

HARNESS GOAT GUIDELINES

All Breeds

Under 1 year of age	leadline and halter
Over 1 year- Under 2 years	leadline, harness with cart, no rider
Over 2 years-Under 3 years	harness with cart and rider
Over 3 years-Under 4 years	harness with cart and rider
Over 4 years and up	harness with cart and rider

Appearance of Animal

- Condition: general healthy appearance, neither too fat nor too thin.
- Hair: clean and properly groomed. It can be shorn or not.
- Hooves: trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally.
- Cleanliness: clean body from stains as much as possible, with special attention to clean legs, feet, tail area, nose, and ears.

Appearance of Exhibitor

- Exhibitor should wear a nice shirt, pants or knee-length (or longer) skirts, and shoes/boots {no t-shirts, cut off shirts, sleeveless shirts, tank tops, shorts, capris, ripped jeans, or open-toe shoes}

Rules:

- 1) Goats may be purebred, recorded grade, or miniature. Classes are open to wethers, does (dry and in milk), and all breeds.
- 2) No bucks are allowed
- 3) All exhibitors are required to participate in showmanship.
- 4) Judges circle criteria: You will be judged on a proper stance when starting a pattern, that the goat pulls the cart smoothly and willingly, the goat readily listens/responds to voice and rein commands, the correct pattern was accomplished.
- 5) Judges line criteria: You will be judged on smooth serpentine lines that are close to the same size, your goat responds to both voice and rein commands, the exhibitor pulls the goat to the center before backing, the exhibitor maintained control of the goat, the exhibitor handled the goat smoothly, firmly, and with pride.

Classes:

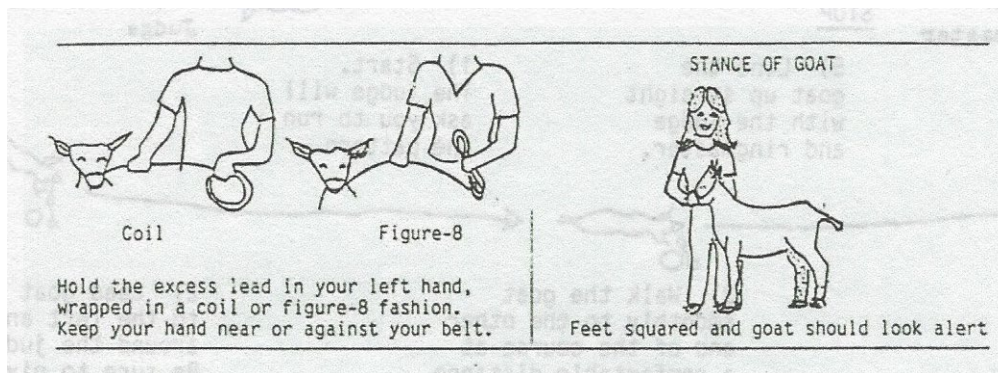
**The age of your goat determines which level of the project you do for the year (age as of January 1).

1. Harness Goat under 1 year of age, born before July 1 of current year
 - A) Leadline and halter
2. 1 year and under 2 years
 - a) Full harness and driving lines with cart, no rider
3. 2 years and under 3 years

- a) Full harness and driving lines with cart plus rider
- 4. 3 years and under 4 years
 - a) Full harness and driving lines with cart plus rider
 - b) Increased number of obstacles
- 5. 4 years and over
 - a) Full harness and driving lines with cart plus rider
 - b) Increased number of obstacles

