

# Couple to move goats

Goat Ranch

55mm 7-15-00

“The Coastal Commission order was to remove the goats until we get a permit. When and if we get a permit, we could move some goats back.”

— John Stephenson

BY LEE QUARNSTROM  
Mercury News

The owners of Santa Cruz Biotechnology, which raises some 1,700 goats for biomedical purposes, have agreed to remove the animals and shut down the operation by the end of next week.

In a brief letter to Coastal Commission officials, John Stephenson on Thursday said his firm “will comply with the Commission’s . . . directives and remove all goats, manure, and all materials contaminated with feces and/or urine on or before July 21, 2000.”

Coastal Commission officials gave John and Brenda Stephenson, owners of the goats and of Santa Cruz Biotechnology, a July 21 deadline to remove the livestock, manure and contaminated soil from their ranch four miles north of Santa Cruz.

Santa Cruz Biotechnology injects

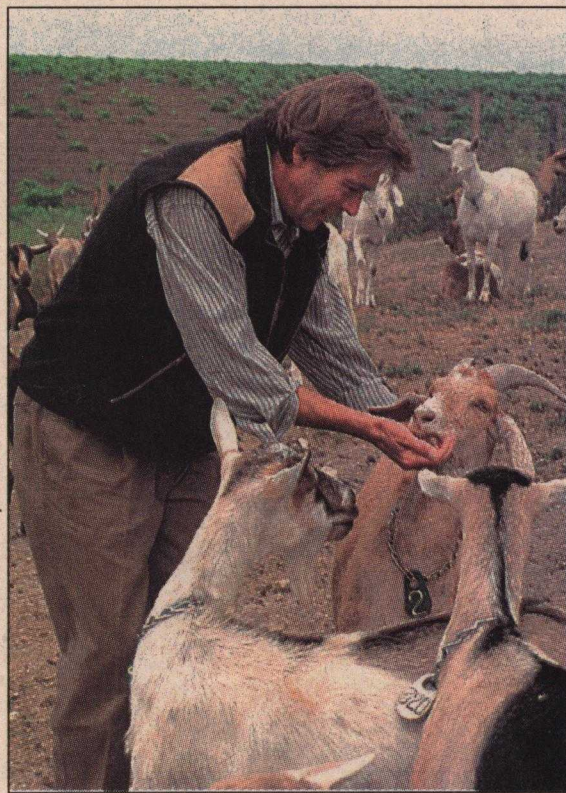
the goats with substances called peptides. Subsequently, blood from the animals is converted to serums used for medical purposes, including battling cancer, the Stephensons said.

The Coastal Commission notice came after four years of debate over the goats. In recent months, the controversy has swirled around extremely high bacterial counts in water running off from the ranch during winter rainstorms.

Stephenson said Friday that he and his wife had not yet decided where they would move their goats.

“We’ve been looking at the Dallas-Fort Worth area and in Nevada,” he said. “We’re still trying to work out our plans. We’ve understood for some time that when we finally got a county permit, we probably wouldn’t get the full number of goats

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John Stephenson is co-operator of Santa Cruz Biotechnology, which injects the goats with peptides. Blood from the animals is converted to serums used for medical purposes, including battling cancer.

JOHN WOOLFOLK —  
MERCURY NEWS  
ARCHIVES

## Goats to move from ranch

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that we needed for our business.”

He said it was likely that the bulk of his 1,680-goat herd would be moved to Nevada, at least for the time being.

And, Stephenson said, noting that he and his wife “have spent millions” on their facility north of Santa Cruz, “We’ll probably come back and maintain some presence here.

“The Coastal Commission order was to remove the goats until we get a permit. When and if we get a permit, we could move some goats back.”

Indicating he expected less opposition from politicians and environmentalists in either Nevada or Texas, Stephenson said of Santa Cruz County:

“It’s no picnic here.”

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