Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock:

Goats

Defra Consultation
Draft Code of Recommendations for the welfare of livestock:

Goats

Note

After consultation, this Code (which consists of paragraphs 1-174) will be put before both Houses of Parliament for authority to issue it under Section 3 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968. This Section allows ‘the Ministers’ to produce Codes of recommendations for the welfare of livestock, and to issue such Codes once they have been approved in draft by both Houses of Parliament. However, the original definition of ‘the Ministers’ (see Section 50 of the 1968 Act) has been changed to reflect devolution for Scotland and Wales and the creation of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. In England, the powers of ‘the Ministers’ were first transferred to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food by the Transfer of Functions (Agriculture and Food) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/3141) and then transferred to the Secretary of State by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Dissolution) Order 2002 (S.I 2002/794).

In Scotland, the powers of ‘the Ministers’ had previously been transferred to the Scottish Ministers by Section 53 of the Scotland Act 1998 (1998 c.46) and, in Wales, the powers of ‘the Ministers’ had previously been transferred to the National Assembly for Wales by article 2(a) of the National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/672).

Any reference in this Code to advisory publications is for information only and does not form part of this Code.
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Preface

This preface is not part of the Code; instead, it explains the Code’s role and the broad considerations on which it is based. The legal text in shaded boxes throughout this document is not part of the Code either but highlights the legal position. The text in these boxes is the law as it stands on the date that this Code is published or reprinted (please turn to the back cover for this information). You should be aware that any of the legal requirements quoted here could change – you should check that these are an accurate statement of the law as it currently stands. (See the Appendix for a list of relevant legislation).


Regulation 10, provides that:-

Any person who employs or engages a person to attend to animals shall ensure that the person attending to the animals:

- is acquainted with the provisions of all relevant statutory welfare codes relating to the animals being attended to;
- has access to a copy of those codes while he is attending to the animals; and
- has received instruction and guidance on those codes.

Any person who keeps animals, or who causes or knowingly permits animals to be kept, shall not attend to them unless he has access to all relevant statutory welfare codes relating to the animals while he is attending to them, and is acquainted with the provisions of those codes.

In Regulation 2 it states that ‘statutory welfare code’ means a code for the time being issued under Section 3 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968.

To cause unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress to any livestock on agricultural land is an offence under Section 1(1) of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968. The breach of a Code provision, whilst not an offence in itself, can nevertheless be used in evidence as tending to establish the guilt of anyone accused of causing unnecessary pain or distress under the Act (Section 3(4)).


Regulation 3(1), states that: -

owners and keepers of animals shall take all reasonable steps:
- to ensure the welfare of the animals under their care; and
- to ensure that the animals are not caused any unnecessary pain, suffering or injury.


Regulation 3(3), states that:
In deciding whether the conditions under which animals are being bred or kept comply with the requirements set out in Schedule 1, the owner and keeper of the animals shall have regard to their species, and to their degree of development, adaptation and domestication, and to their physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.


Regulation 11, states that:

Where an authorised person considers that animals are being kept in a way which is likely to cause unnecessary pain, suffering or injury, or in any other way in contravention of any provision of these Regulations, he may serve a notice on the person appearing to him to be in charge of the animals requiring that person, within the period stated in the notice, to take any action that the authorised person considers to be reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with these Regulations and the authorised person shall give his reasons for requiring that action to be taken.


Regulation 13(2), states that:

In any proceedings against an owner or keeper of animals for a failure to comply with regulation 3(1) or 3(2) (as read with regulation 3(3)), the owner or keeper, as the case may be, may rely on his compliance with any relevant recommendation contained in a statutory welfare code as tending to establish his compliance with the relevant regulation.

The Code aims to encourage all those who care for farm animals to follow the highest standards of husbandry. Without good stockmanship, animal welfare can never be properly protected. If stock-keepers follow this Code it will help them to meet the necessary welfare standards. No matter how acceptable a system may be in principle, without competent, diligent stockmanship, the welfare of the animals cannot be adequately catered for.

The welfare of goats is considered within a framework that was developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council and known as the ‘Five Freedoms’. These form a logical basis for assessing animal welfare within any husbandry system, together with taking the action necessary to protect animal welfare within the limitations of an efficient livestock industry.

The Five Freedoms are:

1 FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST
   - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;

2 FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT
   - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;
3 FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE
- by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment;

4 FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR
- by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals’ own kind;

5 FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS
- by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

In taking account of these freedoms, those people who care for livestock should demonstrate:

- caring and responsible planning and management;
- skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious stockmanship;
- appropriate environmental design (for example, of the husbandry system);
- considerate handling and transport of animals; and
- humane slaughter.

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<tr>
<th>The Protection of Animals Acts 1911-2000 contain the general law relating to cruelty to animals. Broadly it is an offence (under Section 1 of the 1911 Act) to be cruel to any domestic or captive animal by anything that is done or omitted to be done.</th>
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<td>Section 12(2) of the 1911 Act empowers a police constable to place in safe custody, animals in the charge of persons apprehended for an offence under the Act until the end of proceedings or the court orders the return of the animals. The reasonable costs involved, including any necessary veterinary treatment, are recoverable from the owner upon conviction.</td>
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<td>Under section 1 of the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954, as amended by the 1988 Act, the court has the power to disqualify a person convicted under these Acts from having custody of any animal. The ban can specify a particular kind of animal or all animals for such period as the court thinks fit.</td>
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<td>The Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 2000 supplements the 1911 Act by allowing a court to make an order relating to the care, disposal or slaughter of animals kept for commercial purposes that are the subject of a prosecution brought under the 1911 Act by a “prosecutor”. A “prosecutor” is defined in the 2000 Act to include certain bodies that conduct prosecutions (Crown Prosecution Service, Government departments and local authorities) and any person or bodies approved by the Department for Environment for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The 2000 Act then allows reasonable costs to be recovered from the owner by the “prosecutor”.</td>
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[This Code only applies in England and will be issued by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (following its approval in draft by both Houses of Parliament). It replaces (also only in England) the existing Code, which was issued in 1989.]
Similar Codes will be produced in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Until these new Codes are issued, the existing Code will continue to apply in Scotland and Wales. Separate arrangements exist in Northern Ireland.

THIS WELFARE CODE WAS ISSUED ON............
Introduction

1 This Code (which only applies in England) covers all goats. “Goat” refers to all caprine stock. A kid refers to any animal of caprine stock of up to six months old.

2 The Code’s recommendations apply to goats under all husbandry systems. Section 1 of the Code gives the recommendations that apply to all ages and types of goat. Section 2 covers those recommendations that apply to specific categories of goats (such as kids, breeding goats and dairy goats). If these recommendations are followed they will help protect the stock’s welfare. The Code’s recommendations are not a complete list and they are not meant to replace expert advice, such as from a veterinary surgeon.

3 The husbandry system that is used, and the number and stocking rate of goats kept at any one time, should depend on:
   • the suitability of the farm environment;
   • how many animals the farm can accommodate at one time;
   • available fodder or supplementary feedstuffs;
   • the competence of the stock-keeper; and
   • time available to carry out necessary duties.

4 Goats kept in England cover a variety of breed types. The majority of farmed goats are used for milk production, although, a limited number are farmed for their hair (cashmere). Some are used in landscape conservation schemes and some for meat production which is largely a by-product of the goat dairy industry. A number of goats in England are kept as pets, for example, pygmy goats.

5 There is a vast range in the size of goat herds in England. In general, the larger the size or the productivity of the herd, the more skill and care is needed to protect welfare. No changes should be made to husbandry, equipment or production until the possible effects on animal welfare have been considered.

6 The relevant animal welfare legislation applies to owners as well as to any person looking after goats on their behalf, wherever the goats are located. A written contract can be useful in making sure that everyone involved is clear about their animal welfare responsibilities. However, the obligations imposed by law will still apply, whether or not a contract exists. Certain aspects of livestock husbandry can present hazards to the health and safety of the stock-keeper. Advice on such matters is available from the local Agricultural Safety Inspector of the Health and Safety Executive.

7 Organic goat farming is conducted according to additional, legally enforced standards. However, nothing in those organic standards affects the legal responsibilities of farmers regarding positive animal welfare. Any matters, which appear to conflict with organic standards should be discussed with your organic certifying body. In addition you should seek expert advice from a veterinary surgeon.
Section 1 – Recommendations for all goats

Stockmanship

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) define a “keeper” as ‘any person responsible for or in charge of animals whether on a permanent or temporary basis.’

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 1, states that:

Animals shall be cared for by a sufficient number of staff who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence.

