

Stoney Creek Farm



Pets and Wethers Information Package
www.stoneycreekfarmstud.com

Pets and Wethers:

If you are looking for a pet goat, we recommend our bottle-raised wethers - they are an ideal animal as a pet.

Wethers (de-sexed males) are most often recommended for pet homes. They are super friendly and loveable, without the hormones. Also, they are generally the least expensive option compared to does. Do not buy bucks (intact male) for pets – they are not suitable as pets and no reputable breeder would ever recommend or sell you a buck as a pet.

You need at least two goats for every situation, including pets. Miniature goats get along well with many other animals including dogs, alpacas, donkeys, chooks, horses and other animals, but goats are a herd animal and require other goat company to live happy and healthy stress-free lives.

Due to biosecurity reasons, chickens, ducks and geese etc can cause health problems if allowed to access the goat feed dishes and vice versa, so do your research about keeping different types of animals together.

Goats have a pecking order, much like chickens. Even if you only have two goats, one will likely be the boss. They may butt or mount each other to assert their dominance, but this is normal goat behaviour.

Babies:

Buying baby goats is similar to buying a puppy. They will need additional care, attention and training while they are young. We don't recommend putting them out in a large paddock or scrub situation until they are older.

All Stoney Creek Farm goats are bottle-raised, vaccinated, and cleared for CAE and Johnes disease.

Transportation:

These are companies we trust and recommend to our customers who require transportation for their goats.

Road:

www.tumialpacas.com.au
www.animalarktransport.com

Air:

www.jetpets.com.au

Pricing



Wethers

Our wethers are \$600 + GST. Due to high demand, we require a 50% deposit of \$300 + GST to secure a place on our waitlist. We operate on a first come, first service basis - meaning, if you are the first on our waitlist, you will be first to choose your wether. This gives you the advantage of choice amongst the available wethers. Wethers are available for both Nigerian Dwarf and Australian Miniature Breeds.

General Information

Nigerian Dwarf Wethers

Origin:

The Nigerian Dwarf goat is a miniature breed of dairy goat originating in West Africa and developed in the United States. The first breed genetics were imported to Australia in 2013.

The MGBA has adopted standards and rules (including DNA parent verification) to support the use of imported semen in genetic recovery programs (percentage breeding) in Australia.

Temperament:

Gregarious, friendly with a calm and playful nature. Very gentle and loveable, easy to train.

Size:

Adult does up to 57cm and Bucks/wethers up to 60cm. They grow only to the size of a medium-sized dog.

Lifespan:

If in good health and well looked after, Nigerian Dwarf goats can live anywhere between 10 to 15 years.

Australian Miniature Wethers

Origin:

The Australian Miniature Goat is an Australian breed established in 2000. The breed was originally developed by pairing carefully selected smaller stature animals of excellent type from purebred and crossbred full sized goats and small Australian bush goats, cashmere and angora goats to ensure hardiness of animals and produce a “designer” animal perfect for the small land holder that met the individual owner’s needs – fleece, hair, weed eater, companion and all round perfect pet.

Temperament:

Gentle and loveable, easily trainable. They are gregarious, friendly with a calm and playful nature. Good temperament, tractable, alert, curious, intelligent, co-operative and friendly.

Size:

While the breed is still under development, with breeders continuing to work on both refinement of type and reduction of height an MGBA registered Australian Miniature Goat has a maximum height allowance of 63.5cm. Purebred adults 57cm for does and 60 cm for bucks. Animals are measured and classified for a Grade at 3 years.

Lifespan:

If well looked after an Australian Miniature goat can live between 10 to 15 years

Suitability:

The Australian Miniature Goat has an impeccable temperament making the breed suitable for pets for young and old alike.



FAQs

What do we feed our goats?

Oaten lucerne mixed chaff, Steamed flaked Barley and Barley or grassy lucerne hay.

Noisy? How Do They Compare With Other Domestic Goat Breeds?

Some are quieter than others, some are very quiet whilst others mostly the males can be loud at times, however, no worse than other breeds of goats.

What Are The Best Environments For Them To Be Kept In?

Nigerian goats tend to fret if alone, 2 or more is fine. The ideal situation for the Nigerian Dwarf goats to be kept, should be in clean pens, free from dampness, drafts and pest like flies and rodents. They will require adequate fencing due to their small size. Nigerian Dwarf goats do not thrive in air-tight buildings, they need ventilation to keep them in good health. A mixture of sun and shade would be ideal.



Infrastructure Needed

Nigerian Dwarf goats do not require a lot of space to keep them. Not as much housing as other goats, due their small size. The shelter of 1.2m x 1.5m would be ideal for 2 goats, otherwise enough room for them to romp around and play. Plenty of clean, fresh water. Goats are particular about the quality of water, changing daily at least. Shovel manure at least once a day, otherwise it attracts flies, rodents etc. Trim goats' hooves every 6 weeks or so, dehorn- ing may be necessary, particularly with bucks with larger horns, but not necessarily a standard procedure.

Nigerian goats can suffer complaints like pneumonia, lice, worms and udder infections. Vaccinations once a year and they should be wormed 3-4 times a year. Land and a PIC number is required for the goats and each state has their own requirements - please check with your local council for more information.

Goats need a permanent shelter from the hot sun, rain and wind. Baby goats can use a large dog kennel, and adults need a draft-free, roomy shelter. When breeding you will need to consider safe and warm areas for kidding. Stables, sheds of all types, calf hutches, old cubby houses and water tanks can all be suitable for miniature goats.



What Sort Of Fencing Is Needed?

Many different fence types are suitable – normal farm fencing with sheep mesh/dog mesh/chain wire/chicken wire all work. Solid regular wood or metal fencing also work well. Babies may be able to get through the fence for a few months depending on their size so you may need a temporary solution for that. Adult miniature goats are not likely to go over say 1.2 metre fence, however, they will go under if there are any holes or gaps around the gate so you need to check your boundary regularly. Secure fencing will protect your goats from toxic plants and other hazards outside your designated area. We recommend such fencing to protect your goats from predators such as wild dogs. We also recommend installing an offset electric fence to deter your goats from rubbing against it.