1st year Requirements

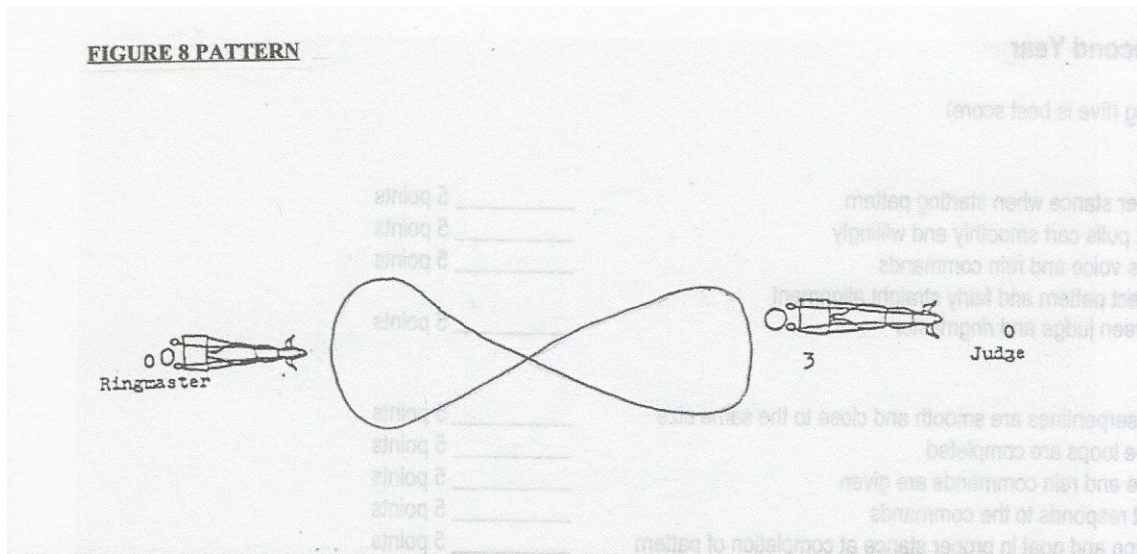
Leading: For the first year your goat will not be required to wear a harness or pull a cart for this class. This is just showing that your goat is accustomed to leading and is in the beginning stages of becoming an experienced driving goat. He will be expected to lead willingly with a halter and a lead strap. The goat should not have to be pulled around the ring but should walk calmly and willingly by your side. This is an important thing to teach your animal. On the road a stubborn animal will not only be a waste of your time but can also be dangerous and will make your driving experiences unpleasant.



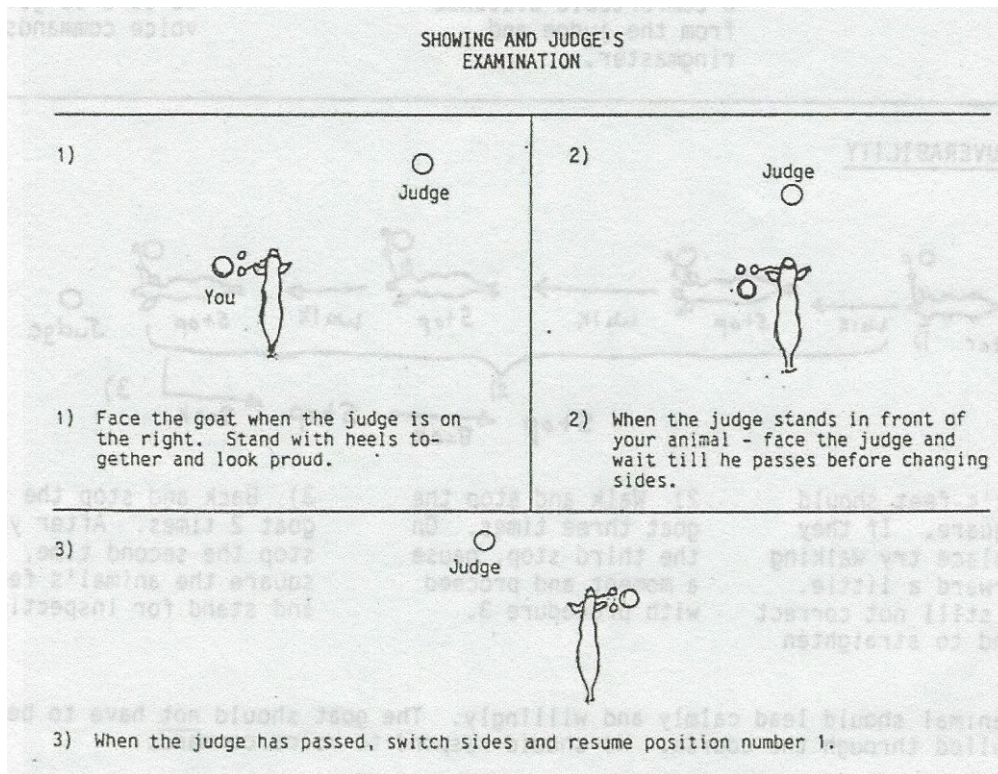
Go and Stop commands - Mailbox: The goat must also know the commands go and stop. You should not have to pull on the lead to get the goat to go forward or to make him stop. He should know the commands. This can come in very handy if you don't have a lead on your goat while you are driving. By teaching him these basic commands you can make your goat move and stop when you aren't beside him or can't get to him.