General

8 The most significant single influence on the welfare of any goat herd is the stock-keeper who should develop and carry out an effective routine for continuing care. The stock-keeper should draw up a written health and welfare plan with the herd’s veterinary surgeon and, where necessary, other technical advisers, which should be reviewed and updated each year. This plan should set out health and husbandry activities that cover the whole year’s cycle of production, and include strategies to prevent, treat or limit existing disease problems. The plan should include records (see paragraphs 52 – 54 ) to enable you to monitor and assess the health and welfare of the herd. The plan must be acted upon when action thresholds are reached.

9 Those responsible for farm management should make sure that the goats are cared for by sufficient numbers of well-motivated and competent staff. Each breed of goat has its own unique characteristics. Staff need to be aware of the particular welfare needs of goats in their care and be capable of protecting them from all expected problems before they are given any responsibility. This means that the staff need specific knowledge and skills, which they should develop on-farm by working with a skilled stock-keeper who is experienced in the relevant system. Wherever possible, staff should attend a course run by a suitable training organisation. Ideally, the training should lead to formal recognition of competence. Any contract or casual labour used on the farm in busy periods should be trained and competent in the relevant activity.

10 Stock-keepers should be knowledgeable and competent in a wide range of animal health and welfare skills, which should include:

- handling skills (see paragraphs 16 - 17);
- ear tagging (see paragraphs 20 - 21);
- preventing and treating certain basic or common cases of lameness (see paragraphs 31 - 36);
- preventing and treating internal and external parasites (see paragraphs 37 - 38);
- administrating medicines both orally and by injection (see paragraph 39);
• providing appropriate care to sick and injured goats (see paragraphs 42 - 48);
• providing appropriate care to young kids (see paragraphs 113 - 130);
• castration (see paragraph 137);
• milking (see paragraphs 168 - 174); and
• record keeping (see paragraphs 52 - 54)

It is particularly important that stock-keepers are competent in knowing the signs of kidding and simple deliveries, if this is part of their role. If they are expected to perform specific tasks on-farm, such as foot trimming, then appropriate training should be given. Otherwise, a veterinary surgeon or, for certain tasks, a competent and trained contractor will be required.

11 The capabilities of the stock-keeper(s) in charge of the goats are a significant factor in determining the size of a herd. The herd size should not be increased, nor should a unit be set up, unless the stock-keeper(s) have the skills necessary to safeguard the welfare of every animal in their charge.

**Inspection**

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<th>The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 2, requires that:</th>
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<td>- All animals kept in husbandry systems in which their welfare depends on frequent human attention shall be thoroughly inspected at least once a day to check that they are in a state of well-being; and</td>
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<td>- Animals kept in systems other than husbandry systems in which their welfare depends on frequent human attention shall be inspected at intervals sufficient to avoid any suffering.</td>
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12 The health and welfare of animals depends on them being regularly inspected. All stock-keepers should be familiar with the normal behaviour of goats and should watch for any signs of distress or disease. To do this, it is important that stock-keepers have enough time to:

- inspect the stock;
- check equipment; and
- take action to deal with any problem.

There are more detailed inspection rules for kids (see paragraphs 118 - 120).

13 Stock-keepers should know the signs of good health in goats, which include:

- general alertness;
- free movement;
- active feeding and rumination;
- good coat condition;
• firm round droppings;
• absence of lameness, visible wounds, abscesses or injuries;
• clear bright eyes; and
• freedom from external parasites.

14 The stock-keeper should be aware of the signs of ill-health in goats, which include:

• listlessness;
• unusual behaviour, including separation from the herd;
• loss of body condition;
• loss of appetite or water consumption;
• a sudden fall in milk yield;
• constipation;
• scouring (diarrhoea);
• no rumination;
• scratching and frequent rubbing;
• excessive hair loss;
• discharge from the nostrils, mouth or eyes;
• excessive salivation;
• persistent coughing;
• rapid or irregular breathing, including panting;
• abnormal resting behaviour;
• swollen joints;
• lameness;
• mastitis; and
• discolouration of milk or urine.

15 You should be able to anticipate problems of ill health or recognise them in their earliest stages. You should take steps without delay to establish the cause and take appropriate action. You should always consider the possibility that goats may be affected by a notifiable disease (see paragraphs 40 - 41). If the cause is not obvious, or if your immediate action is not effective, a veterinary surgeon must be consulted, and if necessary, expert advice should be sought on other technical factors involved – failure to do so may cause unnecessary suffering.

**Handling**

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations (S.I. 2000 No. 1870), Schedule 1, Paragraph 30, states that:

No person shall apply an electric current to any animals for the purposes of immobilisation.

16 Goats should be moved calmly and at their own pace, without being hurried by stock-keepers or dogs. You should encourage them gently – especially around
corners and where it is slippery underfoot. You should avoid using too much noise, excitement or force. You must not put pressure on, or strike at, any particularly sensitive part of the body (such as the head or udder). Anything that you use to guide the animals (such as a stick) should only be used for that purpose and must not have a sharp or pointed end. Dairy goats are more easily led than driven. Goats should not be lifted by the head, horns, legs, tail or coat. Goats may be restrained by placing a hand firmly on either side of the lower jaw behind the ears. Goats shall not be restrained permanently.

17 All stock-keepers should have access to easy-to-use and efficient handling pens (the right size and scale for the type and number of animals in the herd). This is so that you can routinely manage and treat the animals, and make sure that they are quietly and firmly handled. It is essential that the handling pens are protected from extreme weather due to the susceptibility of goats to wet and humid conditions and strong sun. You should keep all pens, races (narrow passageways), crushes (restraining gates to assist handling) and floors in good condition and make sure that they are free from any sharp edges or projections which might cause injury to the goats. Where possible races should be gently curved rather than have right-angled bends.

**Transport off-farm**

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997 No. 1480) Schedule 2, Part II, Paragraph 15, states that:

1. Animals shall not be suspended by mechanical means, nor lifted or dragged by the head, horns, legs, tail or fleece.
2. No person shall use excessive force to control animals.
3. Subject to sub-paragraph (4) below, no person shall use—
   a. any instrument which is capable of inflicting an electric shock to control any animal;
   b. [Not relevant]
   c. [Not relevant]
4. [Not relevant.]
5. Nothing in this provision shall prevent the suspension by mechanical means of a receptacle in which an animal is being carried.

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997 No. 1480), Schedule 2, Part II, paragraph 10 states that:

1. Animals shall be loaded and unloaded in accordance with this paragraph.
2. Save as provided in sub-paragraphs (6) and (7) below they shall be loaded and unloaded using suitable ramps, bridges, gangways or mechanical lifting gear, operated so as to prevent injury or unnecessary suffering to any animal.
3. The flooring of any loading equipment shall be constructed so as to prevent slipping.
(4) Subject to sub-paragraph (6) below, ramps, bridges, gangways and loading platforms shall be provided on each side with protection which is-

(a) of sufficient strength, length and height to prevent any animal using the loading equipment from falling or escaping; and

(b) positioned so that it will not result in injury or unnecessary suffering to any animal.

(5) [not relevant]

(6) An animal may be loaded or unloaded by means of manual lifting or carrying if the animal is of a size that it can easily be lifted by not more than two persons and the operation is carried out without causing injury or unnecessary suffering to the animal.

(7) An animal may be loaded or unloaded without equipment or by manual lifting or carrying provided that, having regard to the age, height and species of the animal, it is unlikely to be caused injury or unnecessary suffering by being loaded or unloaded in this manner.

18 You should have the facilities on-farm to load and unload goats onto and from a vehicle, with as little stress as possible. Stock-keepers should know how to handle animals during loading and unloading, including:

- goats enjoy human contact and are far more easily lead than driven;
- instruments such as sticks should only be used to guide animals and must not be used in any way which causes unnecessary pain or unnecessary suffering;
- goats should be handled calmly;
- goats must not be lifted or dragged by the head, horns, legs, tail or coat (see box above).

19 Movements off-farm of goats normally take place under a general licence, which sets out the rules that must be followed. Movements should be reported to local authorities within 3 days of the movement taking place. For more information contact Defra or your Local Authority.

**Identification**


20 The law states that all goats must be permanently identified by an official ear tag or by tattoo as soon as possible and before it leaves the holding of birth or reaches its first birthday. Ear tags should be fitted or tattoos applied by a properly trained and competent operator, so that the animal does not suffer any unnecessary pain or distress – either when the tag is fitted or tattoo applied or at a later date.
Where tags are used think carefully about the best type for your animals. A suitable style and size of tag should be used for the breed of animal. Make sure that you fit the tag correctly by following the manufacturer’s instructions and using the correct applicator for the model of tag you are fitting. Always fit the tags under hygienic conditions. Do not use tags where the applicator, rather than the tag, punches the hole. Such applicators can transfer tissue from one goat to the next and are therefore more likely to spread disease. Tag application equipment should be suitably disinfected between each animal.

