



WELCOMING HOME YOUR NEW GOATS!

*THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING
MARBELL ACRES FARM!*

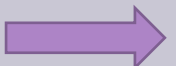
We put a lot of thought into our breeding matchups to ensure we have strong, healthy, beautiful kids and the easiest birth possible for mama. We love all the babies that are born here and wish we could keep them all, so we know you will love them just as much as we do!

The first few days after you bring your new babies home will be a transition; they have left the comfort of their home, their herd and their mamas. They are learning the routines of a new family and new environment – please be patient with them and give them time to adjust! They will oftentimes call out for their

mamas for a few days before settling into a new routine. We rarely sell just *one* goat. They are herd animals and do best in groups of three or more. When introducing new goats to an already established herd or an area that has never had goats before, we have found it helps to introduce them in pairs around the same age, so they have a familiar friend to bond with as they make their transition. We started with two wethers (fixed male goats) and now have a herd of over 50 (goat math)!

A typical day on our farm starts with grain and fresh water in the **morning** – our girls eat *Blue Seal Caprine Challenger* and *Black Oil Sunflower Seeds* mixed with *Blue Seal Dairy Goat pellets* and our boys eat *Blue Seal Start and Grow*. The grain for the boys is medicated and contains ammonium chloride which helps prevent urinary blockages (basically kidney stones for male goats that are caused by eating too much grain and can be deadly)! The boys need grain to help them grow but too much grain (and especially the wrong kind) can be a problem, please do your research on grain for male goats if this applies to you! After breakfast and **throughout the day**, the goats have free-choice access to second-cut hay, water and minerals. We use *Sweetlix 2:1 Meat Maker* loose minerals. *Sweetlix* contains more copper than other minerals and helps keep their coats nice and shiny and soft! Their daily routine consists of lounging/playing on wooden cable spools, cinder block “towers,”

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rocks, etc. and sunbathing while they “chew their cud.” They love to hear the sound of their hooves on different surfaces. The more “activities” you can provide, the more fun the goats will have throughout the day and they will be less likely to get into mischief! The goats **end their day** with another helping of grain, fresh hay, water and minerals and are securely locked in the barn with our two Livestock Dogs, Denali and Willow.



As you get to know your new friends, we recommend taking time to just sit quietly and observe them. It will help a long way down the road to get to know their individual routines and quirks to be able to tell when something seems “off.” Goats will hide any signs of illness from you until they are so sick that they cannot anymore, so it is important to be in-tune to their everyday habits! They are creatures of habit and will let you know when something has changed in their daily routine – one day, a plastic bag flew into our pasture and the entire herd hid in the back of the barn until we took care of it!

We have found that goats are relatively easy to care for. They require the basics – sanitary housing (we rake out our barns once per week), good quality pasture (and/or hay), minerals, nutritious food, strong fencing and plenty of time for fun outdoor activities! They do NOT like to get wet. Please do not lock your goats outside if there is a chance of rain or snow. Like dogs, they do need to have their hooves trimmed roughly once per month (unless you have rocky terrain to help wear them down).

As mentioned above, our goats grow up with our two Livestock Guard Dogs, Denali and Willow – they sleep together at night and spend all day together, so they are used to having a dog around. However, not all dogs are safe around goats. In fact, dogs are goats’ number one predator! We have four dachshund/chihuahua mixes that we would NEVER allow out around the goats. If you plan to have your dogs around your goats, make sure you are supervising their interactions and **do not** ever allow them to chase your goats. This can cause them an immense amount of stress making them more susceptible to illnesses.

We want you to be successful goat owners and we want your goats to live their best lives so please feel free to call, email, text, or Facebook Message if you have any questions about your new goats!

The next few pages include a brief overview of goat care and some tips/tricks we have learned along our journey to become “goat farmers!”



SHELTER/FENCING NEEDS



HERD HEALTH & VETERINARY CARE

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD FENCING

Our 8–10-foot stockade fence may be a little extreme, but it is what we decided would be best and give us the most peace of mind to contain our goats. A couple of days after we brought our first two wethers home, we were both gone to work and one of them jumped our SIX FOOT stockade fence and disappeared! We got home and couldn't find him anywhere...sure enough when we looked back on the cameras, he went right up and over the fence! We never in a million years thought he would be able to do that. Now, we don't put anything to chance when it comes to baby goats (and even some of our more agile adults). We found our wether later that day (Campbell pictured on the right) about a mile down the road, he jumped the neighbors fence and was in with their goats!



