

IMPORTING GOATS TO THE UK – GUIDANCE NOTES

Please note the word 'goat' in these guidance notes has a wide definition and includes males, females, semen, ova, embryos or unborn kids in their dams.

There are two aspects to consider before importing goats.

(1) The legal requirements needed to import goats into the UK and as it is a rapidly changing situation with regard to health requirements it is thought best that rather than give information which is correct at the point of writing we refer you to the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (this Centre covers England, Scotland and Wales) – members living in Northern Ireland, The Channel Islands and Isle of Man will need to contact their equivalent organisation. The British Goat Society, therefore, recommends that you contact:

Imports Team
AHVLA Specialist Service Centre for International Trade
Hadrian House
Wavell Drive
Carlisle
Cumbria CA1 2TB
Tel: 01228 403 600 (option 3)
Fax: 01228 591 900
Email: imports@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

For those with internet access there is a wealth of information on their website:

www.animalhealth.defra.gov.uk/imports-exports/index.htm

(2) British Goat Society requirements for registration of Imported (Saanen, Toggenburg, Golden Guernsey and Anglo Nubian) Goats into the Herd Book

The following guidelines set down the criteria, which the British Goat Society Committee will expect to be met, and also the conditions it will normally attach to any approval for the registration of imported goats in pure breed sections (Saanen, Toggenburg and Golden Guernsey) and the Anglo Nubian section of the Herd Book. The guidelines are a direct application of Object 2(c) "To improve the various breeds of goats, and especially to develop those qualities, which are generally recognised and valued". Current regulations will apply to the progeny of a goat that has been recognised by the BGS Committee as pure bred.

Please note the following Regulation from the BGS Rules and Regulations:

Regulation 3 (9) Registration of Imported Goats

Where the Committee is satisfied that an imported goat is of pedigree status and is registered by a Goat Society or Club in the country of origin the committee may approve registration of the imported goat into the appropriate breed or other section of the herd book. Where the goat is entered into the British section of the herd book the committee may make provision for the progeny of an imported goat to be entered into one of the breed sections of the herd book subject to the registration status of the other parent.

Conditional approval should be sought from the Committee **BEFORE IMPORTATION TAKES PLACE**. Prospective importers' requests for conditional approval should be made, in writing, to the Secretary of the BGS. Using delegated powers, conditional approval may be given (or refused) by the Chairman of the BGS Committee in consultation with the Chairman of the Herd Book Working Group, if no Committee meeting is due within one month of the request.

Within 14 days of the goat being imported a copy of the following documents should be submitted to both the BGS Secretary and the Herd Book Co-ordinator:

- (a) Documentation to prove the goat has been legally imported.
- (b) An officially authenticated and complete six-generation pedigree for each goat.
- (c) Proof that the unique identification (eg eartag) has been verified. This can be done by a vet, BGS judge or BGS committee member.
- (d) The goat will be registered with the first name 'Imported' followed by a name which must contain no more than 12 characters. The name must contain a minimum of two letters and, if number are used, a maximum of four numbers.

The above information will be presented at the next available Committee Meeting and the importer of the goat advised within 10 days of the decision.

09.09.2013