



# Training Module No 13

## Theory

1. Goat dip
2. Housing
3. Equipment for feeding
4. Handling facilities



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## Goat dip

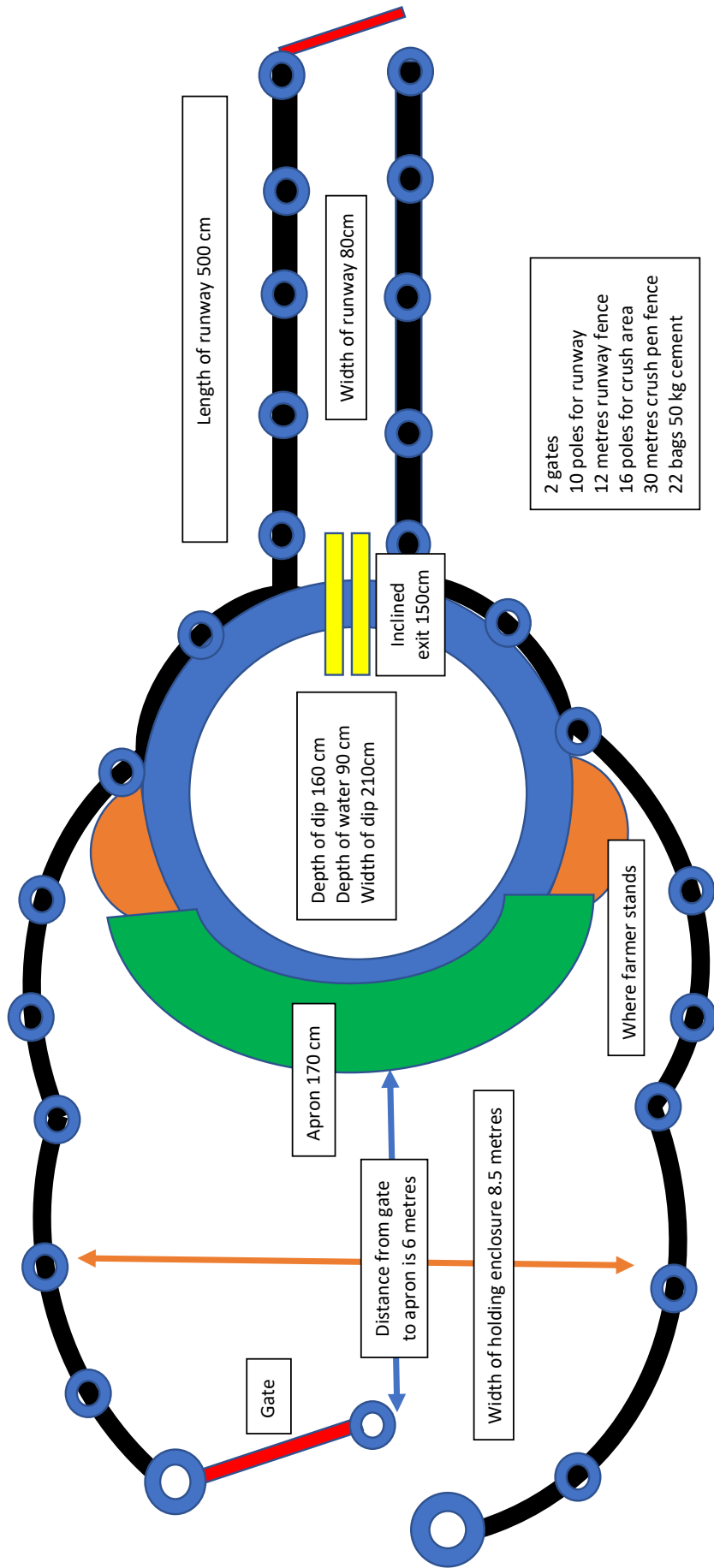
Although farmers can use handheld sprays, injectables or tick grease for reducing tick loads on goats, a much more efficient system is a goat specific plunge dip. These can be built by individuals or groups and need a pool section that is at least 2 metres deep, a runway for goats to drip dry so that the dip goes back into the pool and doesn't get wasted after the goats have been dipped and an apron around the pool so that when the farmer stands there to submerge the goat, he doesn't put mud into the pool. The runway needs to run all the way to the bottom of the pool so that goats can easily walk out of the pool. The whole dip needs to be fenced off so as to restrain the goats while they are waiting to be dipped. The runway needs to be fenced and have a gate at the end for goats to be released once they have dried. A section between the runway and the pool needs to be made to allow the farmer to submerge the goat with a cleft stick and also use the cleft stick to assist goats out of the pool. For more on this, go to Section 19.5 in the back of this book or to [www.gapkzn.co.za](http://www.gapkzn.co.za) for a video on goat dipping.



Once the dip is built, the farmer needs to fill it with water using a 20 litre container or a 200 litre container so as to count how many of these containers are used and thus get a measure of the capacity of the dip. This water level should be marked off and this volume used as a measure for the mixing ratio of dip medicine to water.

A dip containing the active Amitraz has worked well for farmers who have problems with ticks and mange. A regime of monthly dipping throughout the year except for mid-winter months when there are no ticks on the goats has proven effective.

# Dip spec sheet



# Housing

## Shelter

Goats need to be confined at night for a number of reasons:

- To provide shelter from bad weather
- To prevent theft
- To prevent predation.

If animals are kraaled but are not provided with a shelter they will be exposed to the weather and will not be able to choose a place that is more protected from rain or wind. For this reason, it is important that the kraal owner provides the necessary shelter and protection. In building such a structure it is important to consider the following aspects:

- A roof to protect from rain
- Walls/sides to protect from wind
- Drainage or cement floor to prevent the ground from being too muddy after rain
- Provision of raised areas (preferably slatted to allow droppings to fall through) where goats can escape from wet, muddy conditions
- It is also important that it is possible to clean the kraal in order to prevent the build up of disease-causing bacteria and parasites in the dung and dust.

## Managing the overnight shed

The following recommendations are made regarding management of the shed:

- Make sure that the goats are not crowded (keep to minimum density of 1m<sup>2</sup>/goat)
- Remove manure on a monthly basis and spray the house to kill fleas
- Provide feed in feeders or in hay racks to prevent trampling
- Ensure that goats have access to clean water
- Separate rams from ewes to prevent injuries and bullying
- Separate ewes with kids from other goats to prevent trampling
- Goats must not be kept in longer than necessary as it reduces the number of hours available for feeding.



*Example of goat shelter (above) and goat shed (below)*



## Equipment for feed and water provision



If goats are to be supplement fed, they should be provided with some form of feeders and water troughs. The feeders should keep food off the ground so that it is not trampled and soiled by the goats. Suitable containers also need to be provided for licks. Make sure the kids can reach the water without a danger of drowning.

## Handling facilities

If you have a group of goats, it is much better to have proper handling facilities that allow for efficient handling of them without causing stress to either goat or person.

Handling facilities should consist of:

- A crush to catch goats where you can dose and vaccinate
- A gathering pen that feeds into the crush
- Sorting pens in case you want to separate males, females and kids as the males will hurt kids and females if they are handled together
- A loading ramp to load goats into transportation.

