

BOXWOOD AVENUE

GOAT SHOPPING LIST

helpful supplies for raising healthy and happy goats



BOXWOOD AVENUE

FARMHOUSE LIVING



Welcome!

My name is Chloe, I write the blog [Boxwood Avenue](#), and I am so happy to meet you! I live on a cattle ranch in Northern California and am absolutely in love with GOATS!!!

Over the past couple of years, I've learned a lot about goats, and am passionate about sharing this knowledge with others so that you can keep your goats healthy and happy! Please keep in mind I am not a veterinarian, so this information should serve as reference.

When it comes to raising goats, I have found that one of the most invaluable tools is to connect with a knowledgeable veterinarian that can help in times of great need.

Facebook groups are also a wonderful asset! Speaking of, I have a facebook group I'd love for you to join! It's all about [Homesteading and Living Simply](#).

If you enjoy this e-book, please share it with your friends! And let me know on [instagram](#)!

Happy goating,
Chloe

DAILY NECESSITIES

Hay or Grass:

Goats need roughage for their rumen to work properly. High quality grass hay is what we feed our goats. You can purchase this from a feed store or from a local hay ranch. We feed a few flakes every morning which lasts them throughout the day. If it is very cold, I also feed a little hay at night to keep their metabolism going throughout the night (to keep their body temp up). Consult your vet if you are concerned how much feed to give your goats.

It is best to feed the goats in a feed rack or feeder, this helps prevent them from going to the bathroom on their food and keeps them from wasting anything! We built our own wooden feed rack, but they can be purchased at feed stores.

Alfalfa or grain? I do not suggest feeding alfalfa or grain unless your goat needs it. Alfalfa and grain are helpful for weight gain or energy, particularly in lactating or pregnant does.

GOAT HACK: You can mount a metal rectangular wire laundry basket to the wall and it works as a feeder! Sold at WalMart.

Water:

Goats need access to clean, fresh water at all times. Goats, especially wethers, need water to help prevent urinary tract issues. In the winter months, it is kind to bring warm water out to the goats to make sure they are drinking enough. You can also add a little bit of electrolytes if you are concerned that your goats are dehydrated.

Shelter & Bedding:

Goats need shelter to protect them from the elements. A small barn or three sided enclosure will suffice. We turned a garden shed into our goat barn, it is about 10x10' and works very well for our 4 goats.

Pine shavings or straw are common forms of bedding for goats. We use shavings because our goats eat the straw!! I typically go through one bag of bedding/week, it is about \$8/bag from my feed store. Always keep extra on hand - it's such a pain if you have time to clean the barn and then realize you don't have any replacement bedding! We also add a layer of stall freshener to the floor (under the bedding) which helps absorb ammonia.

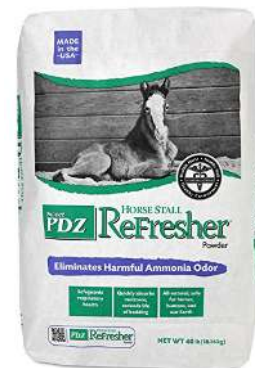


HEATED WATER BUCKET

(winter months)



WATER BUCKET



STALL FRESHENER



METAL WATER TROUGH

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Shovel + Pitchfork:

Goats go to the bathroom a lot...and the more goats you get, the more waste they create. I use a shovel and pitchfork to clean up their messes daily (like a litter box). And once a week, I do a big clean out where I remove all of the soiled bedding and lay down fresh shavings. Having a LARGE wheelbarrow makes this so much easier!

Wheel Barrow:

Find yourself a big wheelbarrow! I have linked one here, but you can also find them at supply stores. It's nice to be able to clean out the barn in one or two loads!

Extra Buckets:

One of the greatest inventions of all time: the bucket. Having extra buckets on hand is invaluable especially for carting around hay, feed, and water!



WHEEL BARROW



SHOVEL



PITCH FORK

SUPPLEMENTS

Baking Soda:

Baking soda is known to help prevent bloat. I have read some articles that say there is no scientific evidence that baking soda does anything, but I have found great success with it! I put baking soda out “free choice” and my goats consume as much or as little as they’d like. I have not had a problem with bloat yet!

Mineral:

Goats need mineral to supplement their diet. The hay you purchase will be lacking in minerals and vitamins. You can purchase goat mineral from large supply stores; however, I discourage you from doing so because this mineral has all sorts of junk added in to it! Instead, consult with your local veterinarian to source mineral that has been specifically developed for your area. This mineral will be made specifically for your region, and will not have additives.

Treats and Grain:

Grain can be beneficial for goats in need of extra protein or calories. This is common for show goats, ill goats, or pregnant/lactating does. I do not suggest feeding grain if your goat does not need it. It would be like you eating a cupcake every day. However, goats love treats! Try blueberries, carrot slices, strawberries, banana slices, or goat treats...just don’t over-do it.

HYGIENE

Hoof Trimmers:

Goats need their hooves trimmed periodically. If done improperly (or not done at all), it can result in arthritis and pain. Have someone teach you how to properly trim hooves, or ask your vet to do it when your goats get vaccinated. Be VERY careful with the trimmers, they are incredibly sharp and it’s easy to stab yourself or your wiggly goat!