21 When fitting ear tags or tattooing, you must properly restrain the animals. You should take care to position and insert tags correctly, avoiding main blood vessels and ridges of cartilage. When inserted the tag should be properly closed to minimise snagging. Remember to leave a suitable gap under the tag and at the edge of the ear to allow for growth. If you are tagging goats during the fly season (i.e. summer) you should take precautions to prevent the animals being irritated by flies, such as housing the animal and/or using insect repellent.

22 Due to the extra risk of spreading disease with tattooing rather than tagging, especial care is needed with hygiene. Regular checks should be made for the next few days for signs of local infection. Seek expert veterinary advice if a problem continues. Cleanse and disinfect equipment between each animal.

23 If you are marking the goats with neck bands or chains, and tail bands or leg bands (which you use for herd management identification purposes) you should fit them carefully and adjust them as necessary to avoid causing the animals any unnecessary pain, suffering or injury. All bands or chains should be checked frequently to ensure they are not too tight or have caused any injury. If you use aerosols or paints for temporary marking, make sure you only use non-toxic (safe) substances designed for this purpose.

24 You can find out more information on goat identification and goat movements from your local Animal Health Divisional Office.

Health

General

25 Maintenance of good health is the most basic requirement affecting the welfare of the goat. Measures to protect health include good hygiene, good husbandry and effective ventilation. Vaccinations may be appropriate against certain diseases. You should ensure that only authorised veterinary medicinal products, including vaccines, are used.

26 The written health and welfare plan (see paragraph 8) should also, as a minimum, look at:

- biosecurity arrangements on-farm and in transport;
- purchased stock procedures;
• any specific disease programmes, such as caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE), listeriosis, clostridial disease, Johne’s disease, salmonella, orf, tuberculosis, caseous lymphadenitis and brucellosis;
• vaccination policy and procedure;
• isolation procedures;
• external and internal parasite control (including lungworm);
• lameness monitoring and foot care;
• feed supplementation;
• routine procedures, such as ear tagging / tattooing;
• mastitis control.

The health and welfare plan should make sure that animals get any necessary medical and preventative treatment at the correct time and in the correct dose. For further information contact your veterinary surgeon or husbandry adviser.

27 In geographical areas with known mineral deficiencies and imbalances – and where vitamin or mineral deficiencies are likely – you may need to supplement the animals’ diet. This should be covered in your written health and welfare plan. Equally, too much of a particular vitamin or mineral may cause problems. For example, too much copper can lead to copper poisoning although, in general, goats are more likely to be deficient in this mineral. You need to look carefully at the amount of copper in the existing diet and seek veterinary advice, prior to the administration of copper orally or by injection.

Biosecurity

28 Biosecurity means reducing the risk of disease occurring or spreading to other animals. Good biosecurity can be obtained through:

• good management e.g. laboratory screening of the ‘home herd’ and bought in stock;
• husbandry;
• good hygiene;
• reducing stress on the herd;
• effective disease control systems such as vaccination and worming programmes;
• control of stray animals.

Biosecurity results in:

• farm units being more secure from the introduction of new infectious diseases; and
• the spread of any diseases on the unit itself being kept to a minimum.

29 If you are careful when you move livestock onto a farm, and within the farm (particularly if the farm is on more than one site), this can greatly reduce the chance of a major outbreak of disease. For example, any goats must only be transported in vehicles that have been properly cleansed and disinfected (see the box below). You should ask the vendor of the animals to provide you with information on the health of
the herd, such as routine vaccination and worming procedures, so that their suitability for your herd can be assessed and, where necessary, appropriate treatments and vaccinations administered.

The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (England) (No.3) Order 2003 states that:

- The user of any means of transport which has been used to transport any animal, or anything which may give rise to a risk of transmission of disease, shall, as soon as reasonably practicable and not more than 24 hours after the journey is completed, ensure that it and any equipment are cleansed and disinfected in accordance with Schedule 2 or (in the case of a container) destroyed.

30 You should have isolation facilities so that you can isolate and observe/test new animals for a suitable period when they arrive, before they join the rest of the herd. This is particularly pertinent where bucks are bought in. Hired bucks should only be used when no alternative is available. The potential disease status of the hired buck should be carefully considered prior to its introduction. All bought in goats should be kept in isolation for about 4 weeks. Seek advice from your veterinary surgeon. You can find more information in the Defra publication ‘Better biosecurity provides peace of mind, healthy stock and a more viable business’ (see the Appendix).

**Lameness**

31 Lameness in any animal is usually a sign that they are in pain. Lameness in goats is a sign of ill-health and discomfort. It clearly affects animals’ welfare, as well as their performance and production. For this reason, very lame goats should be taken off concrete and housed in a suitably bedded pen. If a significant percentage of your goats has severe lameness, this can be a sign of poor overall welfare standards within the herd and you should seek urgent advice from your veterinary surgeon.

32 Good stockmanship, including frequent and thorough inspection along with correct diagnosis and implementation of a suitable programme of prevention and treatment, will help to reduce the incidence of lameness. Goats should be kept in accommodation which is dry underfoot.

33 An effective foot care programme, which includes regular inspection of the goats’ feet should be part of your farm’s written health and welfare plan. You may need to carry out careful paring, treatment of infected feet and foot bathing with a suitable solution which is maintained at the manufacturer’s recommended dilution. If footrot is a major cause of lameness or if treatments are unsuccessful, you should seek veterinary advice.

34 Foot paring is a skilled procedure and should not be carried out routinely but only if required. You must be properly trained as the procedure can damage feet if carried out incorrectly or excessively. If in doubt, specialist advice should be sought.
35 If lame goats do not respond to treatment, seek veterinary advice immediately. Lameness can have a number of causes, and a veterinary surgeon’s early and accurate diagnosis of the specific type of lameness affecting the herd is required to identify the likely causes and the appropriate action to be taken.

36 If a lame animal does not respond to the veterinary surgeon’s treatment, it should be culled. You must not transport any goats off-farm that cannot stand up unaided or cannot bear their weight on all four legs when standing or walking. You should not take any goat off farm that can bear weight on all four feet but are slightly lame if it is likely to aggravate the injury, however slightly. Any goat unfit to travel should be slaughtered or killed on the farm.

**External parasites**

37 You should control diseases caused by external parasites – especially where the animal’s skin is irritated and it is rubbing the area – with the appropriate parasiticides. You should treat your animals for parasites with your veterinary surgeon’s advice and ensure that control and treatment regimes form part of your written health and welfare plan.

**Internal parasites**

38 You should control internal parasites by using effective anthelmintics (drugs to treat internal parasites). Where goats are turned out to pasture you need to plan the grazing rotation and combine this with the use of effective medicinal products. As part of the written health and welfare plan, you should ensure that treatment is based on the life cycle of the particular parasites you are tackling. Coccidiosis is the most important cause of diarrhoea in housed kids, and is controlled by good standards of hygiene. You should manage and treat your animals for parasites with your veterinary surgeon’s advice. Organic producers in particular should seek veterinary advice on this aspect of their health and welfare plan.

To limit resistance of internal parasites to anthelmintics you should:

- work out an integrated parasite control strategy as part of your health and welfare plan;
- use anthelmintics correctly, NOT indiscriminately – use a licensed product, dose accurately and apply with properly calibrated and clean equipment;
- quarantine all new stock and drench according to knowledge of their past and future management;
- check the effectiveness of anthelmintics used by faecal egg counts; and
- alternate treatments.

**Dosing and vaccination equipment**

39 You must make sure that all the equipment you use for dosing, vaccinating and treating the animals is in good working order. Ideally, use equipment from your own
farm. If you must borrow it, make sure it is cleaned and disinfected before use on your farm. You should regularly clean and sterilise any equipment you use for injections, to avoid infections and abscesses. Ideally, you should use disposable needles. You should dispose of any dangerous objects (such as needles) safely. The size of a dosing-gun nozzle should be suitable for the animal’s age. Products should be administered according to manufacturer’s instructions and you should be trained to give treatments – such as injections or boluses by mouth – as the animals could be injured by poor administration of treatments.

**Notifiable diseases**

40 If you suspect that any animal is suffering from a notifiable disease, you have a legal duty to notify a Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM) of Defra immediately at the local Animal Health Divisional Office.

41 The following are the main notifiable diseases which affect goats:

- Anthrax;
- Aujeszky’s Disease;
- Bluetongue;
- Brucella melitensis (Brucellosis);
- Contagious agalactia;
- Contagious epididymitis (Brucella ovis);
- Foot-and-mouth disease;
- Goat pox;
- Peste de Petits Ruminants;
- Rabies;
- Rift Valley Fever; and
- Scrapie;

For more information on these diseases contact your veterinary surgeon or local Animal Health Divisional Office.

