

✓ The Pre-Goat Checklist ✓

from *The Free Range Life*

Housing

- Your barn should allow for no less than 20-25 sq. ft. per goat.
- It should be at least 3 sided and provide shelter from wind, rain, and drafts.
- Dirt floors are best for goats to allow drainage. The addition of sand or gravel can also improve drainage. Top your floor with suitable bedding such as pine shavings or straw.

Fencing

- Choose a fencing material that is strong, such as woven wire goat fence.
- Goats will test, push, and stand on their fence. Make sure it is fastened to your posts securely so that they cannot knock it down.
- If you are choosing standard sized breeds, you may have luck with 5 strands of electric fencing.

Pasture Management

- Goats are browsers and will move from plant to grass to tree as they graze. Check your pasture for plants that are poisonous to goats and remove them.
- Be aware that many common landscaping plants, such as azalea, are toxic to goats. If you have these in your yard be extra careful when building your fencing to ensure your goats won't escape and eat these plants.
- Here are some of the more common plants that are toxic to goats: Rhododendron, Azalea, Horse Nettle, Holly, Wild Black Cherry, Milkweed, Cocklebur, Mountain Laurel, Black Night Shade (there are many more)

Picking Out Your Goat

Here are a few questions to ask when you are choosing your first goat:

- Is the goat registered?
- Has the goat been tested for CAE/CL/Johnes?
- Has the goat received any vaccinations?
- Are there any signs of sickness? (Crusty eyes, runny nose, scours, unexplained lumps, skinny)

Shopping List

The basic care supplies you will need are:

- Collars
- Leashes
- Feed/Water Buckets
- Hay feeder
- Hoof Trimmers
- Thermometer
- Quality goat feed
- Quality loose minerals
- Sodium bicarbonate
- Probios
- A good dewormer
- A goat first aid kit

My Vet's # is: _____

<http://thefreerangelife.com>