Brushing:

Goats grow cashmere undercoats in the wintertime. It’s best to just let them “be” during the winter months, they need as much of their coat as possible. Come spring, they’ll begin to shed and the soft cashmere will begin to come out. This makes them itchy! They love being brushed, you can even zip tie a brush to your fence and they’ll use it as a scratching post!



HOOF TRIMMER



CURRY COMB



GROOMING GLOVES

HEALTH CARE

There are countless medications that you can give to your goat depending on illness. It is important to begin by giving your goat a once-over to determine any obvious external problems. Is your goat off feed? Is your goat standing away from the herd? Then, take your goat's temperature!

It's best to consult your vet if you feel that your goat needs medication. I would avoid diagnosing your goat via the Internet as there are *so* many things that can go wrong.

Thermometer:

Taking your goat's temperature should be the **first** thing you should do when a goat is sick (aside from assessing obvious external problems). Goat's body temp is anywhere between 102-103 F, but give or take a degree or two depending on weather. If a goat has a high temp., you can generally assume antibiotics + anti-inflammatory medication will be helpful. A goat's temperature will give you treatment direction, having a thermometer is crucial.

Vitamin B & Vitamin C:

Vitamin B is essential for goat's metabolism and neurological health. If a goat becomes ill, a dosage of vitamin B & C is almost always helpful. I like to keep a bottle of each in our fridge ready to administer when needed. Goat polio is treated with vitamin B. Copper toxicity can be initially treated with vitamin C injections, although the outcome may vary (it's very hard to cure).

Power Punch or Nutridrench:

Power punch or nutridrench are great natural energy boosters that can be helpful when you have a sick goat that needs some extra calories / vitamins.

De-Wormer:

Goats are very sensitive to parasites so it is important to monitor your goat for them. Check their FAMACHA levels weekly. I also take in fecal samples for testing roughly 3 times a year to make sure they are parasite free. Ask your vet which de-wormer is best for your area, it varies and some wormers are not effective in certain parts of the country. We use Ivermectin, and my vet administers once a year, twice a year only if needed (after fecal testing).

Vet Wrap:

Vet wrap and gauze are two items to always keep on hand when raising goats (and horses for that manner). Whether you need to keep a wound wrapped or use vet wrap to bandage an injured goat, you will be grateful to have this on hand!



POWER PUNCH



VITAMIN B & VITAMIN C



THERMOMETER



VET WRAP & GAUZE

HEALTH CARE

Probiotics:

Goats are ruminants and keeping the pH in their rumen balanced is the key to a happy and healthy goat. Sometimes stress can cause the pH to become unbalanced - weather, additions to the herd, food change, etc... Probiotics are a great way to help boost a goat's rumen during times of stress to prevent illness.

Vaccinations:

Goats need to be vaccinated yearly. CD/T (Clostridium Perfringens Types C&D + Tetanus Toxoid Vaccine) protects against overeating disease and tetanus - kids should receive a booster 30 days after first shot. At this time you might also ask your vet if a Selenium shot is necessary. I suggest de-worming at this time too. Give a probiotic afterwards to help the rumen keep normalcy with the added stress!

Electrolytes:

Electrolytes can help dehydrated or recovering goats. I like to add it to the water during times of extreme heat or cold.

Other Common Medications:

Always consult your vet first!

NUFLOR: A very good antibiotic for pneumonia.

OXYTETRACYCLINE: Broad spectrum antibiotic.

DRAXXIN: Is a respiratory antibiotic. This is an expensive drug, but very effective. We use it for cattle as the "last chance shot".

ALBON (Sulfadimethoxine): Helps treat Coccidiosis.

BANAMINE: Anti-inflammatory that can also reduce fever, pain, or help with gut problems.

BoSe: A selenium shot to help with deficiency. Selenium overdose can occur so only use under vet prescription!

C&D ANTITOXIN: A very broad spectrum medication known to help a goat that has ingested poisonous plants, has bloat, over eating disease, and much more. This drug is safe to use but lasts only 12 hours, it will cure what it can within that time frame. It voids previous CD/T vaccinations, so goat should receive a new vaccination 5 days after administering antitoxin.



ELECTROLYTES



PROBIOTICS



ANTI TOXIN

Iodine:

Iodine (or beta-dine) is a basic disinfecting solution that is very helpful in fully cleaning minor wounds. You'll want to have this on hand for those times when your goat gets into a predicament it shouldn't be! This is a surgical prep solution that disinfects entirely!

READ MORE

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I GOT GOATS

RAISING GOATS: KEEPING THE BARN CLEAN

THE BEST RESOURCES FOR RAISING GOATS

- more on boxwood avenue -

MY FAVORITE SKINCARE PRODUCTS

HOMEMADE KITCHEN COUNTER CLEANER

DIY LIQUID HAND SOAP

THE BEST GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS

GET TO KNOW CHLOE MACKINTOSH

TAKE A TOUR OF MY HOME