**Sick and injured animals**

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 5, states that: -

any animals which appear to be ill or injured:
- shall be cared for appropriately without delay; and
- where they do not respond to such care, veterinary advice shall be obtained as soon as possible.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 6, states that:

where necessary, sick or injured animals shall be isolated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding.
42 You should take action immediately if any goats are injured or appear ill or distressed. It is important to exclude the possibility of notifiable diseases. If you are in any doubt about the ill-health or the most effective treatment, consult your veterinary surgeon without delay. Likewise, if an animal you have treated does not respond to treatment, seek your veterinary surgeon’s advice.

43 When necessary, you should have a procedure for isolating and caring for sick or injured animals. Hospital pens should be an essential component of any goat unit. When moving sick or injured goats to the hospital pens, you should ensure that unnecessary suffering does not occur. These pens should be easily reached so that you can regularly check on the animal. All pens should be cleansed and disinfected after use. Drinking water must be freely available in the pens. Unless a veterinary surgeon tells you otherwise, you must give the animal its normal feed. The possibility of spillage should be minimised by using an appropriate receptacle and positioning it carefully, so as not to wet the lying area and deprive the animal of feed or water. In the case of goats kept for milking, ideally, you should also be able to milk such animals in these pens, if you need to.

44 If an unfit animal does not respond to treatment, it should be humanely killed on-farm (culled). You should cull any animals suffering from an incurable condition, such as Johne’s disease or untreatable painful conditions, as soon as possible after diagnosis.

Recumbent animals

45 When an animal is unable to rise, the prospect for recovery of the animal can be greatly increased by providing quality care in the initial period of recumbency. The animal should be provided with a comfortable dry lying area and given feed and water. Treatment should include frequent turning to ensure that the animal is not continuously resting on one side or leg, which could lead to irreversible muscle damage.

46 When an animal becomes recumbent, it is important to identify the likely cause. Where there is a history of trauma, for example falling or slipping, a veterinary surgeon should assess the extent of any injury. Where the prognosis for recovery is poor, early intervention, by humanely destroying the animal on-farm, should not be delayed.

47 Where the history indicates a medical origin for the recumbency, appropriate treatment should be given in accordance with veterinary advice. Where a recumbent animal has not responded to treatment, it should be assessed by a veterinary surgeon.

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997 No. 1480) Articles 4 (1) and 6 respectively provide that:

- No person shall transport any animal in a way which causes or is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering to that animal.
- No person shall transport any animal unless:
  it is fit for the intended journey; and
  suitable provision has been made for its care during the journey and on arrival
  at the place of destination.

For these purposes an animal shall not be considered fit for its intended journey if it
is ill, injured, infirm or fatigued, unless it is only slightly ill, injured, infirm or fatigued
and the intended journey is not likely to cause it unnecessary suffering, likely to give
birth during transport, has given birth during the previous 48 hours or is a new born
animal in which the navel has not completely healed.

48 You can only transport an unfit animal if you are taking it to a veterinary
surgeon for treatment or diagnosis, or to the nearest available place of slaughter –
and even then, only if you do so in a way that does not cause the animal any more
suffering. You will find more information in Defra’s booklet, ‘Guidance on the
transport of casualty farm animals’ (see the Appendix).

Emergency killing

It is a general offence under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing)
Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995 No. 731) as amended by the Welfare of Animals
(Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999 No. 400), to cause
or permit any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering to any animal during slaughter
or killing (regulation 4(1)).

The general offence applies in all cases, but the detailed provisions in respect of the
method of slaughter or killing do not apply when an animal has to be killed
immediately for emergency reasons (regulation 13(2)).

49 In an emergency, you may have to slaughter or kill an animal immediately to
prevent its suffering. In such cases, you should destroy the animal humanely and,
where possible, it should be done by someone who is suitably trained and competent
both in slaughter or killing methods and use of the equipment. Under these
emergency circumstances a slaughter licence is not required.

50 If you have to slaughter or kill the animals on-farm in a non-emergency
situation, you must do so using a permitted method which is in line with current
welfare at slaughter legislation (see the box below).

The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995 No. 731)
as amended by the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment)
Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999 No. 400) and the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or
Killing) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003 No. 3272) state that
when an animal is slaughtered or killed on-farm, this must be done using a permitted
method. The animal could be:
- stunned using a captive bolt pistol, concussion stunner or electrical stunner after which it must be followed by bleeding – or pithed – without delay (regulation 14 and Schedules 5 (Part II) and 6). If the animal is stunned and bled, the operation must be carried out by a slaughterman licensed for these operations (Schedule 1), unless the owner is slaughtering an animal for his own consumption; or
- killed by a free bullet (regulation 15 and Schedule 5 Part III); the animal should be killed with a single shot to the head.

51 After slaughter, you must dispose of the carcass by a suitable method (see the box below):

The EU Animal By-Products Regulation 2002 (EC) No. 1774/2002 require that fallen stock are disposed of by:
- despatch to a knackers yard, hunt kennel or similar premises;
- incineration;
- rendering;

These provisions apply to the disposal of still-born or unborn kids, as well as to older goats.

NB: Routine burial or open burning is not permitted (other than in those remote areas designated by the National Authority).

If carcases do have to be held pending collection, they must be held in such a way that domestic animals, including farmed livestock, and wild animals cannot gain access to them. In practice, it would be reasonable to expect them to be held securely, such as in an enclosed building, or an area away from livestock under a suitable cover, such as a tarpaulin.

Additional information on the disposal of animal carcases is available on the Defra website or from your local Animal Health Office.

Record keeping


The Disease Control Order 2003 (S.I. 2003 No. 1729) lays down the legal requirements on goat movement documents and licences.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 7, states that:
A record shall be maintained of –
(a) any medicinal treatment given to animals; and
(b) the number of mortalities found on each inspection of animals carried out in accordance with any of the following provisions.

Schedule 1, paragraph 8 states that:
- The record referred to in paragraph 7 shall be retained for a period of at least three years from the date on which the medicinal treatment was given, or the date of the inspection, as the case may be, and shall be made available to an authorised person when carrying out an inspection or when otherwise requested by such person.

It is a requirement under the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 (S.I 1997 No.1729), Part V, paragraph 32, that you keep a record of:
- the name and address of the supplier of the veterinary medicinal product;
- the date you treated the animals;
- how much medicine you used; and
- which animal or group of animals you treated.

52 You should only buy and use authorised animal medicines. It is an offence to administer an unauthorised veterinary medicinal product unless acting under the direction of a veterinary surgeon. You must keep full records of all the medicine you buy and use (see the box above), including where you bought it, and retain these records for at least three years. Keeping good records will enable you to demonstrate that any required withdrawal periods have been applied after the use of a medicine. This ensures that both the public and the stockman are not exposed to potentially harmful residues and the goats receive the correct treatment. You will find more information in the Code of Practice on responsible use of animal medicines on the farm (see the Appendix).

53 In terms of individual animal management, you may find it useful, as part of the written health and welfare plan, to note specific cases of mastitis, lameness and other disorders, and where appropriate, the relevant treatment given. For organic goats this is a requirement of the standards.

54 It is a requirement that all goat keepers (even if you only keep one) must register in writing with their local Animal Health Office, within one month of starting to keep goats. It is also a requirement to keep specific records relating to goat identification and movement. For further information contact Defra or your local Animal Health Office.
Feed, water and other substances

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraphs 22-27, states that:

- Animals shall be fed a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health, to satisfy their nutritional needs and to promote a positive state of well-being.

- No animals shall be provided with food or liquid in a manner, nor shall such food or liquid contain any substance, which may cause them unnecessary suffering or injury.

- All animals shall have access to feed at intervals appropriate to their physiological needs (and, in any case, at least once a day), except where a veterinary surgeon acting in the exercise of his profession otherwise directs.

- All animals shall either have access to a suitable water supply and be provided with an adequate supply of fresh drinking water each day or be able to satisfy their fluid intake needs by other means.

- Feeding and watering equipment shall be designed, constructed, placed and maintained so that contamination of food and water and the harmful effects of competition between animals are minimised.

- No other substance, with the exception of those given for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes or for the purpose of zootechnical treatment, shall be administered to animals unless it has been demonstrated by scientific studies of animal welfare or established experience that the effect of that substance is not detrimental to the health or welfare of the animals.

