

PROMOTE, PRESERVE & PROSPER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MYOTONIC GOAT REGISTRY



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I imagine this newsletter finds most of you in the middle of kidding season or soon to be at that point. Here at the Villa we have 57 kids on the ground that were born within a week's time and most within about three days. Needless to say, life down on the farm is lively with bouncing kids, literally everywhere. It is my most favorite time of the year. Kidding season brings lots of hard work especially in the winter months with the unpredictable weather we have here on the NC/VA border, but I absolutely love my winter babies. It is so rewarding to see all of the hard work I put in as it reveals itself in new life. Here is to wishing you all a successful kidding seasons and may you all be blessed in 2026.

If you have an informative article that you would like to have published in the newsletter, please contact me. I only need four to eight breeders to step up per year, depending upon length. I know we have some knowledgeable breeders that have some great advice, ideas and life stories to share. Help a goat girl out and contact me to get published in the next issue.

Y'all get out there and live the Goat Life!

Anna Garrett, editor ❤️🐐🐐🐐



MGR WELCOMES SNP ANALYSIS

BY TARA LAWRENCE

(SEPTEMBER 2025)

The Myotonic Goat Registry is proud to announce our ongoing steps to preserve and protect the Myotonic gene pool for future generations. It is our goal to create a situation that safeguards our genetic markers while creating transparency. In an effort to do this, MGR has created a Registry Affiliation Program operated by UC Davis, Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL).

Beginning February 1, 2026, MGR will require a Single-nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) analysis, commonly pronounced as “snip” for all offspring born by Embryo Transfer or Artificial Insemination (AI). SNP analysis represents an advanced type of marker analysis widely utilized in today’s genetic market.

Many of our breeders are familiar with traditional DNA testing, for parentage. Traditional DNA testing can not differentiate between twins, or flush mates, while SNP can. The parentage of goats can be accurately determined which is crucial for maintaining pedigree records and safeguarding the integrity of breeding program.

Looking to the future, we will have the ability to identify genetic markers associated with desirable traits such as milk production, growth rate, and disease resistance. This information can be used to select and breed goats with superior genetics. SNP testing provides insights into the genetic diversity within and between goat populations. This is important for conservation efforts.

Program Overview

When VGL clients test their samples and select Registry Affiliation, they choose to share access to their sample, the record, and the results with the registry. The client is notified in our ordering system of this sharing of data when they select to order through affiliation. Once a sample is affiliated, registry access is retained to ensure continuity of records and testing history. Clients cannot retroactively revoke this access. The registry may request updates to basic identification fields and initiate additional testing requests, subject to VGL approval.

Pricing

- \$50/sample for SNP panel genotyping
- \$9/sample for Parentage by SNP genotypes
- \$83/sample for SNP + STR genetic markers

SNP VS SNP + STR

The industry is heading towards using SNPs for parentage testing. However, STRs have been the gold standard for decades, so many breeding animals already have STR profiles on record. If a member has had possible parents tested for STRs in the past and would rather not retest those parents, then a new offspring should be tested for both SNPs and STRs. The STRs for this offspring can be used to verify its parentage to the parents that have already been tested for STRs and the offspring will also have a SNP profile generated for future use in case they produce offspring that will need to be parent verified, in the future.

If the possible parents have no DNA profile done, then the member will need to test the parents and the offspring, and in this case only SNPs is needed.

Online Ordering using MyVGL

Members will create a MyVGL account or log in to an existing account.

<https://my.vgl.ucdavis.edu/myvgl/login.htm>

On the order form, they will check the box for “Registry Affiliation” and the select the appropriate affiliated registry from the list. This must be done at the time of ordering to obtain the discounted rate. Refunds will not be given. Samples previously tested can have affiliation added by the member using the “Add Registry Affiliation” link.

Testing and Results

Samples are shipped to the VGL by the member, or authorized representative, to the address on the form or sample collection kit. When the sample is received with proper payment, VGL will assign a case number beginning with the primary affiliated organization’s filecode, <MGR> Members will receive an email indicating receipt of the sample. Once testing is complete, results are emailed to the member and the registry in a PDF attachment.

