

BAA TO DISNEY

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MICKEY MOUSE DISPUTE

People visiting the Mansion House kennel and farm in Fredon often ask Jenny Keller about **Mickey Goat**, wondering if the critter born bearing a **Mickey** Mouse design has adapted well to life in the Magic Kingdom.

Those who read news reports last June thought the **goat** was headed to **Mickey's** Starland at Disney World in Florida, where Disney also features Minnie Moo, a cow adorned with a **Mickey** birthmark. But when visitors mention **Mickey Goat**, Keller just points nearby and says, "See for yourself."

The **goat** never made it out of Sussex County.

Disney officials expressed interest in the **goat** when the Kellers sent a photo after the animal was born in February. "From what they said, this is like a sacred thing to them," Keller said earlier. But shortly afterward, they found the extent of the reverence was limited, she said yesterday.

"Basically, Disney World took this attitude: 'We're Disney World and we don't have to do anything for you,'" she said. "It just got really nasty."

Disney offered to pay \$50 for the **goat**, but what really soured the Kellers was Disney's refusal to take part in getting **Mickey Goat** to Florida.

The family was initially told someone would pick up the **goat**, said Keller. However, Disney later told the family to "just put the animal on a plane," she said.

This would have cost the Kellers at least \$100, but Keller was more concerned with placing the **goat** in an airplane's hot freight compartment.

She said Disney also balked at the family's request to be notified if the theme park ever decided to get rid of **Mickey Goat**.

Disney spokesman Tom Lowe would say only that the deal fell through during negotiations.

Even if Disney reconsiders, the Kellers are standing their ground. "Basically, they took the attitude that 'you're getting the thrill of giving us your **goat**,'" said Keller.

"It almost sounded like they were treating him like a piece of merchandise and they were just making a buck off him. As far as we're concerned, now they can't have him."