

Disaster Preparedness for your GOATS

Are you prepared to take care of your goats when a disaster strikes? If not, NOW is the time to stock up on the items that you will need so that you will not get caught unprepared. Listed below is a handy shopping list for you to use. The next time you buy food or supplies for your goats, take this list with you. Don't put off doing what you should do now – it may just make the difference in being able to keep your goats alive when a disaster strikes.

SHOPPING FOR YOUR GOATS

Here are the supplies that you should have in a Disaster Kit for goats. Adjust the amounts, depending on the number of goats.

1. FOOD:

- _____ Always have a reserve supply of hay and whatever else you feed your goats that would last two weeks.
- _____ Have an extra supply of feed buckets or troughs in case you have to evacuate your goats during the pre-disaster or Evacuation Alert time and you have to take your supplies with you to your goat's evacuation destination.
- _____ If your goats are fed any additional grain/goat text, store food for your disaster kit in an airtight, waterproof container and clearly mark all your containers with large lettering with your personal info.
- _____ Rotate food at least once every three (3) months. Do NOT use any feed that has gone moldy!
- _____ Include a knife with your disaster supplies in case you have to cut bale twine or open bags. Also, include a spoon and extra bucket for mixing up special concoctions that your goats may be used to eating.

2. WATER:

- _____ Goats require clean, fresh water, so be sure to always have a supply to last at least (3) days, per goat.
- _____ If you do not have the capacity to store large quantities of water, then be sure you have enough large, clean garbage cans to haul water to your goats.
- _____ Store water in a cool, dark location, and be sure to rotate it so it remains fresh.
- _____ Remember that if the tap water is not suitable for humans to drink, it is also not suitable for animals to drink.

3. CLEANING SUPPLIES:

- _____ Have at least one week's shavings or straw available at all times designated for disaster use only. It is important to keep your goat's stall or quarters clean following a disaster. Filthy surroundings added to any injuries the goats have sustained can cause medical problems to develop.
- _____ If you know where your goat's evacuation destination is, you may not require a wheelbarrow/pitchfork. Most centres will have supplies available, but be prepared in case you need to provide your own cleaning supplies.

4. IDENTIFICATION / COLLARS:

- _____ We recommend microchipping your goats. This is a permanent way in which to be able to always positively identify your goats. Keep a copy of the microchip registration and phone number in your kit. Microchips are usually placed in the tail webbing of a goat.
- _____ We also recommend tattooing. This is usually done inside the goat's ears or tail webbing (depending on the breed and also the registry if your goat is a registered animal). If you need temporary id on a goat, you can also spray paint your driver's license on the goat. Use permanent ink and write your name, address and phone numbers on all collars/leads.

5. PICTURES:

- _____ You should keep some current photos of your goats in your disaster kit, to use in case your goats are lost during the disaster. Include yourself in some of the photos so you can prove ownership.

6. FIRST AID KIT:

- _____ Check with your vet to find out what is recommended to be included in YOUR First Aid Kit for YOUR goats. Some suggested items may include:
 - a) Hoof trimmers
 - b) Scissors
 - c) Flashlight
 - d) Syringes
 - e) Blood Stop Powder or Cornstarch
 - f) Electrolyte Replacement
 - g) Kaopectate
 - h) Bag Balm
 - i) Anti-Bloat Drench
 - j) Vegetable Oil
 - k) Ammonium Chloride

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| l) Paper Towels | o) Rubbing Alcohol | q) Milking Supplies (for lactating goats) |
| m) Vet Wrap | p) Betadine Solution | |
| n) Gauze | | |

7. MEDICATIONS:

- _____ If your goats are on medication, be sure to keep a reserve supply in your kit, along with directions on how to administer. Be sure the medication does not expire and keep it rotated.
- _____ Have enough medication to last at least two weeks.
- _____ Keep a copy of your goat's vaccination and deworming history in your kit.
- _____ If you vaccinate, be sure your goats are up-to-date with tetanus vaccinations since in a disaster there can be a lot of sharp debris laying on the ground.

8. VET INFO:

- _____ Write on a piece of paper or card, the name, address and phone number of your regular goat vet and keep this information in your kit.
- _____ It is important to write out a release form authorizing another party to get emergency medical treatment for your injured goats in case you are not available to give approval during a disaster. Keep this on file with your current and alternate veterinarian as well as with ALERT.

9. TRANSPORTING:

- _____ Depending on the size and number of goats, you may require a horse trailer to transport them. If you do not have one, make sure you have an arrangement with someone who does during a disaster.
- _____ For smaller goats, you may be able to use a pet carrier, or wire crate to transport them. Ensure they have some bedding material in the bottom of the crate such as shavings or straw, and that they have enough room to comfortably lie down. For longer trips, or if they need to be confined temporarily within the crate, also make sure there is enough room for food and water.
- _____ Familiarize yourself with the disaster animal response team in your area and notify them at Evacuation Alert time if you need help evacuating your goats.

REMEMBER:

- Do not feed goats any food that has become wet or contaminated in any other way. Moldy hay or feed can cause a number of serious illnesses. Have your goats learn to eat/drink from several different types of buckets.
- Goats should be given access to hay throughout the day. Ensure you can continue to maintain their hay supply as best you can or arrange with ALERT to provide them continuous access to hay, if possible. Also try to maintain the same schedule for any additional food or supplements that you normally feed your goats.
- Try to avoid abrupt changes in the kind or amount of food you feed. Goats can quickly develop bloat if given too much grain or other types of foods, which can be a life-threatening condition.
- The water in swimming pools can be used for drinking as long as it does not have algae growing on it (pool water should only be used for drinking water during an emergency).
- Check with the disaster animal response team for water distribution centres in your community during a disaster. If you are going to make use of rivers and streams, make sure the water is drinkable.
- It is important to practice good biosecurity measures with your goats, and you should try to maintain this as much as possible during a disaster. To avoid any possible transfer of disease among animals, keep your goats separated and as far as possible from others. Disease can also be transferred through feces, so avoid keeping your goats in an area that has recently housed other goats.
- Intact bucks (males) will need to be kept separated from other goats!

If you would like more information about being prepared during a disaster, or becoming a trained disaster Volunteer for animals, or if you want someone to speak to a group regarding the Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team, please contact:

Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT)

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