

Visitors to Bending Tree Ranch in Arkansas quickly notice one of my “greeters” Laura, the 3 legged goat. I thought I might share her story with the rest of you that haven’t had the pleasure of meeting Laura in person.



Laura was born and raised in Missouri. Her gentle nature made her a favorite of her breeders. The following is her story as was told to me. One summer while her breeders were on vacation, the individual that was supposed to be tending the goats failed to notice Laura with a rope wrapped around her leg and trapped in the barn for 3 or so days.

It so happened soon after this time, her breeders had an illness in the family and had to disperse their whole herd. A friend from OK purchased Laura’s baby daughter and Laura’s breeders gave Laura to her daughter’s new owner.

The new owner realized when she got Laura and daughter home that they were much larger than their other Myotonic goats and they were offered to me in exchange for a mini doe with kids on her. I happily took them both. When they arrived I realized that there was serious damage to the leg and consulted with my vet for a treatment plan. She put Laura on 2 different antibiotics. Laura had to take 2 shots twice a day for 14 days. Because of her mobility problems we left Laura and daughter loose in our yard. This sweet goat would come when called to take her shots. Here she is, in another new home, getting stuck with needles twice a day and yet she trusted me enough to come when I called her. She would stretch her neck up to look me in the eye as though saying “thank you for taking such good care of me.” It was that sweet personality that totally won us over. We made the decision then and there to not ever send her off for slaughter or to re-home her.

It took 4 months or so for the atrophied leg to finally fall off. I got up on Easter morning and found Laura’s leg laying in her sleeping area. Talk about startling! There was no blood, just 2-3 inches or so of shiny white bone exposed. I talked with my husband about what to do for the exposed bone. He offered to snip the exposed bone off with the limb loppers. I about fainted at that suggestion. We wrapped it and first thing Monday morning we were sitting at the vet’s office waiting for them to open up. He examined her leg, went to the back and came back with limb loppers and snipped the exposed bone right off. Laura didn’t make a sound or even flinch. I laughingly told the vet I could have saved myself some money and just let my husband do that. They put her back on antibiotics and

showed me how to keep it wrapped. It took several months for the skin to grow back over the stump but it finally did.

Here is Laura with her daughter sporting her pretty purple stump.



We bred Laura one time. She did great carrying her twins, only having a little trouble getting up about 4-5 days before the twins were born. We retained the newest daughter and sold the older daughter. This year was a highlight for Laura as her baby girl had twins. Laura coached her daughter Leisel all through labor and cleaned her grandbabies up. She also tried to nurse them. We finally had to separate mother and babies from “grandma Laura” so that Leisel could bond with her kids and get them fed. Laura lay outside their pen and ran off any 4-legged visitors.



Leisel, Laura’s daughter has it made. She can go and do what she wants. She just has to feed the kids now and then. Grandma Laura watches the babies, calling to them whenever they stray off. Laura never lets the kids out of her sight. At naptime she puts them down and rests with them.



Laura is very creative finding all kinds of things to sit on.



It is much easier to get up and go from a sitting position, so unless she needs to sleep, nap, or is out grazing/browsing you will find her sitting keeping watch over her grandbabies.



Here is Laura giving me one of her sweet “thank you” kisses. Should you have the pleasure of meeting Laura be sure to pack some cookies when you come. Her favorites are gingersnaps or animal crackers.