55 All goats need a balanced daily diet to maintain full health and energy. Diet must be balanced in terms of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. It should contain sufficient roughage and must be fed in relation to the goat’s requirements, which in turn are related to its size and weight and level of production. You should monitor how much forage is available, and when there is no longer enough for the animals’ needs you should supplement it with other suitable feeds. You should regularly check the weight and type of supplementary feeds offered, to make sure they are well balanced. You should plan any changes in the diet and introduce them gradually.

56 Fresh feed should be available and any which is stale or contaminated should be removed from feed troughs before more is added. Feed should be palatable and of suitable quality to match planned performance. Goats are fastidious feeders and often will not eat anything that has been on the floor. The nutritional requirements for dairy goats differ to those reared for mohair and for meat production. Sufficient, high quality roughage must be available in all diets to reduce the risk of inducing bloat or laminitis. In intensively managed herds, long roughage, such as hay or straw, should
be made available *ad lib*. You should seek specialist advice where goats are reared intensively, especially for milk production.

57 Care should be taken to prevent individual goats from gorging on concentrate feeds (such as cereals) by ensuring there is plenty of trough space available to the herd. Adequate trough space is also important to avoid competition and aggression.

58 When feeding hay and silage *ad lib.*, there should be enough trough space to allow all goats to feed simultaneously. Racks and troughs should be positioned and designed to avoid injury, in particular to the eyes of all types of goats, discomfort and damage to goats.

59 All goats must have their biological need for water met daily. An adequate supply of good quality water should be made available. Lactating goats should have access to water at all times. Special care must be taken if water troughs are used in order to prevent kids entering and not being able to get out. Water troughs should also be designed and placed where:

- they are protected from fouling;
- there is a low risk of the water freezing in cold weather (goats are particularly fussy about water temperature and consideration should be given to heating coils around pipework); and
- there is sufficient space and easy access for all stock.

60 You should keep water troughs or bowls thoroughly clean and check them at least once a day to make sure they are not blocked or damaged, and the water is flowing freely. Water consumption is readily suppressed if water is not clean. Checking for blockages is equally important where drinking nipples are used. Any plastic piping or similar must be protected due to the inquisitive nature of goats. Special care is needed to minimise any leaking pipes, creating damp or wet underfoot conditions which can encourage footrot. Provision must be made for providing emergency supplies of water.

61 Goats at pasture must have an easily accessible water supply. Areas around water troughs or bowls should allow easy access, be smooth underfoot and not prone to waterlogging.

62 As goats are natural browsers and inquisitive, it is essential to minimise the risk to health from poisonous plants, such as yew, ragwort and rhododendron. This is especially the case during grazing or where branches of trees and shrubs are taken from hedgerows to provide a varied diet.
Accommodation

General

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 4, states that:

- Where any animals (other than poultry) are kept in a building they shall be kept on, or have access at all times to, a lying area which either has well-maintained dry bedding or is well-drained.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 9 states that:

- The freedom of movement of animals, having regard to their species and in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge, shall not be restricted in such a way as to cause them unnecessary suffering or injury.

Schedule 1, paragraph 10 states that, where animals are continuously or regularly tethered or confined:

- they shall be given the space appropriate to their physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraphs 11 and 12, state that:

- Materials used for the construction of accommodation, and, in particular for the construction of pens, cages, stalls and equipment with which animals may come into contact, shall not be harmful to them and shall be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Accommodation and fittings for securing animals shall be constructed and maintained so that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury to them.

63 Goats require protection from inclement weather, being less hardy than cattle and sheep. Whatever husbandry system is adopted, free access to some form of shelter should be provided.

64 You should seek appropriate welfare advice when new buildings are to be constructed or existing buildings modified.

65 The more you limit the space in the housing system that you provide, the less choice the goat has to avoid unfavourable conditions. Housed goats need constant care and attention from staff who are well trained in the nutritional and environmental needs of goats.
No matter how long you house the animals, their accommodation should give them shelter and enough room to move around and interact with each other. This is particularly so with goats, which prefer to live in social groups and are gregarious by nature. The accommodation should provide enough space for a subordinate animal to move away from a dominant one. It is important to provide as comfortable an area as possible so that the animals can lie down for as long as they want, and have enough space to stand up again.

Dry, clean, comfortable conditions under foot should be provided to minimise footrot and hygiene problems. Regular provision of fresh bedding is particularly important when kidding, for optimum milk quality and to minimise udder disease.

All concrete yards and passageways should be kept in good condition and should be well-drained. They should not be too rough as this can graze or even cut the soles of the animals’ feet. On the other hand, the yards and passageways must not be worn smooth, as the animals are then likely to slip and possibly cause leg and other damage.

When changes are made to goat husbandry systems which involve installing more complex or elaborate equipment than had previously been used, consideration should be given to the welfare of the animals and the need for the training of the stock-keeper. This is especially the case where herd size is increased.

You should make sure that there is enough clean and dry straw (or other suitable bedding) available for as long as the animals are housed. Where possible, you should store this straw under cover, to keep it dry. There should be enough space for all the animals in the pen to lie in comfort at the same time, and to stand up and move freely.

Where feed and water troughs are accessible from the bedded area, measures should be put in place to reduce fouling. Where feed and water troughs are provided in any adjacent loafing area, the access areas should be sufficiently wide to permit free movement of animals and prevent routes becoming wet, fouled and slippery. Where a loafing area is used, it should, ideally, be partly covered. You will need to control the build-up of manure in passageways and loafing areas by scraping as necessary.

Internal surfaces of housing and pens should be made of materials which can be cleansed and disinfected or be easily replaced when necessary.

Surfaces should not be treated with paints or wood preservatives which may cause illness or death. There is a risk of lead poisoning from old paintwork, especially when second-hand building materials are used.

It is recommended that anything that can be chewed, such as wood, is protected by cladding in metal or similar material. Due to goats’ inquisitive nature all plumbing and electrical equipment must be adequately protected.

Newly-born and young kids should not be put on slatted floors. Where slatted floors are used for adult goats, you should pay particular attention to the type of
slats, to avoid slipperiness. The gaps between the slats should not be wide enough to cause foot injury. You should only use slatted pens for the size of animals that they were designed for. Adult goats should not be kept on fully-slatted concrete floors. Where there are slats, part of the accommodation should be a solid floor area with straw or some other suitable bedding material, so that animals will be comfortable and less likely to injure themselves - particularly their udders.

**Space Allowances**

76 You should work out the space allowance for goats housed in groups in terms of:

- the whole environment;
- the age, sex, liveweight and behavioural needs of the stock;
- the size of the group; and
- whether any of the animals have horns (horned and polled goats should not be put in the same pen, unless reared together);

and you should base your decision on expert advice.

77 Goats are gregarious animals who prefer to live in social groups and do appear to enjoy human company. Other than on the advice of a veterinary surgeon, goats should not normally be kept singly. The introduction of a new goat or goats to an existing group can result in bullying and stress. This may be alleviated by increasing the space allowance or by penning the new animal adjacent to the existing group for a short period. All new entrants to a group should be carefully monitored until a new hierarchy (pecking order) is established.

78 Penned animals should have access to an exercise yard or paddock at some time during the day.

79 Goats should be kept loose in groups where possible and should not be permanently restrained. Goats should not be tethered where there are obstacles if there is a risk of the tether becoming entangled or if there is a risk of being attacked by dogs or predators. If goats are tethered at a livestock show they must be provided with sufficient exercise and have water and feed freely available. Free access to shelter is essential.

**Ventilation**

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 13, states that:

- Air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations shall be kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals.
Buildings should be well ventilated but draught free. All new buildings should be designed with the animals’ comfort in mind, and with the aim of preventing respiratory diseases. The buildings should provide enough ventilation throughout the year for the type, size and number of stock to be housed in them. Consideration should be given to the design of roofs so as to limit the amount of excess heat which may be generated, as this can lead to heat stress in the goats.

Where the ventilation in existing buildings is not good enough, you should adapt these buildings by improving air inlets and outlets, or by using mechanical equipment (such as a fan).

**Lighting**

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870), Schedule 1, Paragraph 3 states that:

- Where animals are kept in a building adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) shall be available to enable them to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

Schedule 1, paragraphs 14-16 state that:

- Animals kept in buildings shall not be kept in permanent darkness.

- Where the natural light available in a building is insufficient to meet the physiological and ethological needs of any animals being kept in it then appropriate artificial lighting shall be provided.

- Animals kept in buildings shall not be kept without an appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting.

Goats are seasonal breeders, with the oestrus cycle determined by changes in day length. Many commercial dairy herds require continuity of milk supply throughout the year and manipulate day length by artificial lighting and darkness in order to change the seasonality of breeding.

