BOYS WILL BE BOYS!

NEVER TRUST A RAM OR BUCK!

Intact rams can be aggressive and unpredictable, especially during the breeding season (rut). They can seriously injure people and have been known to cause deaths. Rams charge and use powerful headbutts to establish dominance. They can run faster than you think! Bucks use pushing and posturing to establish dominance. They spar with their horns. Bucks are usually less aggressive than rams but still demand respect.

Ram/buck behavior is both natural and learned. How we manage males (especially young ones) can affect their behavior and interactions with people. Here are some general do's and don'ts.

DO

- Respect and understand them
- Always know where they are
- Maintain a safe distance
- Have an escape plan
- Use proper handling techniques (do not grab by the horns)
- Keep them away from females except during the breeding season
- Leave them alone
- Favor females for artificial rearing
- **Cull overly aggressive males**

DON'T

- Turn your back on them
- Pet or scratch them on their heads
- Let them playfully butt you
- Challenge or antagonize them
- Allow them to jump on you
- Feed them treats by hand
- Carry a bucket into their pen or pasture
- Hit them (it may provoke them more)
- House or pasture them alone (ideally)
- Leave them unsupervised with children, visitors, or elderly
- Keep or sell bottle-raised males for breeding
- Keep or sell intact males for pets

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