

Twisted A Farm

Goat Care & Tips

HOUSING & SPACE



- Goats are curious and clever animals that love to explore, so secure fencing is essential to keep them safely contained. Strong options such as cattle panels or electric netting work well, as goats can be surprisingly determined and destructive if they want to escape.
- Provide a small, dry, and draft-free shelter to protect them from rain and wet conditions. While goats generally handle both heat and cold in moderate climates, they benefit from extra protection during extreme weather, such as heavy snow or temperatures above 90°F.
- If goats are not able to graze freely each day, be sure to provide a spacious pen that gives them room to move around comfortably.
- Because goats are herd animals, they thrive with companionship and should be kept in pairs or small groups rather than alone.

- Goats thrive on daily grazing and enjoy a variety of grasses, shrubs, and safe, non-toxic plants. It's beneficial to supplement their diet with alfalfa, especially for females. A doe should consume approximately 2% of her body weight in alfalfa each day to maintain good health. Bucks, however, should primarily be fed grass hay, as too much alfalfa can increase the risk of urinary calculi in males.
- Grain may be added to their diet during the winter months or for does that are pregnant or nursing, when their energy needs are higher.
- Keep in mind that some breeds have greater nutritional demands than others. For example, Angora goats require additional calories and nutrients to support their continuous fiber growth.
- Always provide goats with constant access to clean, fresh water



VITAMINS & MINERALS



- Goats are often prone to copper deficiency, so it's important to provide a mineral supplement that includes adequate copper. They are generally very good at regulating their own mineral intake, which means loose, free-choice minerals can be offered at all times. Goats will typically consume only what their bodies require.
- While vitamin and mineral blocks can offer an additional boost, they should not replace loose minerals, as goats may not consume enough from a hard block alone.
- In some cases, injectable supplements such as selenium, vitamin B, or copper may be used to address specific deficiencies. Always consult your veterinarian for proper dosing and guidance before administering any injectable treatments.

- If you plan to breed your goats, prepare a clean, dry, and private space for the doe to kid. A well-bedded, draft-free area helps ensure a safe and comfortable delivery.
- Provide fresh, clean shavings both before and after birth.
- Goat gestation averages 150 days.
- Does are typically attentive, capable mothers and usually allow gentle handling of their newborn kids shortly after birth. Many breeders dry the kids with a towel immediately after delivery. The umbilical cord can be tied off with clean dental floss if needed and dipped or sprayed with iodine to help prevent infection.
- Goats most commonly have twins, but single births and larger litters of three, four, or even five kids can occur.
- For the health and safety of both mom and babies, keep the doe and her kids separated from the main herd for the first 6–10 weeks.



HEALTH & MAINTENANCE



- Regular hoof trimming is important to prevent overgrowth and mobility issues. Hooves should be trimmed as needed to keep them properly shaped and comfortable. Many owners use a stanchion with a small amount of grain to keep goats occupied while trimming hooves with sturdy garden shears or hoof trimmers.
- Routine deworming is typically recommended every six months, though timing may vary based on your area and veterinarian guidance. Some owners use injectable ivermectin administered orally—consult your veterinarian for proper dosing and scheduling.
- Annual CDT vaccinations (Clostridium perfringens types C & D and Tetanus) are an important part of maintaining your goat's health and should be kept up to date.