



All about Goats

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Goats

Introduction

Goats have been around for many years. They are believed to have originated in the southwest Asia and India, but now they are found all over the world. Their main use in the ancient times was for the production for milk, but in today's society they are used for meat supply as well, in show competitions, and as pets. There are a number of breeds and varieties to choose from. Whatever type of goat you choose, there is one specifically for you.

General Description

Most goats look the same except for varying sizes and coloring. Their bodies are long and sleek, usually smooth. The mouth area should be deep and strong with full lips. The poll should be smooth and neat. The nostrils should be fully opened and slightly flared. Some goats may have horns and others do not. But overall, each goat, if compared side by side, looks almost like the one next to them.

Selecting your Goat

When you decide that you want to purchase a goat, you need to decide what type you want. There are dairy goats and meat goats. After choosing between these, you need to decide the age of the goat that you want to purchase and what breed you want. You also need to determine whether you want a male or a female. Females are usually cheaper but they have the greatest risk of reproducing. Either way, you need to make sure you are ready for the responsibility in raising and caring for a goat.



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A Few Words about Breeders

When purchasing or obtaining a goat, you should make sure that the animal is free of disease and has been well taken care of, especially if the animal is to be exhibited. Also, if you are housing the goat with other animals, you should make sure that your new addition will not spread any disease. Buying a goat from a registered breeder is the safest way to get an animal that is healthy and fairly well taken care of. Breeders take the time to have the animals tested. They have them treated if signs of infection do show up. And they make sure that the rest of the litter(s) is not contaminated.

A Few Words about Auctions

Buying a goat from an auction or auction house is a practice that is looked down upon by many people. Auction houses do not require that animals be tested; therefore, you run the risk of taking home a goat that has any disease possible. By the time the signs show up, the rest of your herd have been infected already. Auction houses are not recommended places to buy an animal even if it is usually the cheapest.

How to Choose your New Goat

When shopping for your new goat, the first and foremost thing you need to check is if they are healthy. After that, make sure that they are well-shaped and not overweight. The body should be sleek and muscular, and the skin smooth. The legs of the goat need to be straight and able to hold the goat's weight without any complications. The head of the goat should be alert and have an appearance that shows intelligence. If these items are checked when purchasing your goat, you should have a great animal whether you choose it for show or for a pet.

Preparing for your Goat

When bringing the goat home, you should make sure that everything is set up before it arrives. The first thing you should sure you have is an adequate area to house it. The housing area needs to be dry and free of drafts. In the housing area, the goat needs both a sleeping area and an exercise area. You also need to fence the area where the goat will be housed, not only to keep him in but to keep other animals out.

Other items you will need when bringing the goat home are feeds and water. In addition to the feeds, the goat should also have some hay or grass to chew on.

Care and Feeding

Goat Feeding

While a baby, goats can only consume mother's milk. Most goats, however, are able to eat a basic grain mixture once they reach the adult age. They can also receive grass, vegetable leaves, and other green materials to introduce them to regular food. They should also be introduced to hay, and eventually to the regular grain feeds. If you cannot find a grain mix made especially for goats, you can purchase horse feeds or make your own mix.



You'll need these basics before your Goat comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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Goat Health Care

To keep your goat healthy, you need to make regular observations of the animal and keep an eye out for possible diseases that can affect them. The hooves of an older goat need to be trimmed on a regular basis. If you do not trim your goat's hooves regularly, the goat could develop problems with walking or could develop foot rot.

Goat Containment

Goats can be left in the open most of the time, but they need to have a shelter set up for rainy or cold days. A basic containment area for a goat is relatively easy to achieve. They usually need about 15 square feet of bedding area, with about 50 square feet of exercise space. They need to have straw or shavings to use as bedding, as well as an area for them to eat and drink.

Medical Considerations

Goats are a relatively healthy species. Sometimes however, they end up with an infection or a disease. Some of these ailments include pneumonia, fleas, ticks, tape worms, stomach worms, foot rot and sores, pinkeye, overfeeding, pregnancy toxemia, mastitis, and milk fever. Any of these diseases can be very serious, sometimes even fatal. If any of these are suspected, make sure you contact the veterinarian immediately.

Necessary Items

Goats do not usually require a lot of equipment. The most needed requirements are food and water. They also must have a fenced area and shelter to accommodate them. In addition, feeds and medication should be kept at hand. You will also need to have a means to transport your animal if you need to travel with it; a trailer or back of a truck will do.



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