



LAFAMILIA PYGMY GOATS

Thank you for choosing a LaFamilia Pygmy goat to join your family. I hope you enjoy your goat as much as I enjoy all of mine. Pygmy goats are loving animals full of character, energy, and FUN!

I have put together a collection of information that I have learnt over the past few years of owning Pygmy Goats.

FOOD

Goats are one of the least picky ruminants that you can own, but they do require a healthy balanced diet.

One of the most important things to feed is hay. I feed either Lucerne or oaten hay each morning, they graze throughout the day and then get a mixture of chaff/goat pellets of a night.

My goats love she oak branches, and other natives which I source from local forestry areas.

Lick blocks from a rural store especially made for goats with copper, salt, and minerals.

Goats love fruits and vegetables. I cut them up to avoid choking. They also love dates, sultanas, crackers and weet bix as treats.

Lots of fresh water available especially during summer months. Be careful the water troughs are not a hazard for goat kids and drownings.

I do not overly feed my bucks and wethers pellets or grains due to complications that can arise such as urinary calculi which can result in death. Three times a week is sufficient.

Foods to avoid.....kale, holly trees and bushes, avocado, azaleas, milkweed, wild cherries, peach and palm leaves, nightshade vegetables, rhubarb leaves, chocolate, meat, dairy, crotalaria, dog n cat food, chicken grain.

Never throw their food on the ground as it will get contaminated.

VACCINATIONS

Your kid will have been vaccinated with Glanvac 3 in 1 at 4 weeks and a booster at 8 weeks. Vaccinations are due every 6 mths. They only need 1ml each so if you only have a few goats, purchasing single doses from the vet is more economic than purchasing a full bottle from a rural store. The vaccination only lasts 30 days from opening unless kept in the refrigerator.

DRENCHING/WORMING

There are lots of different worming solutions on the market. I use Zolvix Plus, Startec or Q Drench. I like to swap them around so they don't get a resistance. Worm counts are the best tool to see if your goats need worming.

If you don't have access to a vet, you can check the pinkness inside your goats eyelids. It should be a nice bright pink, not light pink or white. If its on the lighter side, drench should be used by following instructions on the bottle. If ever unsure, ask a vet or experienced breeder for advice. Check every three months and/or if your goat seems unwell. Worm burdens are worse in wet weather.

FENCING AND SHELTER

Goats need appropriate shelter from the wind and rain. Shelters with three walls will give protection from weather and keep them dry, as well as ventilation. Dirt floors are easier to clean and less likely to cause falls from mud and poo in the wet. We use sugar cane mulch for bedding. It breaks down easily and makes clean up more efficient.

Fencing needs to be at least 1m high with small squared mesh to keep the goats in and predators out. Goats like to scratch themselves along the mesh so it needs to be strong.

LICE

Even the cleanest animals can get lice, its no reflection on the conditions they are living in. Goats usually get the biting type rather than the blood sucking ones. Lice are easily dealt with. You can purchase Pestene powder from a rural store and simply sprinkle from their head to their tail, rubbing it

in. Treat again in 10 days and clean out bedding. We use Extinosad. A backliner rubbed in which as proven to work extremely well. August seems to be the time we see live appear.

HOOF TRIM

Goats hoofs need to be trimmed every 6 to 8 weeks. Having rocks or logs for your goats to climb on help with the time frame of trimmings. I have a milking stand which I use to hold the goats still to have easy access to their feet.



BREEDING

Best time to breed a doe is between 12-18mths depending on their size and the size of the buck. Doe's can start cycling every 21 days from as early as 8 weeks old so keeping bucks/bucklings in separate paddocks is most important. You can buy buck aprons for bucks from Painted Persians

Livestock Aids, paintedpersians@hotmail.com which are great and allow bucklings to still be with mum.

WETHERS

If you have bought a wether, their balls will have been banded at 8 weeks old. Over the next few weeks keep an eye on them and apply an antiseptic spray if needed around the banded area. You can buy this 'purple spray' from the rural stores and is a great item to keep in the first aid box. Once the wound is ready/healed, the balls will drop off. This does not hurt the goat.

FIRST AID KITS

Below is a list of things I keep in my goat kit for regular use and those 'just in case' moments

Vaccinations- 20 gauge needles (short n thin), 1ml syringes. Change the needle with each goat.

Drenching- 20ml syringe with a hard piece of tubing attached to the end for easy access down their throat. You can also purchase drenching guns.

Cetrigen wound spray.....purple spray

Activated Charcoal tablets in case of poisoning from eating something they shouldn't have

Gaviscon and Probiotics (human) for upset stomach

Meloxicam or Buccalgesic for pain relief

Vitamin B12 (injection) for sick goats

Vitamin B1 (injection)

V.A.M for sick goats

Disposable gloves

Nasal Aspirator for goats when born if they have breathing difficulties

Digital Thermometer....normal goat temp is 38.5 – 39.7

Alcohol wipes to clean injection sites

Powdered electrolytes for dehydration

Bottles and teats incase you have to bottle feed

Lamb puller for difficult births

Baycox for coccidiosis treatment if it arises.

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Registrations

Member of and goats registered with:

National Pygmy Goat Association of Australia

npgaa.com.au

National Pygmy Goat Association USA

npga-pygmy.com