

Are you interested in keeping Pygmy Goats?



- ***Who should I go to for informed advice?***
- ***What facilities do I need?***
- ***What are the needs of a Pygmy Goat?***
- ***Do I want to be a pet owner or a breeder?***



***For the answers
to these questions
please read on...***

Who should I go to for informed advice?

Contact your local Regional Advisor (details below) who will be happy to advise you on all aspects of goat keeping. They will also be able to suggest which recommended breeders to approach for stock and give you information on current legal requirements. You can also visit our website at www.pygmygoatclub.org.uk for information.

What facilities do I need?

The facilities required depend on the number of goats that you intend to keep and whether you want to just have two purely as pets or whether you intend to breed in the future and build up your own herd of pygmy goats.

If the former, then a reasonably sized garden free of plants and with plenty of hard standing would be suitable. You will need to erect a shed of approximately 6ft x 8ft for shelter with adequate ventilation - bedding must be supplied.

If you intend building up your own herd you will require more land and more accommodation. In either circumstance you will need stock proof fencing, 4ft (122 cms) in height.

What are the needs of a pygmy goat?

They will need good facilities, lots of attention, an environment which includes objects of varying heights to jump on and off for amusement and a regular feeding/husbandry routine. Feeding - It is important to note that pygmy goats are browsers and not grazers. Good quality hay must be fed ad lib throughout the year and other forages such as leaves and branches in the summer and alfalfa (legume) in the winter, a small amount of suitable cereal mix twice daily and water changed also twice daily.

Routine tasks - Vaccination every 6 months against clostridial diseases. Your Farm Animal Vet will advise the most appropriate vaccine (e.g. Ovivac P Plus). Check hooves for trimming every 4/6 weeks. Worming depends on individual circumstances and advice on this should be sought from your vet or other experienced person. Bedding must be changed regularly and you will need to make arrangements for the disposal of soiled bedding. You should be aware that pygmy goats are a long term commitment - they can live well into their teens. You must also have alternative care plans in place should you go on holiday etc.

Do I want to be a pet owner or a breeder?

It is most important to be clear on this from the beginning. If you don't intend breeding then two wethers (castrated males) would be your ideal choice. If you wish to become a breeder then take your time, seek advice and look around for the best available stock.

Recommended Publication

Pygmy Goat Keeping by Pat Mercer

Available to purchase on the website

Pygmy Goat Club Regional Advisors:

www.pygmygoatclub.org.uk/about-us/regional-advisors



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