



Causes of Poor Goat Well-Being

The following situations or conditions can compromise animal well-being, and cause suffering:

- Cruelty: causing physical harm, mental harm, pain or suffering to an animal
- Neglect: failing to care for an animal, and:
 - Endangering an animal's health by not providing adequate food or water
 - Restraining an animal in a way that causes pain or jeopardizes animal health
- Abuse: causing physical harm and/or pain to an animal
- Abandonment: deserting an animal or leaving an animal without making provisions for the animal's long term care
- Negative feelings such as pain, fear, frustration and distress
- Prolonged periods of thirst or hunger
- Prolonged periods of restraint and immobility
- Illness, injury or disease
- Crowding

Signs of Poor Goat Well-Being

- Goats are prey animals and may not show obvious signs of pain, injury or disease.
- However, goats that are sick or in pain may display some of the following behaviors or signs:
 - Being less active than typical
 - Being less social than typical
 - Isolating itself from the rest of the group
 - Having its tail down and hunching its back
 - Eating and drinking less than typical
 - Grooming less than typical
 - Hair coat is dull, dirty or looks rough
 - Difficulty walking
 - Signs of swelling or injuries
 - Discharge from the eyes, nose or other areas
 - Swollen, red or discolored udder
 - Sick animals may be attacked by other, healthy animals
 - Goat weighs less than it should for its particular stage of production

Do You Have an Animal Well-Being Concern?

- Call your local police department.
- For livestock and poultry concerns, contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) <http://www.in.gov/boah/>.

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Goat Well-Being



Marisa Erasmus
Purdue University
Department of Animal Sciences

Quick Goat Facts

- Goats are excellent at climbing
- Goats have one stomach with four chambers (rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum)
- A female goat is called a doe or nanny
- A male goat is called a buck, billy goat or he-goat
- Goats have a strong social hierarchy and will fight to determine who is dominant



What is Animal Well-Being?

Animal well-being or animal welfare is the ability of an animal to cope with its environment and living conditions.

Animal well-being is more than simply being healthy; animal well-being includes:

1. An animal's feelings or emotions, such as contentment
2. An animal's ability to perform natural behavior, such as grooming, stretching and turning around fully
3. An animal's health and biological functioning, such as not having injuries or disease



Important Goat Behavior

- **Feeding and drinking:** necessary for health and proper biological functioning
 - Lambs need colostrum after birth
- **Grazing and ruminating:** goats spend a large proportion of the day browsing, grazing, ruminating and resting. Rumination is important for health.
- **Grooming:** keeps coat in good condition and reduces disease and parasites



Caring for Goats

- Provide fresh, clean water.
 - Water should never be frozen.
- Goats are social animals that become distressed when isolated from the group - house goats together.
- Provide shelter for does that are about to kid.
 - Goat kids born outdoors are at a high risk of dying when weather conditions are bad.
 - Goat kids need clean, dry bedding.



- Provide high quality feed
 - Do not give goats moldy feed.
 - Provide roughage
 - Energy and nutritional requirements are higher for 1) pregnant animals, 2) animals that are producing milk and 3) animals that are growing.
 - These animals may need supplemental feed.
 - Consult a nutritionist for proper feed practices
- Trim hooves as needed.
- Check goats often for diseases, parasites and injuries
- Contact your local veterinarian if you detect these problems.