However, during daylight hours (actual or manipulated), indoor lighting – whether it is natural or artificial – should be bright enough for you to see clearly all the housed goats and for the goats to feed and behave normally. Also, you should have enough fixed or portable lighting available at any time if you need to inspect any animals (for example, during kidding or for veterinary purposes).
Equipment

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) (Schedule 1, Paragraphs 18-21), state that:

- All automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the animals shall be inspected at least once a day to check there is no defect in it.

- Where defects in automated or mechanical equipment of the type referred to in the paragraph 18 are discovered, these shall be rectified immediately, or if this is impossible, appropriate steps shall be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the animals pending the rectification of such defects including the use of alternative methods of feeding and watering and methods of providing and maintaining a satisfactory environment.

- Where the health and well-being of the animals is dependent on an artificial ventilation system –
  (a) provision shall be made for an appropriate back-up system to guarantee sufficient air renewal to preserve the health and well-being of the animals in the event of failure of the system; and
  (b) an alarm system (which will operate even if the principal electricity supply to it has failed) shall be provided to give warning of any failure of the system.

- The back-up system referred to in paragraph 20(a) shall be thoroughly inspected and the alarm system referred to in paragraph 20(b) shall each be tested at least once every seven days in order to check that there is no defect in the system, and, if any defect is found (whether when the system is inspected or tested in accordance with this paragraph or at any other time), it shall be rectified immediately.

All mains electrical equipment should meet relevant standards and be properly earthed, safeguarded from rodents and out of the animals’ reach.

All equipment and services, including water bowls and troughs, ventilation fans, heating and lighting units, milking machines, replacement milk feeders, fire extinguishers and alarm systems, should be cleaned and inspected regularly and kept in good working order.

Fire and other emergency precautions

There should be plans in place to deal with emergencies at your farm, such as fire, flood or disruption of supplies (for example, no electricity for milking machines or unavailable food supplies). The owner should make sure that all the staff are familiar with the appropriate emergency action. You will find more information in the Defra booklets, ‘Emergencies on livestock farms’ and ‘Farm fires: advice on farm-animal welfare’ (see the Appendix).
It is important that you get advice about design when you are building or modifying a building. You need to be able to release and evacuate livestock quickly if there is an emergency, for example, by having outward opening doors and gates. You should consider installing fire alarms that can be heard and responded to at any time of the day or night.

You can get expert advice on all fire precautions from your local fire-prevention officers and from the Fire Prevention Association.

Management

General

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 17, states that:

- Animals not kept in buildings shall, where necessary and possible, be given protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and risks to their health and shall, at all times, have access to a well-drained lying area.

Goats need protection from inclement weather and artificial shelter must be provided where the animals are grazing or the goats should have easy access back to their housing. Goats do suffer if wet or in a draught.

Shelter or natural shade from trees or hedges is important in summer as heat stress causes animals (particularly milking and dark-coated goats) severe problems such as:

- abnormal breathing;
- severe loss of appetite;
- serious weight loss; and
- anoestrus (not coming into season).

Heat stress can also be a particular problem where the goats’ seasonal breeding pattern is being manipulated by artificially changing the day length. In these circumstances, the goats are housed and daylight excluded at either end of the day. This can cause problems with ventilation that must be overcome. Buildings should be carefully designed to avoid such conditions.

You should have a concrete standing area, or well-drained, suitable surface, that will not injure animals’ feet around feed and water troughs. The surface on which the animals walk to reach the troughs should also be well drained. Otherwise, you should move the troughs quite often so that the animals are not standing in the same muddy and fouled areas.
Where goats are pastured, you should regularly assess the type and condition of any track on which goats are moved and the distance from housing or milking facilities to pasture. Your assessment should include:

- gateways;
- tracks; and
- the areas surrounding water troughs;

so that you can take appropriate action to avoid possible injury or lameness. You should make sure that any concrete floors and walkways have a non-slip surface, which does not cause too much pressure or excessive abrasion on the animals’ feet although some abrasion is necessary to prevent excessive foot growth.

You should take all practical measures to remove all goats from areas that are in imminent danger of flooding.

You should keep all the farm’s fields and buildings clear of debris such as wire or batteries (with their risk of lead poisoning), or plastic or sharp metal objects that could injure the goats or rip out their ear tags and damage their ears. Debris may also be ingested causing blockages or digestive upsets.

Goats should be placed in groups as soon as possible after weaning. Groups should be kept stable. The size of the herd is not so important as keeping the goats in groups of a similar size to that in which they were reared.

Horned goats and non-horned goats should be kept separately to prevent bullying and injury.

**Fencing and hedges**

You should maintain your fences, trim hedges, and remove any obstructions or snags (on hedges, gates, fences or feeding troughs) that could catch on ear tags or cause injury.

You should make sure that any electric fences are designed, constructed, used and maintained properly, so that when the animals touch them they only feel slight discomfort. All power units for electric fences must be properly earthed to prevent short circuits or electricity being conducted anywhere it should not be (for example, gates and water troughs).

Due to the goats’ natural tendency to jump and clamber, all fencing should be strong enough and of sufficient height (normally at least 1.2 m) to prevent them from escaping. Where electric fencing is used to keep goats within a given area special posts are recommended where the upper section is also electrified in order to stop goats jumping up and knocking the post and wire down. Where goats are horned or where young kids are kept, electric mesh type fences are not suitable. The condition of wooden fencing should be checked regularly for being chewed and therefore weakened by the goats.
Injurious weeds

The Weeds Act 1959 empowers the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to take action against occupiers of land to prevent the spread of five injurious weeds. The five weeds are:

- Common Ragwort
- Creeping or Field Thistle
- Spear Thistle
- Curled Dock
- Broad Leaved Dock

Under the Act, the Secretary of State has a discretionary power to serve an enforcement notice on an occupier of land on which one or more of the five injurious weeds are growing requiring the occupier to take action to prevent the weeds from spreading. The Act permits Defra officials to enter land to inspect whether an enforcement notice has been complied with. If an occupier has unreasonably failed to comply with the notice, he or she shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to a fine. The Act also contains additional powers, which enable the Secretary of State to take action to arrange for the weeds to be cleared and recover the cost of doing so, if necessary through the Courts.

101 You should control injurious (harmful) weeds and plants, including those not covered by the Weeds Act 1959, because they can harm animals by:

- poisoning them (for example rhododendron, ragwort, yew);
- injuring them (for example, thistle); and
- reducing their grazing area by reducing the edible plants that are available.

You can find out more information on injurious weeds in Defra’s leaflets, ‘The Weeds Act - Preventing the spread of harmful weeds’, ‘The Weeds Act – Guidance notes on the methods that can be used to control harmful weeds’ and ‘Identification of injurious weeds’ (see the Appendix).

Fibre production (shearing and combing)

102 Shearers should be experienced, competent and have received adequate training in shearing techniques. Inexperienced shearers should be supervised by suitably competent staff. When shearing, care should be taken not to cut or nick the skin of the goat. Where a wound does occur, immediate treatment should be given.

103 Shearers should regularly clean and disinfect their equipment and certainly before use on any other herd so as to minimise the risk of spreading disease.

104 Unless housed, goats should only be shorn in suitable weather conditions because of their susceptibility to changes in temperature. Full use should be made of weather forecasts and shelter to avoid excessive cold stress to newly-shorn goats at
whatever time of year shearing is carried out. Combing is preferable to shearing in adverse weather conditions.

105 If inclement weather does occur after shearing then the goats should be protected by bringing them into housing, or where pastured, by the use of coats.

Section 2 – Specific recommendations

Pregnancy and kidding

106 Heavily pregnant females should be handled with care to avoid distress and injury which may result in premature kidding. However, if a pregnant doe needs treatment, such as for lameness, this should not be delayed until after birth.

107 Pregnant and nursing females should receive sufficient feed to maintain the health and bodily condition of the goat and ensure the development of healthy kids. This is particularly important during the last 6 weeks of pregnancy. Water should always be available.

108 In addition to good husbandry, the use of scanning can be a valuable aid to management. Although twins are most common, does can produce up to 5 kids. It is therefore important to know the nutritional requirements of the doe to allow grouping of pregnant females and allow appropriate feeding.

109 Does should be moved to any maternity area in good time, preferably at least 24 hours prior to the expected kidding date.

110 Stock-keepers should pay particular attention to cleanliness and hygiene. Every effort should be made to prevent the build up and spread of infection by ensuring that kidding pens are provided with adequate clean bedding and are regularly cleansed and disinfected. A kidding pen within sight and sound of other goats is desirable. Any dead kids should be removed without delay.

111 Stock-keepers should be sufficiently familiar with problems arising at kidding to know when to summon help. Veterinary advice should be sought when the need arises.

