

Helpful Suggestions

Try moistening the top of the teat cup to get a good seal before putting the teat cup on to get a better seal.

Milk a squirt or two out by hand to signal the doe to let down her milk. You might also massage or gently bump the udder like their kid does to help milk let down. If they are nursing their kids you might hold the kid in front of them.

I find that once I have the teat cup firmly on the nipple if I squeeze fairly quickly but release the handle more slowly some does will milk better.

I find that some does milk better if you gently pull downward on the teat cup once it is firmly on the teat.

It does take a good bit of suction to get a good flow of milk. Regular milking machines will dang near pull your finger off. You will not see the teat move up and down in the teat cup once you have sufficient vacuum to get milk flow, so if you are seeing the teat move with each pump you do not have enough suction. The teat cup should be on tightly enough that you have to break the suction at the top to get it off, it won't come off just because you stop pumping.

If you have a filter on your Milker you might try it without the filter. The filter can change the vacuum level and it may be easier to learn to use the Milker without the filter first.

There should be at least an inch of clearance from the tip of the teat to the bottom of the teat cup for milk to flow.

Does with conical teats (wide at the top) may like the larger teat cup. You can get a 35 cc teat cup (from your vet and at many feedstores, or give us a call...) that has a wider barrel for milking miniature goats with conical teats.

If you are milking both miniature and standard sized goats it may be helpful to buy an extra 22 inch milk hose to attach to your larger teat cup. This makes switching between the small and large teat cups MUCH easier!

Troubleshooting Tips

We have had a few people have a problem with suddenly losing suction. This is most often due to a tiny hair or bit of milkstone holding the one of the pump valves open. For a quicky fix you might try holding the blue tipped nozzle and the teat cup under water and pumping 5 to 10 times very vigorously to clear the problem. This usually works.

If it doesn't then further investigation is needed to figure out exactly where the problem lies. Detach all of the hoses. Remove the blue or metal luer nut from the nozzle end of the pump too, exposing the metal tip. First put your finger over the nozzle (where the milk comes out) and squeeze the pump. If you can't compress it all the way then the piston valve is working as it should. Another test for the piston valve is to remove the piston and to try blowing through it. If you can blow through it with no effort the valve is malfunctioning. If you have to blow with some effort and you make a "toy horn" tooting sound the valve is functioning correctly.

Squeeze the pump and hold it, now put your finger over the rear inlet hole of the piston (where the tubing from the teat cup fits) and release the pump. It should hold a vacuum. If it doesn't then the nozzle valve is stuck open. Another test for the nozzle valve is to remove the clear barrel, fill it with water like a cup and see if it drips or runs water. It should not drip or flow water. Most often you will find it is the nozzle valve that is malfunctioning.

Try this, immerse the entire pump under warm soapy water pump the handle very vigorously several times. This will often dislodge the obstruction. Now remove the clear barrel and thoroughly flush it in case the obstruction has been sucked back into the barrel just waiting to block the valve again. If this doesn't do the trick, remove the clear barrel and look down inside it toward the nozzle end. You will see 3 tiny holes, insert a toothpick through one of the holes and "work the valve" while flushing to dislodge the obstruction. Sometimes you can even see the hair stuck in the valve. If you still have a problem PLEASE call us, we will do everything we can to get you back in operation.

Occasionally the inline filter makes it difficult to maintain adequate vacuum for goats that are slow to milk. If you are having problems milking certain goats try removing your inline filter. This allows for a faster buildup of vacuum and for a higher vacuum to be maintained. This may be necessary for those goats that have slow let down or a restricted flow as well as those goats that milk very well with a strong flow.

Cleaning Tips

Soaking in vinegar solution (half white vinegar and half warm water) should help remove milk stone.

Using a foaming denture cleaning tablet may help clean the tiny valves found in the piston and barrel and prevent the buildup of milk stone.

Leave the barrel off to dry well after cleaning each day to prevent odor build up.