Back command: Your goat will be required to know the back command. You will start by leading your goat to the back obstacle and turning him around so he is ready to back through the course. Begin by giving the back command. You should not have to pull forcefully on the lead to get your animal to back. Gentle backward tugs on the lead are permitted as you give that command. When you get to the turn, carefully continue backing your animal around that turn and through that rest of the obstacle. When you reach the end, give your goat a pat for a job well done and continue on the rest of the course. Teaching your goat to back is another one of the few commands that will be profitable to you on the road. It can come in handy if you are confined to an area and the only way you can go is back! Be patient when teaching this command. It usually is one of the hardest to teach your pack goat, but with practice and time he'll get it.

Figure 8 Weave: The goat should follow lead through the weave cones with minimal interaction with the cones.



Present to the Judge:



First Year Pattern:

Wear full harness: This year your goat will be required to wear a full harness pulling a cart with the driver leading the goat. No rider.

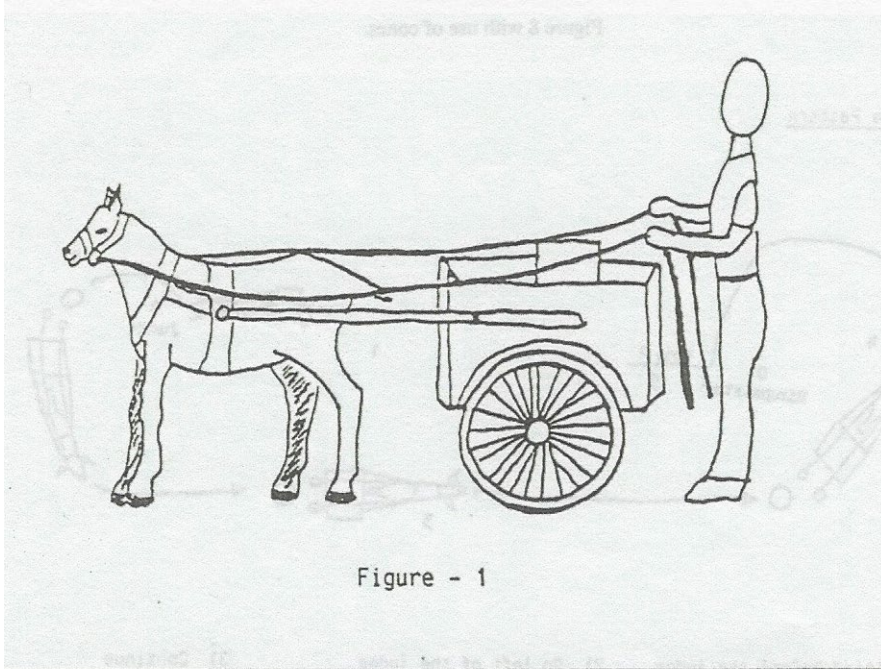
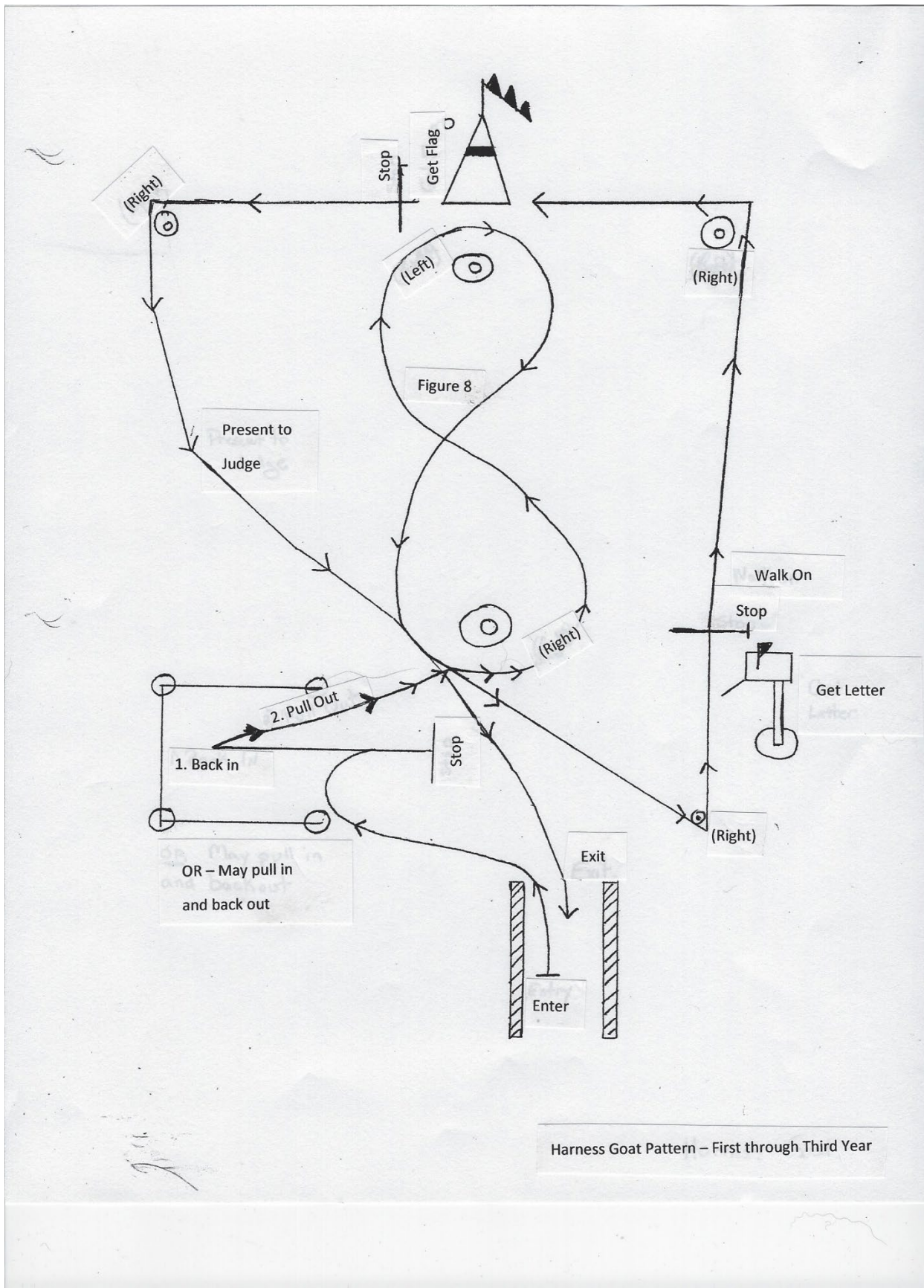


Figure - 1

1) Proper Stance. You should stand with legs together. Stand tall with arms stretched comfortably in front holding the reins. The goat should look alert and its legs should be fairly square. The important factor is to establish and keep control of the goat at all times.



Harness Goat Pattern – First through Third Year

3rd Year Requirements

Must do 1st and 2nd year requirements as well as the following:

Wear a harness with cart: Your goat will be required to wear a harness with cart. The exhibitor will ride in the cart.