112 Embryotomy, the dissection and removal of a foetus which cannot be delivered naturally, should be carried out on dead kids only. It should never be used to deliver a live kid.

113 In many herds male kids are not required. Although such animals may be humanely slaughtered or killed soon after birth (see paragraphs 142 -143), it is important that they are properly cared for in the meantime.

114 Goats can kid when the weather is cold and wet. The kids, however, are very prone to hypothermia and extra care is needed when kidding occurs in inclement weather. This will be less of a problem where does are housed prior to kidding.
115 Kids receive no antibody protection from their dams prior to birth – they can only obtain this from drinking colostrum. It is vital that every newly-born kid receives colostrum from its dam or from another source as soon as possible and in any case within 6 hours of birth (see paragraphs 122 - 123).

116 New born kids are especially vulnerable to infection and adverse environmental conditions. They need ideal conditions to ensure survival and hygiene is paramount, especially for feed equipment. Special care must be taken to protect against coccidiosis, *E. coli* and respiratory pathogens. Hypothermia can be a serious problem and a source of heat (lamp or heat box) should be available to revive weak kids, but care is needed to avoid overheating and dehydration.

**Rearing of kids**

**General**

117 As kids are very susceptible to a number of diseases, good hygiene is essential, particularly with equipment used for the artificial rearing of kids. Goats are fastidious eaters and all troughs, water bowls etc. must be kept clean. However, young kids are naturally inquisitive and will often eat anything, including pellets (goat droppings) which can lead to coccidiosis. Good hygiene, regular and adequate bedding-up is, therefore, essential.

**Inspection**

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 2, requires that:

- All animals kept in husbandry systems in which their welfare depends on frequent human attention shall be thoroughly inspected at least once a day to check that they are in a state of well-being; and

- Animals kept in systems other than husbandry systems in which their welfare depends on frequent human attention shall be inspected at intervals sufficient to avoid any suffering.

118 It is particularly important that you watch kids carefully for signs of diarrhoea, respiratory disease or listlessness. If you buy in kids, you should inspect them as soon as they arrive, before they come into contact with other kids on the farm. You need to assess their general health, paying particular attention to their posture, breathing and the condition of their nose, eyes, navel, anus, feet and legs.

119 After carefully inspecting any kids you have bought, you should rest them in comfortable conditions for a few hours and then give them a first feed of milk or other suitable liquid, such as electrolyte solution. Where practicable, you should keep them apart from other kids for long enough to prevent any possible cross-infection.
120 If you rear kids in a system where milk is provided by artificial means, you should closely monitor their feed intake. If kids have a reduced or slower feed intake, this is often an early sign of disease.

**Sick and injured kids**

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 5, states that:

Any animals which appear to be ill or injured:

(a) shall be cared for appropriately without delay; and
(b) where they do not respond to such care, veterinary advice shall be obtained as soon as possible.

Paragraph 6, states that:

Where necessary, sick or injured animals shall be isolated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding.

121 You should isolate and treat kids if, for example, they have diarrhoea or pneumonia. Monitoring their temperature is a useful means of assessing their response to treatment. If the kids do not respond to treatment promptly or properly or these illnesses return, seek advice from a veterinary surgeon.

**Artificial rearing**

122 Caprine colostrum is essential to protect the kid against infectious disease. Ideally kids should be left with their dam for at least 12 and preferably 24 hours after birth. It is recommended that the kid should continue to receive colostrum from its mother for the first three days of life. Allowing the kid to suckle naturally may be the best way to make sure that it gets enough colostrum. However, you should supervise suckling carefully and ensure that the udder is clean before the kid sucks. If the kid is unable to suck, colostrum should be given by a suitably trained person using a stomach tube. When there is any doubt about the quantity or quality of colostrum that is available from the doe, you should give it to the kid by teat feeder or stomach tube from another source within six hours of its birth (ensuring it is not from a goat with Caprine arthritis encephalitis). A store of frozen or some other form of colostrum should be kept on the farm for use in emergencies.

123 Removing the kid earlier than 12-24 hours after birth should only be done for disease control purposes under the advice of a veterinary surgeon and the protocol should be recorded in the written health and welfare plan. These kids should still be fed colostrum. In some circumstances, such as in the control of Johne’s disease or CAE, the use of pooled colostrum may promote the transfer of infection. In such cases, to prevent the risk of the spread of infection in the herd, you should ensure
that each kid receives colostrum only from its dam or if this is not possible, only from a single animal.

124 You should not offer milk from goats treated with antibiotics or those being treated for mastitis to kids fed on whole milk.

125 In artificial kid-rearing systems, it is better for the kid to drink from, or be able to reach a dummy teat. However, careful inspection is required to ensure that the teats are not damaged by the goats natural behaviour to chew. Fresh water should be available in the pen. All kids should receive liquid feed every day during their first six weeks of life and, in any case, until they are eating enough solid feed.

126 When kids are put on unlimited milk-feeding diets, you should make sure that they have enough teats to avoid undue competition, and watch them carefully to check that they are all feeding properly. You should take the same care when you introduce solid feed, as and when the kids want it.

127 Where kids do not have free access to milk or milk substitute, they should be fed at least 2 to 3 times per day.

128 Whatever the system of artificial rearing, hygiene and cleanliness of equipment is crucial as kids are very prone to diseases.

129 Fibrous feed should be made available from 7 days of age together with concentrated feed. It is important that fresh feed is offered daily and that troughs and racks can not be contaminated by goat droppings or by the kids standing in them.

130 Where kids are suckled on the doe, such animals should be weaned so as to cause as little stress as possible to both dam and kid. You should take particular care of newly-weaned kids and keep them in groups of familiar animals and size to avoid fighting and cross-contamination. If you have to mix some of the animals, to minimise disease you should make sure that the environment does not stress the kids.

**Accommodation**

131 Housed kids need an environment that is:

- dry;
- well drained;
- well bedded;
- well ventilated; and
- draught free.

The kids must have enough space for each of them to lie down comfortably. Young kids are particularly susceptible to pneumonia so good ventilation is essential, but this does not mean draughts. Ventilation should not be restricted to try and raise the air temperature.
132 Until they are weaned, you should keep housed kids in small groups of between 15 and 25 to:

- make it easier for you to inspect them; and
- limit the spread of disease.

133 Kids should not be housed on slatted floors. Suitable bedding should always be provided.

134 If there is a large variation in the size and weight of kids of similar ages, group kids of similar size together, especially if you have limited amounts of feed, to make sure they can all get to the feed.

### Moving and selling kids

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (S.I. 1997 No. 1480) Article 6, paragraph 3 states that:

For the purposes of this article mammals shall not be considered fit for transport if they-

(c) are new-born animals in which the navel has not completely healed.

Under Article 5A of the Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 (S.I. 1990 No. 2627), as amended by the Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1993 (S.I. 1993 No. 3085), no person shall bring to a market, or allow to be exposed for sale in a market a [lamb or] goat kid with an unhealed navel

135 Wherever possible, young kids, other than with their mothers, should not be sold at market. Arrangements for the direct transfer of orphans from farm to farm, rather than through a market, should be encouraged in order to minimise disease risk.

136 Young kids reared without their mothers, should receive human contact, preferably from the same stock-keeper.
Castration

Under the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954, as amended, it is an offence to castrate goats which have reached two months of age without the use of an anaesthetic. Furthermore, the use of a rubber ring, or other device, to restrict the flow of blood to the scrotum, is only permitted without an anaesthetic if the device is applied during the first week of life.

Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, as amended, only a veterinary surgeon may castrate a goat which has reached the age of two months.

137 Male kids can reach puberty at a very early age (as young as 3 months) and great care is needed to ensure that there is not accidental breeding among young animals. Notwithstanding this, stock-keepers should consider carefully whether castration is necessary and, if so, whether analgesics should be given to lessen the resulting pain. If it is necessary, there are three methods which can be used to castrate kids:

- a rubber ring or other device, which can only be used in the first seven days of life, by a trained and competent stock-keeper, to restrict the flow of blood to the scrotum;
- bloodless castration, by a trained and competent stock-keeper, by crushing the spermatic cords of kids less than 2 months old, with a burdizzo; or
- castration by a veterinary surgeon, using an anaesthetic.

Disbudding and dehorning

Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, as amended, only a veterinary surgeon may dehorn or disbudd a goat, apart from trimming the insensitive tip of an in-growing horn which, if left untreated, could cause pain or distress.

138 Careful consideration should be given to disbudding or dehorning as the horns on a goat act as a "cooling mechanism" that connect to the sinus cavities at the head. However, in large units removal may be advantageous to minimise injury and bullying.

