

GOATS ACROSS KANSAS SERIES

STARTING RIGHT + KEYS TO SUCCESS

Getting your new goat home can be an exciting time! However, knowing how to properly care for your new project is very crucial. The receiving phase can be a very stressful time for your new goat. We wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a few tips for success!

To maintain your show project's health, it is crucial to carefully monitor your animal throughout their life. This is especially important after bringing new goats home, traveling to shows, weather changes, or other periods of stress. If you think your project is getting sick, you should call your local veterinarian as soon as possible.

Here is a list of important factors of success:

- Fresh, cool water should ALWAYS be available.
- Be sure to provide fresh feed at each feeding, based on dietary need. Show animal complete feeds are offered in a variety of options with a wide range in price and kind. If you have questions about the next phase of your show goat's diet, it's best practice to reach out to your feed dealer, breeder, extension agent or other meat goat project mentors.
- Generally speaking, feed intake and performance increases if animals are fed with a companion animal (even if in separate pens).
- Consistent daily feeding schedules are a crucial part of your project's success, and should be fed both morning and evening.
- Make sure feeders and waterers/buckets are checked daily to ensure they are staying clean and fresh.
- Practice good biosecurity habits as you visit sales and shows in order to maintain a healthy barn and project. Disinfect any equipment used at a show upon returning home.
- Check your project daily for sickness. This could include limping, coughing, scours, poor appetite, snotty nose, droopy head/ears, lethargy, etc. Reach out to your local veterinarian as soon as possible if you encounter any of these symptoms.
- It is recommended to deworm your show goat every 14 days. Also keep your eye out for external parasites such as lice, mites and flies.
- Weighing your project weekly can help keep them on track to meet their ideal show weight. It is best to weigh at the same time each week (i.e. before or after feeding on Sundays). Keep in mind that each goat in your barn could have a different "target" weight that is best for their build and design. Ask your breeder, Extension Agent, project mentor, etc. for help in figuring out what weight would look best on your project at its final show.
- Your project should be kept in a dry, clean pen with plenty of bedding.
- Bedding should be changed weekly. It is best if bedding can be picked daily to remove wet and manure.
- On colder days and nights, especially when working with young goats, a heat lamp or "goat blanket", could be necessary. Once warmer days arrive, air flow and shade should be available at all times throughout the day. A fan may be necessary, depending on barn ventilation.



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Important factors of success, cont.:

- A sheltered pen on an elevated surface that has 3 sides enclosed to protect from rain and flooding is ideal.
- Penning should be a minimum of 40 inches tall. Vertical bar panels are ideal to prevent trapping legs or the animals head, which can cause harm.
- It is ideal to stick to 1 goat per pen, if possible. However, having goats in pens close by increases appetite and willingness to eat. Individual penning is easier to monitor daily feed intake and make cleaning easier.
- Watch for fungus infections, especially after exposing your goat to others at a show. Fungus appears as small, round, red patches on the skin of your goat and can be crusty to the touch. After a show, immediately wash your goat with an antifungal shampoo before loading into your trailer or putting the blanket back on. If goats become infected with fungus, keep a blanket on them and isolate from other animals to prevent spread. For treatment, contact your veterinarian on information regarding proper medications.
- An exercise regimen can make or break your show goat project! At a young age, light exercise will help with muscle growth and development, while exercise at heavier weights is important for maintaining muscle and keeping proper condition.
- It is suggested to run your goats for 3-5 minutes per day.
- Before exercising your project, it is best to familiarize yourself with them and them with you. This is crucial in building a trusting relationship with each other and will lead to success in the ring.

Make it a habit to reach out to your breeder if you have questions about your show goat, they know their genetics better than anyone and can help guide you in the right direction. Your Extension Agent, FFA Advisor, meat goat project mentor, etc. are also great resources for any questions regarding proper management techniques for your animal. We all want to see you succeed!