Fencing is expensive but it is a worthwhile investment to do it right the first time. You want to make sure the fencing you choose will keep your goats in and keep predators OUT (coyotes, the neighbors dog, etc.) Options that work well are chain-link fence panels, stockade fencing, cattle panels, electric netting (Premier 1 is a good choice for electric fencing), etc. If you do

choose electric netting, make sure you monitor the goats as they become familiar with it. They can become easily tangled and they are not used to that type of fencing at our farm.

SHELTER/BARN NEEDS –



As we discussed above, goats need protection from the elements. They absolutely do not like to get wet so a dry area protected from rain, wind and snow is a necessity. Their housing does not have to be fancy with insulation and heat. In fact, it is recommended that you do not add anything extra for heat because they will not grow the thick winter coat necessary for getting through Maine winters. Your goats will snuggle together when it is cold. As long as they have access to hay and fresh water, the fermentation in their rumen will help to keep them warm! We also provide buckets of “goat tea” twice a day when it is really cold out to help warm them up. “Goat tea” is a fancy way of saying a warm, steaming bucket of water (with maybe a drop of molasses added to encourage them to drink)! As soon as we put buckets of “goat tea” down in the wintertime, they are usually empty within a couple of minutes so you may need to offer a few refills.

In addition, you will notice that goats waste A LOT of hay, so there is often hay mixed into their shavings which also adds warmth in the winter. You want to make sure their bedding stays dry. Oftentimes farms use the “deep-litter” method in the wintertime to help keep the goats warm. This means you let the hay and manure build up in the shelter from the first super cold stretch in late fall/early winter until the first warm day in the spring, adding a layer of fresh shavings each week. The “composting” of the manure underneath the shavings helps to add extra heat in the wintertime – although the spring cleaning project can be a struggle and if your ceilings are low, it gets hard to walk in the barn! We try to time our full cleanings of the barn in the wintertime around upcoming cold-snaps.



HERD HEALTH & VETERINARY CARE



CDT Vaccine –

All goats receive their first CDT (Clostridium perfringens type C + D and tetanus) immunization before leaving our farm at 8 weeks. The immunization will need to be repeated in 3-4 weeks, then once annually. The immunization is recommended to prevent overeating disease and tetanus. You can have a veterinarian administer the CDT immunization, or you can purchase the vaccine, syringes and needles at Tractor Supply Company (or other farm stores/online farm suppliers).

Deworming/FAMACHA –

Goats will require deworming from time to time. We do not deworm on a predetermined schedule, we deworm on an as-needed basis to prevent resistance to available antibiotics. You will not likely need to deworm your young kids – but sudden weight loss, faded coat or pale eyelids are signs you may need to deworm. Please reference the FAMACHA guide on the right and reach out to your veterinarian to learn more about when deworming is necessary. In general, any of the signs above and pale pink eyelids in the area depicted on the FAMACHA guide are warning signs.



It is fairly common for young goats to develop diarrhea (scours) when making changes in diet, under stressful situations or because of coccidia. In these instances, we offer Probios paste – the probiotic supplement will support their GI health while making a transition from milk to all hay/grain and the stress of having to leave mama. The paste will sometimes say “equine” which is fine it is the same stuff, just make sure you dose correctly. The good news is – it is very hard to overdose a goat on Probios! Once they start licking the paste, they should make quick work of it. Make sure you also offer plenty of fresh water! If you suspect coccidia, characterized by lethargy and loss of appetite, please reach out to your veterinarian right away!



Goat Colds/Other Illnesses –

It is possible and actually quite common for goats to get “colds” – cough, sneezing, runny nose, etc. It can be concerning, however the colds usually clear up on their own. You can always offer them a few drops of Apple Cider Vinegar in their water to help their immune systems fight it off quicker and you should keep an eye on their temperature. Colds can in some instances turn into pneumonia which is typically characterized by a fever above 103.5. We recommend consulting your vet in these cases for advice/antibiotic treatment.

In addition, there are several plants that are **very toxic** to goats. We recommend doing research to make sure none of the plants you have around the goats new area are toxic. Some of the more common ones that we see issues with are azalea, rhododendron, and hemlock. On the contrary, pine trees (especially Christmas Trees) are amazing for goats and provide them with an excellent source of Vitamin C! If you have trees you do not want destroyed (goats will eat the bark off your trees), we recommend wrapping everything within goat height in chicken wire.

