

## Castrated Male Goat Care

- Castrated male goat are called wethers.
- Goats need access 24/7 to hay or some sort of forage to keep their rumen working properly.
- Goats are very picky eaters. They will not eat wet, soiled, or moldy hay.
- Goats can choke on Bermuda/ alfalfa/ timothy pellets so if you feed it to them make sure they are small pellets. You can't feed pellets instead of hay. They need the roughage that hay has for their rumen. They will drink more water with hay which will keep them more hydrated.
- We recommend feeding Chaffhaye instead of alfalfa. Chaffhaye is fermented alfalfa which is easier for goats to digest and the goat eats most of it. Some goats you have to leave it out there because they are picky.
- Weathers only need a hand full of alfalfa hay a day or some other type of high protein food. But they always have to have some type of grassy hay.
- Too much grains or chicken feed will make goats VERY sick so make sure grain is secured behind locked doors. Weathers don't need grain!
- **Free choice LOOSE** goat minerals are a must as they will get sick without them. Most feed stores have this. Get loose minerals for goats. Salt blocks are not the same. You can buy mineral blocks for goats but make sure it is for goats!
- Free choice store-bought baking soda (preferably aluminum-free) should be available 24/7.
- Free choice kelp should be available 24/7. This is optional but I highly recommend it.
- We recommend Ammonium Chloride for wether and bucks to help prevent urinary calculi.

- We highly recommend Replamin Gel Plus. It is great at making sure you give them all the minerals they need without an overdose. It also is great at fighting off parasites.
- Bottle-fed kids use Pritchard nipples or small caprine nipples and should be fed 3-4 ounces goat milk per five pounds (so increase as they grow). Week one feed every 4 hours. Week two every 5 hours. Week three every 4 hours. Weeks four-six 3 times a day. Week seven twice a day. Week eight once a day. Do not overfeed or underfeed. I do NOT recommend goat milk replacers. SLOWLY change to the whole store-bought cow milk. If you can please use raw goat or cows milk. If you get milk from another breeder, make sure they are free from disease. Diseases can pass THROUGH the milk!!! Let baby goats have access to hay to nibble on but they won't really be eating much of it as the rumen is not fully developed.
- **Do NOT change diet suddenly** on any animals.
- Fresh, clean, not in the sun water must be available at all times. Goats do not like dirty, hot or too cold water. Clip bucket handles to fencing to prevent goats from getting in it.
- A goat house to get out of inclement weather with adequate shade areas is very important. We use straw or pine shavings for bedding as it insulates and they can eat it safely.
- Straw can have more dust and brakes down super fast.
- Cedarwood shavings are **Dangerous** do NOT use for bedding. They put pesticides on them which can kill your goat.
- Pine shaving is great and are safe. Make sure you get the flakes and not the dust.
- Secure/safe enclosure is important as goats are easily killed by predators (dogs being #1 killer, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions). Small goats can be killed by hawks so extra protection when your goat is small ( also extra protection from cold climate for very young or old animals).

- A goat needs 500 Square feet for a full-size goat and 250 square feet for a miniature goat.
- Goats are herd animals you must have two of them or another type of herd animal. This does not include dogs, chicken, etc.
- Hooves must be trimmed every 4-8 weeks to prevent lameness. You can find many how-to videos on YouTube.
- Goat needs to be dewormed when they have worms. Commercial medication or you can use herbal dewormer. I prefer this brand here is the link.  
<http://www.fiascofarm.com/herbs/mollysherbals.php/products/herbal-worm-formula-kit>
- I recommend deworming only when you goat has parasites Because goat can come dewormer resistant.
- If you have any questions, feel free to contact me: (928) 202-9477 or email me at [Goathomesteading@gmail.com](mailto:Goathomesteading@gmail.com)
- Google Fiasco Goats as they also have a lot of information on basic goat care.
- Goat Vet Corner on FaceBook has TONS of info in their files

## **More Info**

Info on Feeding:

<https://info.mannapro.com/homestead/breaking-down-the-goat-diet>

<https://www.weedemandreap.com/optimal-nutritional-goat-diet/>

<https://thefreerangelife.com/bottle-feed-goat/>

Info on Maintenance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9cY-7Gqgho>

Info on fencing and housing:

<https://www.weedemandreap.com/how-much-space-need-raise-goats/>

<https://www.weedemandreap.com/efficient-pasture-rotation-goats/>

<https://www.weedemandreap.com/building-goat-pen-step-step-videos/>

<https://ag.umass.edu/crops-dairy-livestock-equine/fact-sheets/housing-working-facilities-for-goats>

<https://morningchores.com/goat-sheds/>

Some good book to read:

[https://www.amazon.com/Natural-Goat-Care-Pat-Coleby-ebook/dp/B00SM12AFW/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=Natural+Goat+Care&qid=1584992601&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Natural-Goat-Care-Pat-Coleby-ebook/dp/B00SM12AFW/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Natural+Goat+Care&qid=1584992601&sr=8-1)

[https://www.amazon.com/Backyard-Dairy-Goats-Natural-Approach/dp/0648466108/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?keywords=Natural+Goat+Care&qid=1584992624&sr=8-4](https://www.amazon.com/Backyard-Dairy-Goats-Natural-Approach/dp/0648466108/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=Natural+Goat+Care&qid=1584992624&sr=8-4)

[https://www.amazon.com/Nigerian-Keeping-raising-training-feeding/dp/1910941964/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?crid=71HD94HEKBGR&keywords=goat+care+books&qid=1](https://www.amazon.com/Nigerian-Keeping-raising-training-feeding/dp/1910941964/ref=sr_1_4?crid=71HD94HEKBGR&keywords=goat+care+books&qid=1)

[https://www.amazon.com/Storeys-Guide-Raising-Dairy-Goats/dp/1612129323/ref=sr\\_1\\_7?crid=71HD94HEKBGR&keywords=goat+care+books&qid=1](https://www.amazon.com/Storeys-Guide-Raising-Dairy-Goats/dp/1612129323/ref=sr_1_7?crid=71HD94HEKBGR&keywords=goat+care+books&qid=1)

Things I recommend:

<http://chaffhaye.com/>

<https://www.jefferspet.com/products/replamin-gel-plus?via=533884a29fa2600f00000395%2F533884a49fa2600f000003c1%2F533884a69fa2600>