

Preparing for your First Goats

What to have before bringing home your goats:

- Shelter
 - There are many different options for goat housing, including barns, 3-sided sheds, pallet structures, and more.
 - <http://www.goatworld.com/articles/shelters/>
- Fencing
 - Nigerian Dwarfs need a fence that they cannot get through, despite being such small creatures. Shire Ridge farm prefers woven wire goat fence with 4" squares.
 - <http://www.motherearthnews.com/homesteading-and-livestock/goat-fencing-101-zbcz1406>
- Hay
 - Having a hay supplement is very important for ensuring your goats will always have something to eat. I feed locally grown grass hay and chopped alfalfa hay.
 - <http://www.tennesseemeatgoats.com/articles2/hayandforage.html>
- Browse/graze
 - Maintaining a pasture with a height greater than 4" to 6" decreases the risk of goats consuming parasites with their grass.
 - <http://www.tennesseemeatgoats.com/articles2/foragersbrowsers.html>
- Feed
 - There are many different opinions on what to feed goats, research and experiment and find what works for you. I feed Purina Goat Chow, and I can send your new goats home with some if you'd like.
 - <https://www.weedemandreap.com/what-do-goats-eat/>
- Water
 - Heated water buckets will be necessary in the winter.
- Free Choice Minerals
 - Goats need constant access to minerals to eat at their leisure in order to maintain proper health. I prefer Manna Pro goat minerals.
 - <https://www.weedemandreap.com/goats-minerals-what-you-need-to-know/>

Goat Supplies to have on hand:

These are the kinds of things you'll want to have before you need them.

It's up to you to decide how much you are comfortable doing on your own for your goats. Not all veterinarians have experience with goats, and experience with other species does not usually translate well into caring for goats. Nevertheless, a good goat vet is a great thing to have and find before you need him or her.

- Hoof trimmers
 - How to trim hooves:
 - <http://www.betterhensandgardens.com/goat-hoof-trimming-2/>
- Blu Kote Band Aid Spray
 - Basically a liquid band aid for livestock. It is not approved for animals intended for food.
 - http://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/product/dr-naylor-blu-kote-pump-4-oz?cm_vc=-10005
- Probiotics
 - Great for settling the rumen of a stressed or sick goat.
 - http://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/product/goats-prefer-probiotic-plus-paste?cm_vc=-10005
- Milk of Magnesia, Vegetable or Mineral Oil, Baking Soda
 - These are for treating bloat in goats, I recommend getting all three as some are better for some forms of bloat than others.
 - Check out the “Common Ailments” pamphlet to learn more.
 - http://shireridgefarm.weebly.com/uploads/3/7/0/4/37041775/common_ailments.pdf
- Quick Read Rectal Thermometer
 - This is essential for diagnosing what could be wrong with a sick goat.
- Activated Charcoal
 - Used for treating a goat that has eaten something poisonous. Definitely something to have on hand before you need it!
 - https://www.valleyvet.com/ct_detail.html?pgguid=254e76e6-88b5-442f-b4c1-1c67d7e25640
- Electrolytes
 - https://www.valleyvet.com/ct_detail.html?pgguid=51e099a0-fbdo-483e-8d4e-6a5cb6ef0f8b&sfb=1&itemguid=7247f2dd-3076-4435-8415-ca525eca56ea&utm_content=36879&ccd=IFM003&CAWELAID=120295250000089393&CATARGETID=120295250000171325&cadevice=c&gclid=CMe3wbnmmtMCFQIKaQodsl4BIA

- Drencher
 - Used to administer any sort of liquid (like dewormers or bloat treatment). Seriously important as there is no other way to force feed something to an unwilling goat...
 - http://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/product/ideal-instruments-30cc-nylon-syringe-with-drench-tip-yellow?cm_vc=-10005
- Dewormer
 - I am currently deworming with Ivermectin, and I recommend using it until it is no longer effective.
 - Learn more about proper deworming here:
 - http://shiridgefarm.weebly.com/uploads/3/7/0/4/37041775/parasite_control.pdf
 - <http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/video/>
- Apple Cider Vinegar and Ammonium Chloride
 - Used for preventing (the vinegar) and treating (the ammonium chloride) urinary stones in male goats. (Not needed for female goats.)
 - https://www.amazon.com/AniMed-99-9-Percent-Ammonium-Chloride-2-5-Pound/dp/B00LFNH69E/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1468955872&sr=8-1&keywords=ammonium+chloride
 - Learn more here:
 - http://shiridgefarm.weebly.com/uploads/3/7/0/4/37041775/preventing_urinary_stones.pdf
- Banamine
 - A pain killer, fever and swelling reducer.
 - <https://horseprerace.com/flunixin-banamine-100ml/>
 - Goes on sale periodically ;)
- B Complex
 - <https://www.jefferspet.com/products/fortified-vitamin-b-complex-100-ml>
 - A boost of B vitamins for sick goats which stimulates and helps maintain rumen function.
 - More about this: <http://www.tennesseeameatgoats.com/articles2/BVitaminso6.html>
- Disposable Needles and Syringes
 - For administering injectables (like the two previous things listed).
- Antibiotics
 - Antibiotics are overused, which causes them to no longer be effective. Consulting a vet before using may be necessary to avoid being a part of this problem.
 - I recommend Biomycin or Pen-G, which have non-stinging agents, as opposed to LA200.