

## Animal welfare matters

Owning animals comes with a responsibility to provide for their care and wellbeing. Take some time to find out what your animals need by checking the codes of welfare and regulations. Regulations make it easier for MPI to take action against animal mistreatment. Fines for breaching animal welfare regulations start at \$300 for individuals and go up to \$25,000 for businesses. Some breaches may also result in a criminal conviction.

If an animal's welfare is seriously compromised, higher penalties under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 apply.



**Checki**

Are you doing it right? Encourage others to check too at [www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)



**Ask!**

Email us your questions to [animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz)



**Telli**

Call us about an animal welfare issue on **0800 00 83 33**



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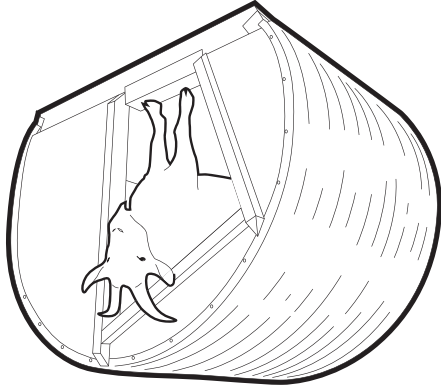
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Goats We're not kidding around

Goats are **social animals** and prefer company so it's best not to tether them. They're also not as tough as they seem, so they need good shelter.

If you have to tether your goat, it must have constant access to **food, water and appropriate shelter**. The equipment you use to tether your goat should meet some basic standards.

Goats' horns also need to be considered, and if you need to undertake husbandry procedures, care must be taken to **minimise any pain or distress**.

Check on your goat regularly.



## For more information

Many of the regulations come from the codes of welfare. These set out minimum standards and recommended best practices when caring for animals. Codes that may be relevant to you include:

- **dairy cattle**
- **deer**
- **dogs**
- **goats**
- **horses and donkeys**
- **llamas and alpacas**
- **pigs**
- **sheep and beef cattle**
- **transport within NZ**

You can find the regulations, our guidance on the regulations, and the codes of welfare on our website at [www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)

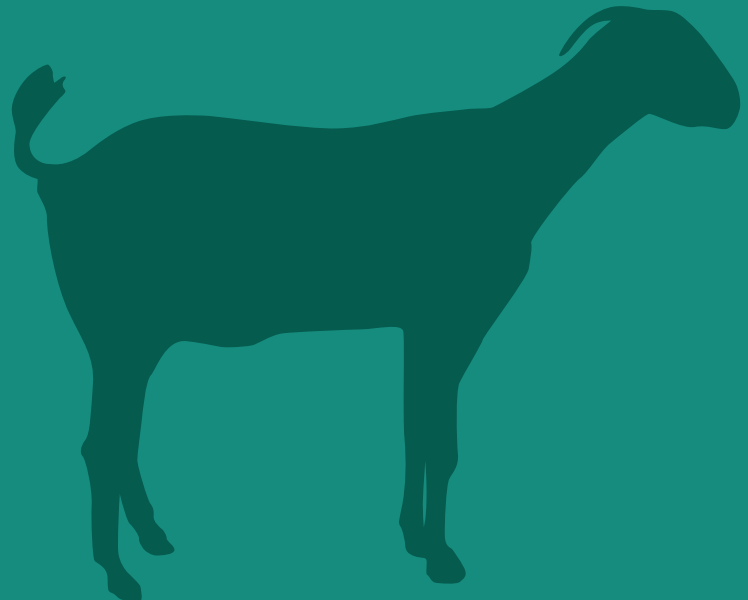
Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



November 2022

Animal Welfare Regulations

# Goats



## Shelters, tethers and collars

We've got this covered

It's best not to tether goats. If you have to, they must have access to **shelter** at all times, which:

- ✓ is dry
- ✓ shades them from the sun and rain
- ✓ protects them from the extremes of heat and cold.

Tethered goats must also have access to **food and water** at all times.

**Collars** must:

- ✓ be the right size and fit for the goat – poorly fitted collars can cause pain and distress
- ✓ allow for normal breathing, panting and drinking
- ✓ not be so tight or heavy that they can cause skin abrasions, cuts or swelling
- ✓ not be so loose that they can cause an injury.



**Tethers** must:

- ✓ be an appropriate length and material to allow for normal breathing, panting and drinking
- ✓ keep them from being caught up on nearby objects and injured.
- ! Goats should not be permanently tethered.
- ! Check your goat's shelter, collar and tether regularly.

## Castration

In a nutshell

Castration must be done by someone who is competent to undertake this procedure, using the right equipment. It is painful at any age and pain relief is always recommended.

- ✓ If castrating a goat **over 6 months old**, throughout the procedure you must use **pain relief** authorised by a veterinarian.
- ✓ If using a **high tension band** to castrate a goat of any age, throughout the procedure you must use **pain relief** authorised by a veterinarian. A high tension band is one that is mechanically tightened during application (doesn't include a rubber ring).

**Rubber rings** are the preferred method of castration.

## Horns

A pointy issue

**Ingrown horns are painful.** An ingrown horn is when any part of the horn pierces, inflames or causes abrasion to any part of the body.

- ✗ Do not allow your goat's horn to become ingrown or transport a goat with an ingrown horn.

## Disbudding and dehorning

Disbudding or dehorning are painful and must be done using **pain relief** authorised by a veterinarian.

It is better to disbud young animals, rather than dehorn older ones.

These procedures must be done by someone who is competent, using the right equipment.

Caustic paste is not a good method for disbudding goats, both in terms of efficacy and welfare. It is recommended to use **thermal cautery with pain relief** authorised by a veterinarian.