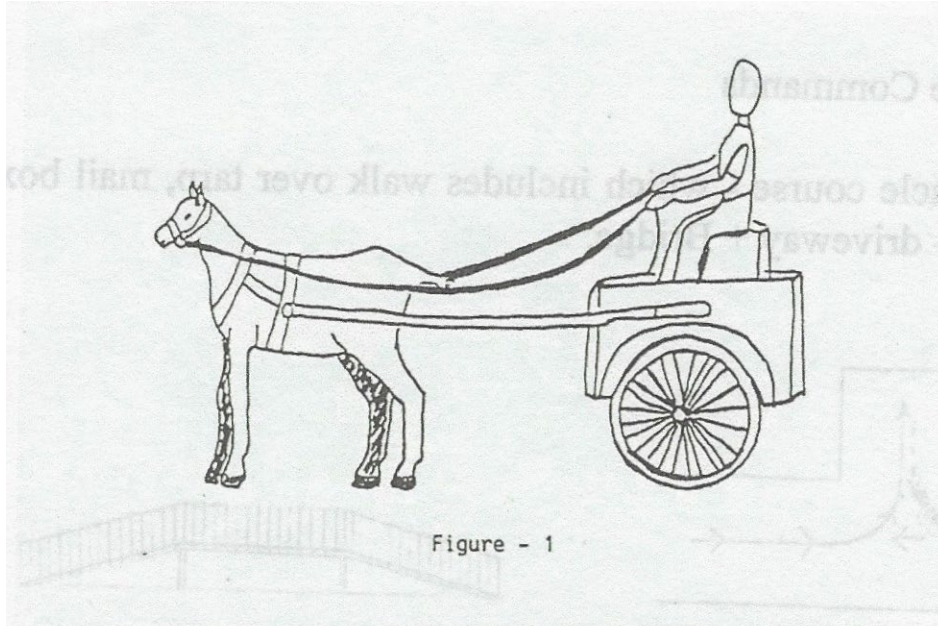
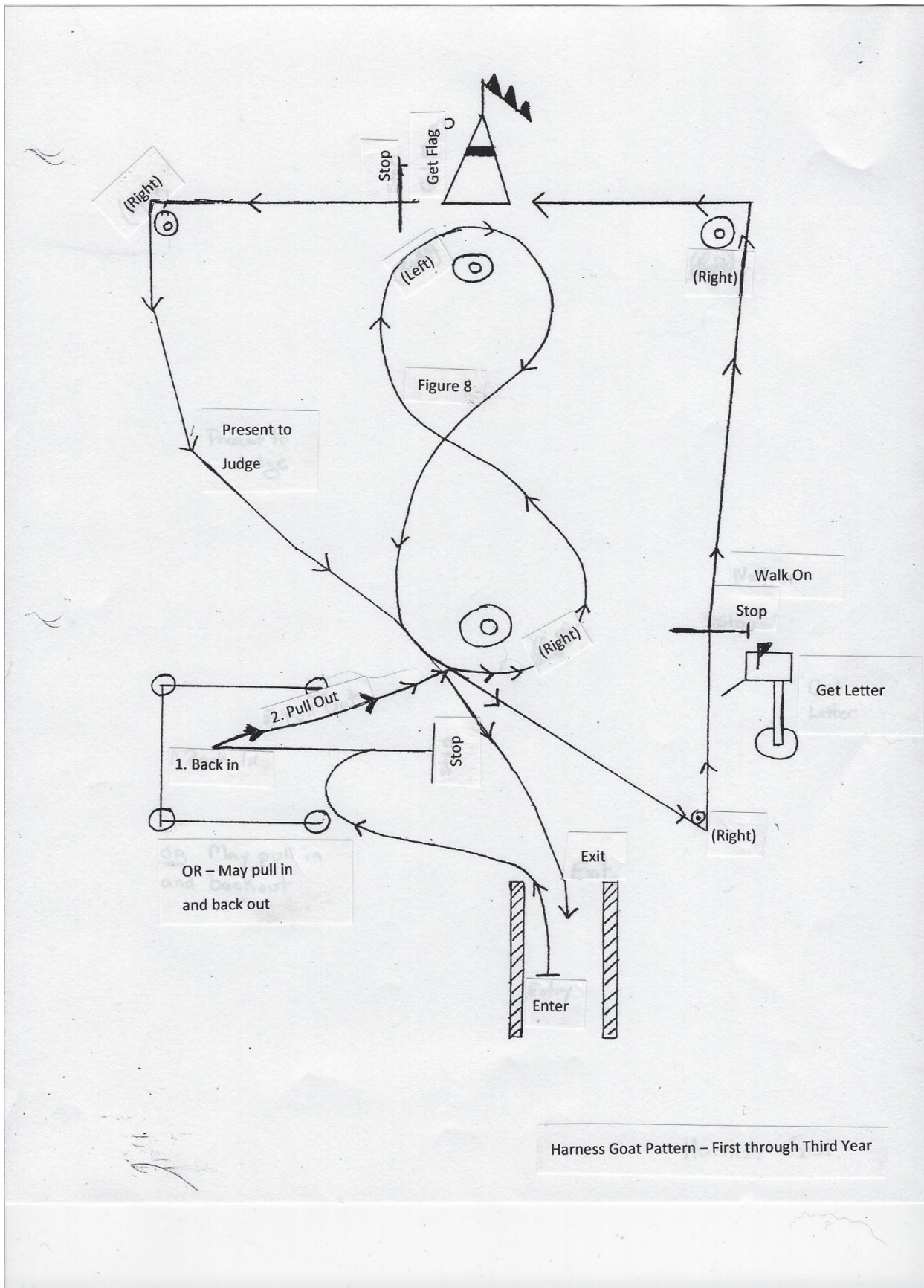


