STARTER GUIDE AND RECORDS

Goat Farming Starter Guide

Breeds, housing, feeding, vaccination and deworming chart, kidding care and a kidding record for small and commercial goat farmers.

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Popular goat breeds in India

Breed	Region	Known for
Sirohi	Rajasthan, Gujarat	Meat; hardy, good for stall feeding
Jamunapari	Uttar Pradesh	Milk and meat; large size, long ears
Barbari	UP, Haryana	Meat and milk; small, good for stall feeding; often twins
Beetal	Punjab, Haryana	Milk and meat; large size
Black Bengal	West Bengal, Odisha, Assam	High-quality meat and skin; many twins and triplets
Osmanabadi	Maharashtra	Meat; hardy and prolific

Housing and space

- Raised slatted floor (about 3 to 4 feet high) keeps goats dry and cuts worm and foot problems.
- Space: about 10 to 12 sq ft per adult goat inside, and about twice that in an open paddock.
- Separate pens for bucks, pregnant does, does with kids, and sick animals.
- Good airflow without cold draughts; shade in summer; keep out rain.

Feeding basics

- Goats are browsers: tree leaves, green fodder and dry fodder should make up most of the diet.
- Give a concentrate mix to growing kids, pregnant and milking does, and breeding bucks.
- Clean water at all times; mineral mixture and salt daily.
- Change feed slowly over 7 to 10 days to prevent bloat and enterotoxaemia.

Vaccination chart

Disease	First dose	Booster	Date given
PPR (goat plague)	3 to 4 months	Every 3 years (as advised)	

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Enterotoxaemia (ET)	3 to 4 months	Second dose after 3 to 4 weeks; then every year before the monsoon	
Foot and mouth disease (FMD)	4 months	Every 6 months	
Goat pox	3 to 5 months	Every year	
Haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS)	3 to 6 months	Every year before the monsoon	
CCPP (contagious caprine pleuropneumonia)	Where advised by the vet	Every year	

Deworming and parasite control

- ☐ Deworm before and after the monsoon, and when a dung test shows worms
- ☐ Check the lower eyelid colour (FAMACHA idea): pale or white means anaemia, often from barber pole worm
- ☐ Rotate the type of dewormer once a year, as your vet advises, to avoid resistance
- ☐ Do not graze very early in the morning on wet grass after rain
- ☐ Control ticks and lice; clean pens every week

Breeding and kidding

Event	Typical
Age at first mating (does)	About 8 to 12 months, when the doe reaches about 60 to 70% of adult weight
Heat cycle	Every 18 to 21 days; heat lasts about 24 to 36 hours
Pregnancy length	About 150 days (145 to 155)
Buck to doe ratio	About 1 buck for 25 to 30 does
Kidding interval	About 8 to 12 months (3 kiddings in 2 years is possible)

Kidding checklist

- ☐ Move the doe to a clean kidding pen about a week before the due date
- ☐ Get help from a vet if there is no kid within 30 to 60 minutes of strong straining
- ☐ Clear mucus from the kid’s nose and mouth; dip the navel in tincture iodine
- ☐ Make sure each kid drinks colostrum within the first hour
- ☐ Weigh, tag and record each kid
- ☐ Watch the doe for retained afterbirth, fever or not eating

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Kidding record

Doe tag	Buck	Mating date	Expected kidding (+150 days)	Kidding date	Kids (M / F)	Birth weights (kg)	Weaning date and weight	Notes

This guide is general information for animal owners and farmers and does not replace an examination by a veterinarian. Vaccine schedules and scheme rules can differ by region and change over time; confirm with your vet, local veterinary hospital or official sources. Questions? Visit vetvaishnavi.com/ask-the-vet or email care@vetvaishnavi.com.

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