚ If it is a wet horrible week, wash them and get lots old or cheap towels and rub them down to dry them
- ✚ Put them straight in the shed and rug them in the evening
- ✚ You will never get a spotless sheep, if you do let me know how
- ✚ When you get to the show, put the sheep in their pens and feed them straight away then give them water

PACKING FOR THE SHOW

- ✓ Make sure you got all the feed you been feeding them over the past few months
- ✓ The molasses or powerade drink for the water
- ✓ Shampoo just to clean the sheep before you go into the ring, they always lie in a pile of dung before the show.
- ✓ Halters and leads and brushes
- ✓ Put non dusty straw in the trailer
- ✓ Scourband with a syringe (get this from your local Merchandise shop)
- ✓ Pack all your promotional info about your stud and so on
- ✓ If I have forgotten something you will remember it

If you got any queries please contact me at anytime

I can always help you at the show if I am there, don't be scared to ask

Shows are fun not serious, we go to meet people & socialize