

Preparation for your new goat

To support a smooth transition to their new home, goats should have the following:

Housing - They need shelter from the wind and rain as goats hate to get wet! For one or two goats, x-large dogloos work well. We recommend a 3-sided shelter to protect them from the elements.

Protection from predators (this includes dogs, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions and bears). You should have secure fencing in advance of your new goat(s) arriving home. Having secure fencing not only ensures your goats will stay where you want them, it will also help prevent predators and others from getting in to your goat area. If you have predators, locking them in your shelter at night is also advised. Depending on the type of predators you have, you may want to look into a livestock guardian animal.

Feeding supplies - hay should be fed off the ground as goats are very picky eaters and will not eat soiled hay that touches the ground. There are several kinds of feeders you can use (or make) that work well for goats. You should also have a bucket or trough for water but not too deep as you don't want your goats at risk of drowning should they happen to find themselves in the water. You should also have small feeders/buckets to feed loose minerals.

We do not typically bottle feed our kids as they are dam raised, however, at times it may be necessary for us to bottle feed one or more kids. If bringing home a bottle kid, you will also need a bottle, (we recommended using Pritchard teats), and a milk supply (we recommend using Vitamin D Whole Milk if you don't have access to goat milk).

Feed - For bucks, does and wethers, good grass hay is recommended - don't feed moldy hay. We do not recommend feeding wethers alfalfa as it can contribute to urinary stones/blockage. Loose goat minerals should be provided in a dry location as they will be ruined if allowed to get wet. Goats will eat what they need. Always transition to new feed gradually to prevent stomach upset and/or bloat.

Medical Care - We recommend finding a vet that can treat goats before you bring your kid/goat home. Goats are typically hardy animals, however, adjusting to a new home and environment may be stressful to a kid/goat and it's best to have a vet identified to act promptly to address any issues.

Water - Always provide clean water - goats are picky about their water and will drink less if it's dirty or soiled which can lead to other issues (urinary blockages). If your water freezes in the winter, its recommended to heat the water or bring warm water for them to drink.

Playtime - Goats love to play! - so we recommend having safe toys for them to play on. You can buy or build toys - some ideas are large wooden spools, plastic playgrounds, rocks, wine barrels, etc. Just keep any toys in the middle of your goat pasture and not along the fence line, otherwise, these smart little goats will be finding an easy way to go over your fencing and roam around your home eating all of your favorite plants (like roses and the bark off your favorite tree!)

Handling - Goats love to hang out with you so spend time with them - the more they get to know you the more enjoyment you will have with them! They also love scratches so find their special scratchy spot and you'll have a friend for life. We also recommend not play "butting" with your goat, otherwise, you may find yourself protecting your knee caps and the back of your knees while visiting your goat friends. Scratching vs. patting their head is your best bet. We also think goat hugs are the best!