

Getting Started with Your First Pygora Goats

There are several places to purchase supplies. You can find these supplies at several places including Caprine Supply, Jeffers, Premier 1 Supplies.

Start with the basics:

Food

We feed Purina Goat Chow to supplement free choice grass hay. Goats tend to waste hay so finding a good hay feeder is both economical and labor saving. We have plans for a covered outdoor bale feeder that can be made from supplies at your local hardware store. Just ask and we will send them to you.

We also feed free choice loose mineral, our choice is Purina Goat Mineral. It works best to put small amounts out regularly to keep it fresh. Goats can also benefit from free choice baking soda.

Water

Clean cool water in the summer. We empty and refill tanks weekly in the summer.

Clean warm water in the winter. We use heated water buckets in the winter.

Shelter

Goats need to have shelter from the elements. It is best if they can all fit in the same shelter together. The shelter should have clean dry bedding. We use pelleted shavings under a layer of straw. It is best for the goat's respiratory system if the shelter is well ventilated but not drafty.

Fencing

Goats can easily escape poor fencing so good fencing is essential. There are several good options depending on your budget and situation. Premier 1 offers portable electric netting, but it is extremely important to train the goats (ours are all used to this type of fence) and keep the fence energized at all times. Good permanent options include livestock panels or woven wire fencing. Choosing smaller openings reduces the risk of animals getting stuck in the fence.

Then move on to health:

The following is a list of basic items you should consider purchasing. Consult with your vet for recommendations in your area. These are items that should help you get started.

Vet

Find a vet that is willing and capable of treating your goat routinely and in an emergency. This can be more difficult than you think, so be sure to call around and find one you are comfortable with.

Goatkeeping 101 (book)

An end to end basic care and guide to owning goats

Hoof trimmers

We prefer the "orange handle" type

Thermometer

A digital thermometer

NutriDrench

All purpose nutrient rich drench. Used for weak, sick or lethargic animals that can use a pick up.

Dewormer

Check with your veterinarian on which dewormers are effective in your area.

LA200

Broad spectrum injectable antibiotic

Shearing Equipment:

If you plan to shear yourself we have tried several setups - the best is hiring someone 😊 but if you are planning to do the shearing yourself here is what we use

Oster A5 Turbo 2 speed clippers

TDQ blades

Take Down Quick blades. We usually use the Wide Coarse blade which leaves 3/16".

Drenching Syringe

Used to administer fluids orally

Syringe and Needle

3cc and 6cc with 20 and 22 gauge in either 3/4" or 1" needles

Rubbing Alcohol

For disinfecting

Iodine

For cleaning wounds

VetWrap

For wrapping cuts

TriCare Ointment

For healing cuts.

Lice Dust

Insectrin dust is available at TSC in a canister. Shake a little on after shearing and a few times during the winter to ensure you do not have any trouble with lice.