Figure - 1

1) Proper Stance. You should sit erectly in the cart holding the reins comfortably, but firmly. The goat should look alert and feet should be fairly square. The important factor is to have good control over the animal at all times.



4th Year Requirements

Must do 1st through 3rd year requirements as well as the following:

Wear a harness with cart: Your goat will be required to wear a harness with cart. The exhibitor will ride in the cart.

Tarp to Simulate Water: Walking through water is one of the most important things that you can teach your goat to do. Most goats will try to jump small creeks and streams, as most do not like water.

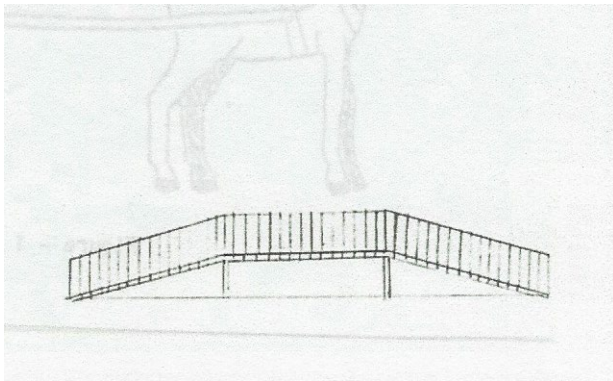
5th Year and Beyond Requirements (may be repeated)

Must do 1st through 4th year requirements as well as the following:

Wear a harness with cart: Your goat will be required to wear a harness with cart. The exhibitor will ride in the cart.

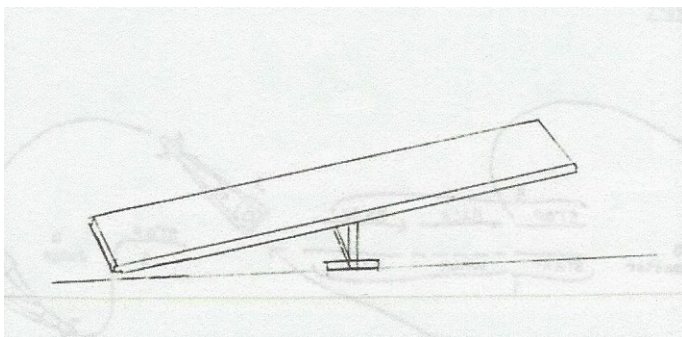
Bridge:

The bridge is a good obstacle to train your goat on and not just to accept walking on a bridge, but to develop trust in you not to put them in a bad position,..... to get them comfortable with having to step up which could be onto a rock ledge or a curb. It is simply good for goats to have to pick their feet up and step onto or over obstacles.



Teeter-totter:

Goats are always concerned about having a firm footing under them, so to ask them to walk over a moving platform is a true test of their willingness and trust in their human leader.



Questions

Exhibitor can expect to be asked questions by the judge. Questions can cover a range of topics including general goat anatomy, health and diet, harnesses, carts, and fitting.

References:

Adapted from the Muskingum County 4-H Harness Goat Supplement

Adapted from Erie County 4-H Working Goats