Sample Handling

Each sample received by the VGL is assigned a unique VGL Case Number, and the VGL will assign a unique prefix (MGR) to be used, which indicates the primary affiliation of the samples.

If the VGL is unable to obtain results for a sample, in most cases a one-time New Sample Request (NSR) will be issued to the client allowing them to resubmit a replacement sample, from the same animal within 90-days, at no charge.

Payment Instructions

Any payments made by check, should be payable to UC Regents and imprinted for "US DOLLARS." Samples are required to have testing prepaid online or payment can be included with sample submission in the form of a check or credit card authorization form.

MGR Recording

MGR will have a new SNP form available on the website, to be submitted with all registrations for offspring of Embryo Transfers and Artificial Insemination (AI) This form will be required to be included, at the time of registration. The recording fee is \$5.00, in addition to the current registration fee. The SNP number will be recorded on the back of the registration certificate.

Myotonic goats which are already registered can use the correction form to update their information. This maybe done via e-mail. A photo of the goat, will be required to be e-mailed at the same time. The fee is \$8.00.

Going forward, there are several tests offered by VGL, including Congenital Myotonia testing. This test does not indicate the purity of a Myotonic Goat. The Congenital Myotonia testing only shows the presence of the gene (this could be located in a grandparent). Testing for this gene will not be recognized by MGR,at this time. This test can not be used to upgrade percentage registrations or egister bucks with parents,who are not MGR registered.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

BY ANNA GARRETT

How to best grow the MGR youth program? Start them young and instill compassion and love for the breed. Next give the tools to help preserve the breed while loving every minute of it.

Not all youth show, but that doesn't mean that they don't have an impact on the breed and in helping preserve it.

Meet Jack Garrett, youth breeder and avid Myo advocate. Jack has a deep love for the breed and their preservation. This has been instilled in him since birth. He has lived the goat life, specifically the Myotonic goat life his whole life. He is proud to be a MGR Youth Breeder and puts a lot of thought in to his breeding program. He knows he wants to raise breed correct Myotonics and wants to incorporate a little flash, just like his Mama. He aspires to show one day, but until then he spends time loving on his "babies", telling everyone he sees about his "favorite" breed of goat and sharing exactly how many there are on the farm, but who is counting. We all know goat math isn't like normal math. Watch for him and his growing herd, Solis Ortus Villa.



ADS...



[HTTPS://FACEBOOK.COM/MGRGIFTSHOP](https://facebook.com/mgrgiftshop)



**MGR
JUDGE'S
CERTIFICATION
PROGRAM**

**MAY
28 & 29,
2026**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

ADS...



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The Myotonic Goat Registry was formed in 2005 as a sole ownership registry by Gene McNutt with input from an initial Board of Advisors made up of Dr. Phil Sponenberg and Barbara Roberts. The current Board of Advisors includes Dr. Phil Sponenberg, Cindy Bene, Eve Williams and Anna Garrett. The owner and Board of Advisors will make decisions concerning the registry and its procedures. This method of governance is meant to provide Myotonic Goat breeders with a registry that will not have frequent changes, and will have the longevity and consistency needed to successfully promote the Myotonic Goat breed, while at the same time make it responsive to the needs and wishes of the breeders. In 2009, Gene retired and the registry was sold to Tara Lawrence. As the Myotonic Goat Registry grows, additional Board of Advisor members may be added in order to more broadly represent the breeders. The owner, along with the Board of Advisors, will be responsible for providing for its own replacements and/or expansions.

The Myotonic Goat Registry takes into consideration all breeders, from pet owners to commercial meat growers. Regardless of which aspect of this breed appeals to you, the Myotonic Goat Registry is the place for all breeders to register their Myotonic Goats.

The Registry will help breeders promote their goats through sales, shows, and advertising, and will educate the public about the Myotonic Goat and its usefulness in a variety of settings.