

FACTS

ABOUT

GOATS

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY INFORMATION LEAFLET NO 6

GOATS - KEY FACTS

- Seasonal Breeders
- Able to kid for the first time at 14 months of age given good rearing
- Able to milk for 18months - 2years with breeding every year

GOAT PRODUCE

- Goats can be kept for milk, fibre and meat production
- Goats milk can be used to produce
 - Liquid milk
 - Yogurt
 - Cheese
 - Cream
 - Ice Cream
 - Butter
 - Fudge
 - Soap

HOUSING

- Goats kept for dairy production tend to be housed in loose straw yards with feeding passages
- These need to be
 - Light
 - Airy
 - Draught free
 - Allow sufficient feeding, loafing and lying space for all members of the group (1.5 - 2 sq m per goat typically)
- Goats are inquisitive and persistent and housing needs to reflect this
- many goat farms in the UK do not graze their animals, enabling milk flavour to be kept consistent and eliminating the need for high levels of internal parasite control

FEEDING

- Goats are ruminants and therefore need diets consisting of high quality forage appropriate to age and stage of lactation
- Typical foodstuffs liked by goats and used in dairying feeding on a large scale include

- Maize silage
- Grass silage
- Red clover silage
- Sugar beet pulp
- Brewers grains
- Hay
- Soya Meal
- Lucerne
- Dairy rations



WHAT CAN THE BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY DO FOR YOU?

- Be the first point of contact for those interested in setting up goat keeping or goat farming businesses
- Offer advice and support on the management of goats for milk and meat
- Provide information on potential sources of stock, supported by registration and milk recording data from the Society's Herd Book
- Access advice on export of high quality stock
- Keep you up to date with information about goat health, welfare and legislation that could affect your business

THE 5 FREEDOMS APPLIED TO GOATS

Freedom from Hunger & Thirst

- By providing a suitable forage based diet according to yield and growth stage
- By providing suitable vitamin and mineral supplements where appropriate
- By providing a constant supply of clean, fresh water

Freedom From Discomfort

- By providing buildings that are light, airy and draught free
- By providing a minimum floor area of 1.5 - 2sq m per goat
- By ensuring sufficient feeding space to allow group members to feed simultaneously and prevent bullying
- By ensuring sufficient pen width is available to allow loafing and resting
- By housing in yield and or age groups

Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease

- By ensuring regular hoof trimming (every 8-10 weeks)
- By ensuring housing and penning are secure and appropriate for goats
 - By regular vaccination against clostridial and other diseases (where appropriate e.g Johnes Disease)



Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour

- By ensuring group size is appropriate for available space
- By ensuring appropriate forage based diets

Freedom from Fear and Distress

- By ensuring sufficiently skilled and experienced stock people
- By ensuring sufficient pen space to prevent bullying and competition for food

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