Trimming Hooves –

As discussed briefly in the beginning, goats will need their hooves trimmed about every 4-6 weeks (depending on the kind of terrain you offer). It is easy and goats tolerate it well as long as you get them used to it when they are young! When they are smaller, have someone hold them while you trim. As they get bigger, you can give them some grain while trimming. We trim ours on the milk stand. Especially for doelings, it helps them get accustomed to being on the milk stand and its easier on us to clip their hooves when they are locked in and distracted by grain. You want to clip the excess hoof that folds under to keep their hooves level and flat, don't forget the also trim the heel! Overgrown, or improperly trimmed hooves can lead to problems with legs and the general health of your goat, including hoof-rot which is difficult to eradicate once it happens.

Veterinarians –

It is important to have a good relationship with a veterinarian before issues come up. We have had great luck with **Hill & Harbor Veterinary Services** out of Gardiner. They are a Mobile Vet and will come to you!

RECOMMENDED CHECKLIST FOR YOUR NEW GOATS

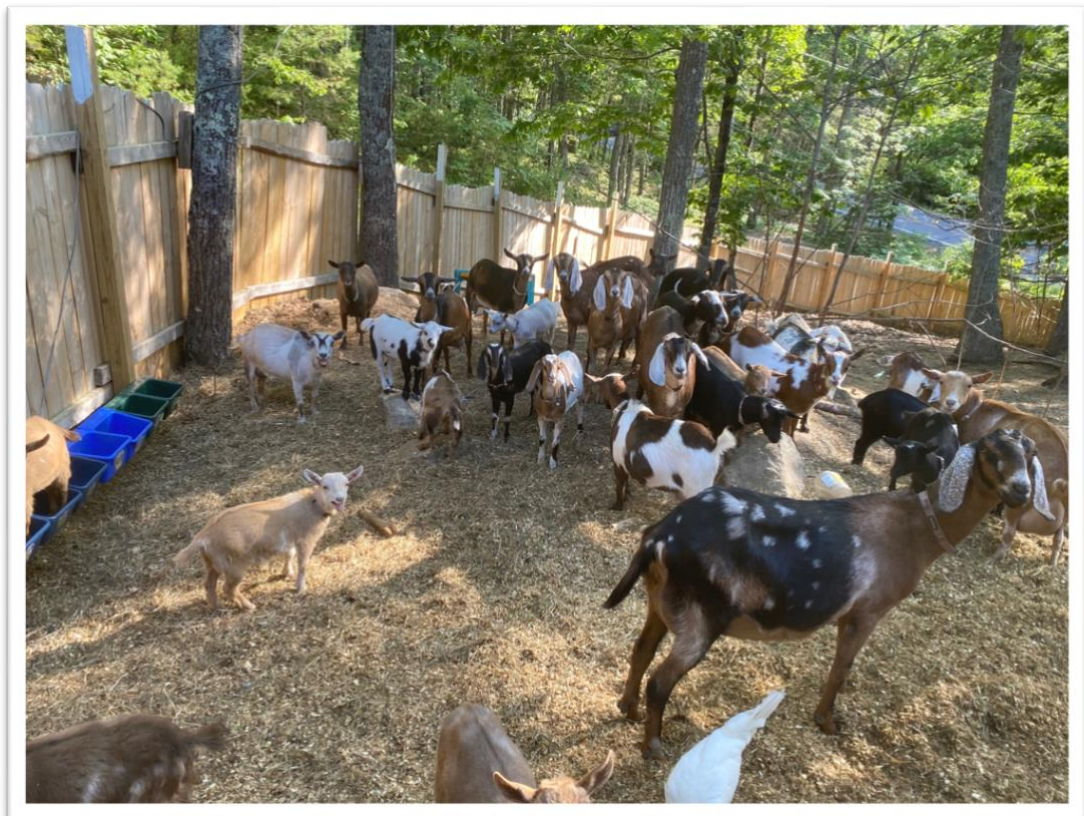
- Make sure you have a dry and draft-free shelter, pine shavings for bedding and water buckets
- Prepare *secure* fencing for a goat pen or pasture
- Good, quality second-cut hay (the general rule of thumb is 25 bales per goat per year). It usually comes off the field in late-August/early September. 24/7 access to free choice hay is ideal.
- Mineral feeder with Sweetlix 2:1 Meat Maker
- Administer a CDT vaccine within one month of bringing your goats home
- Grain: Blue Seal Caprine Challenger (for doelings) or Blue Seal Medicated Start and Grow (for bucklings). After 6 months, your male goats will not need grain.

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Website:



www.marbellacresfarm.com