

Keeping Goats

Purchasing

- Make sure the breeder or farm you are dealing with does or has tested their herd for CAE (Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis) and Johne's Disease in Florida. If a goat looks bad - thin, nasty hair coat, tail down or lethargic, it may be sick. CAE and Johne's can be carried and not show symptoms. Having worms, coccidiosis, respiratory issues or CL (Caseous Lymphadenitis) may show signs. There is also a test for CL, but it is not as conclusive with a blood test as it is with an actual sample of the abscess.
- Look for clean water and at the adult goats, if buying babies. Ask questions!
- Goats definitely like to be with other goats. Your dog or other animals just will not be the same. You should definitely get at least two goats together.
- Find a veterinarian who treats goats in your area

Housing

- First check your property for poisonous plants. You can all the information for Florida at the UF/IFAS website.
- House or stall with four walls and door for the goats to get into for protection from rain and cold
- Depending on the flooring of the space, you may want to use shavings. Sawdust is not recommended because it can cause coughs or respiratory issues. So the size of the shavings is your choice.
- Big enough area they can run around in during the day
- Hay rack - to keep as much hay off the ground as possible
- Feed bowls
- Water - bucket or automatic
- Things they can climb on and lay off the ground on
- Heat lamp, if needed in really cold weather, if possible

Feed

- Grain formulated for goats
- Hay (Peanut, Timothy & Alfalfa, Orchard & Alfalfa, Alfalfa (not best for wethers))
- Clean water
- Goat formula loose minerals or molasses bucket
- Baking Soda - can be left out free choice to help prevent bloat
- Goat treats

Protection

- Goats are targets for **coyotes** and **dogs**. Both can find a way into your goat pen or pasture by digging under or climbing/jumping over fencing. Many goats have been attacked by stray or neighbors dogs. Baby goats are in danger from smaller animals and large birds. Things that can help:
 - Taller fences
 - Locking the goats up in a barn or safe house at night
 - Hot wire, top and bottom of fencing
 - **Most protective are Livestock Guardian dog(s)** that live in with the goats 24/7. The LGD's are certain breeds. NOT all dog breeds can be guardian dogs. LGD breeds include: Anatolian Shepherds, Great Pyrenees, Maremma, Akbash, Kuvasz, Karakachan, and more. For Florida, a dog with a shorter hair coat or lots of grooming is best. Livestock herding dogs are not protection, they like to chase the goats.

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- If you have dogs, which most farms do! Please be careful introducing your new goats to your dogs. Goats do not like to be chased and get scared and very stressed. Goats and dogs do not play the same.

Goat Supplies

- Wormer
- Coccidiosis Medicine (Albon, Di-Methox, Toltrazuril)
- Power Punch or Nutri Drench
- Goat probiotic
- B12 (injectable best)
- Bose (selenium) (injectable best)
- Copper Bolus
- Bloat Treatment
- Wound medicine (spray or antibiotic cream)
- Blood stop powder (Wonder Dust)
- Vet wrap (for wounds if needed)
- SpectoGard (for scours, loose poop)
- Dosing syringe (3 cc for babies, up to 20 cc for adults)
- CD&T vaccine
- Syringes (3cc, 6cc, 10cc)
- 20 ga 1" needles
- Some type of antibiotic, NuFlor one of the best, need Rx or get from Veterinarian
- Thermometer
- Heating pad
- Hoof trimmers

New Kids

- Bottles, (for Nigerian Dwarf 8 to 12 ounce, Plastic Pepsi, Coke, etc. 12 oz work, Canada Dry glass, some Perrier bottles work). Big breeds usually end up using 20 oz bottles.
- Prichard nipples for Nigerian Dwarf, big breeds can use some of the larger nipples
- Real goats milk, if available or Kids Milk Replacer Powder, when older just whole milk

Kidding

- Towels
- Iodine
- Calcium drench
- Scissors
- Forceps
- Scale
- Lubricant
- Thermometer
- Gloves
- Long Gloves
- Heating pad
- Stethoscope