139 Disbudding means removing the horn buds in kids, before any horn material can be seen. It is preferable to dehorning as it is less stressful to the animal. Disbudding should take place as soon as you can start to see the horn bud – ideally between 3-5 days old. Disbudding should only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon.

140 Dehorning should not be routine as it is a stressful procedure and it should only be done if it is necessary for the herd’s welfare. Dehorning involves cutting or sawing horn and other sensitive tissues under anaesthetic only by a veterinary surgeon. If you feel that dehorning is necessary, it should be done in spring or
autumn to avoid flies or frosts. Following the procedure, the animal should be given appropriate pain relief. You should protect the wound from contamination by such things as grass seeds, hay or silage until the hole has scabbed over. You should put hay racks at a level which reduces the risk of feed falling onto the head and contaminating the wound.

141 Horned goats should be regularly inspected to ensure that neither the tip or other part of the horn is in contact with the face.

Culling of kids

The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995 No. 731) as amended by the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999 No. 400) and the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003 No. 3272) state that when an animal is slaughtered or killed on-farm, this must be done using a permitted method. The animal could be:

- stunned using a captive bolt pistol, concussion stunner or electrical stunner after which it must be followed by bleeding – or pithed – without delay (regulation 14 and Schedules 5 (Part II) and 6). If the animal is stunned and bled, the operation must be carried out by a slaughterman licensed for these operations (Schedule 1), unless the owner is slaughtering an animal for his own consumption; or

- killed by a free bullet (regulation 15 and Schedule 5 Part III); the animal should be killed with a single shot to the head.

142 If kids are culled, it must be done humanely and in line with current welfare at slaughter legislation (see the box above).

143 After slaughter or killing, you must dispose of the carcass by a suitable method (see paragraph 51).

Breeding animals

Breeding

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000 No. 1870) Schedule 1, paragraph 28, states that:

(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause, or are likely to cause, suffering or injury to any of the animals concerned shall not be practised.
(2) Sub-paragraph (1) shall not preclude the use of natural or artificial breeding procedures that are likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury or that might necessitate interventions which would not cause lasting injury.

Schedule 1, paragraph 29 states that:

- No animals shall be kept for farming purposes unless it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of their genotype or phenotype, that they can be kept without detrimental effect on their health or welfare.

144 To rear doe kids, you need to demonstrate conscientious and knowledgeable management during their growing period, and through to kidding. The animals should show steady growth to meet recommended target weights, so that they will kid successfully at a weight and size suitable for introduction to the adult herd. You should not deliberately mate kids that are too small, or mate females with an inappropriate buck, or breed of buck. Due to the early age at which goats reach puberty, every management effort must be made to separate male and female kids before any become sexually active. Where it becomes apparent that an inappropriate mating has occurred, veterinary advice should be sought on how best to handle the situation.

145 You should not breed from any animal that has a degenerative disease, or is a known carrier of such debilitating diseases or has poor conformation. A high priority in the breeding selection policy should be to include qualities that will improve the welfare of the animals, for example, leg and foot conformation which would lessen the likelihood of lameness.

146 Abortion is very common in goats. Although due to many factors, it is primarily caused by infection. If you suspect infection may be the cause, seek veterinary advice.

147 Thorough nutritional planning and analysis, and correct supplementation of roughages is essential for appropriate feeding at this critical time. Changes in feeds should not be sudden but should be introduced over a period of time.

**Inspection**

148 In breeding herds where you use supervised or artificial mating and at kidding times, the stock-keeper should allow enough time to monitor oestrus activity. At least twice a day, the stock-keeper should inspect all lactating dairy goats and goats close to kidding.

**Management**

149 A lactating goat needs an appropriate diet to satisfy her nutritional needs, without harming her body condition and metabolism. The amount an animal consumes will be dependent on the quantity, quality and accessibility of the feed.
provided and the time spent eating. Anything which interferes with this, such as lameness, will have a detrimental effect on the health and welfare of the animal.

**Natural service – bucks**

150 Where natural mating is used, young bucks should only be introduced to small groups of does (ideally 10-15). This is particularly so where breeding has been synchronised by altering natural light patterns or by the use of hormonal implants. For experienced bucks, up to 50 does can be covered, if planning a tight breeding pattern with a group. Extra feed should be offered as necessary.

151 Male kids reach puberty at a very early age and should be removed from female kids at weaning (earlier if sexual behaviour is observed). Grouping should be done on size to reduce risks of bullying by dominant bucks. On small goat units where this is impractical, care must be taken to ensure that all animals receive adequate feed.

152 Bucks of long coated breeds should be clipped in warm weather to minimise heat stress and so help to maximise fertility. The reproductive tract of all breeding bucks should be regularly checked and any abnormality promptly investigated.

153 All bucks should have good and safe service conditions where individual mating is carried out. Slippery conditions underfoot (for example, in yards and passageways) are not suitable for mating animals.

154 During the breeding season bucks can become aggressive and extra care in handling is advised. Grouping bucks from an early age, providing sufficient space and providing safe handling equipment will minimise health and welfare risks.

**Out of season breeding**

155 In commercial dairy goat herds there is often a need to breed out of the normal breeding season in order to have a consistent milk output. In addition to influencing day length by the use of darkness and artificial lighting, hormonal treatments or administration of melatonin are also used. If the kidding date is changed, it is important to ensure that staffing levels and facilities are suitable for the out of season kidding.

**Artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer**

Epidural anaesthesia may only be given by a veterinary surgeon, or by somebody trained and acting under the conditions given in Article 3 of the Veterinary Surgery (Epidural Anaesthesia) Order 1992 (S.I. 1992 No. 696).

The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, as amended by the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (Schedule 3 Amendment) Order 1988 (S.I. 1988 No. 526) prohibits the
performance of a vasectomy or the carrying out of electro-ejaculation by anyone other than a veterinary surgeon.

156 You should keep the goats in familiar surroundings until insemination, at which time they can then be moved to an appropriate stall nearby and inseminated immediately.

157 Semen collection and artificial insemination should only be carried out by a trained, competent and experienced operator. Vasectomy or electro-ejaculation may only be carried out by a veterinary surgeon.

**Buck accommodation**

158 You should not neglect the welfare of bucks. Breeding bucks should be able to see other goats and to see and hear farm activity.

159 You should have facilities in the pen and any exercise area so that you can securely restrain the buck with a yoke or similar device. This is so that you can carry out routine husbandry procedures (such as cleaning out the pen) and so that the buck can be treated when required.

**Dairy goats**

**General**

160 It is recommended that at least once a month, you should record the daily milk yield of each lactating dairy goat, and monitor this against expectations based on the yield level of the herd. You should use these figures and other available data as a management tool in order to identify possible welfare problems at an early stage.

161 When you offer concentrated dry feeds on their own to dairy goats, you should normally limit the amounts to a maximum of 1 kg in any one feed. This is to reduce the risk of rumen acidosis (i.e. too much grain in the rumen leading to digestive problems) and other metabolic disorders. To make sure that the animals have enough to eat, you should make alternative feeds freely available at all times.

162 To allow for animals to eat as much as they want, you should offer more feed each day than you expect the animals to eat, normally providing 10 – 15% extra. You should remove surplus feed every day because old and stale feed can contaminate fresh feed and spoil the animals’ appetites - goats are fastidious eaters and intake can easily be compromised due to poor feed trough and rack hygiene.

163 You should carefully introduce young does that are kidding for the first time to the adult herd at least four weeks before kidding, so that they have time to get used to their new and unfamiliar surroundings – including the milking parlour. On large units keeping young does as one group may be advantageous.
Goats of high genetic potential should be bred with due account of selection to avoid:

- mastitis;
- lameness;
- failure to become pregnant or maintain pregnancy; and
- metabolic disorders.

Goats should not be bred solely for high milk yield but also for other health factors. These animals need a higher standard of management and nutrition to maintain a satisfactory standard of welfare.

Before lactating goats are fed on conserved forages (such as silage and hay), you should analyse feed samples to check their nutritional value. If necessary, you should get expert advice on how you can supplement the diet to match the requirements appropriate to the animals’ age and species. You also need to analyse the quality of feeds you buy (including by-products), if the supplier does not provide an analysis. Care should be taken to avoid over-feeding certain feeds, including lush green material as well as concentrates, as this can lead to such problems as bloat, acidosis, diarrhoea, laminitis and obesity.

You should dry lactating goats off quickly and put them on an appetising forage diet, which will maintain their body condition. From about three weeks before kidding, you should gradually introduce the does to the production ration (i.e. the phased introduction of the higher energy, post-kidding diet) to avoid a sudden change of diet.

*Mastitis*

Although mastitis is less common in goats than in dairy cows, it can cause the animals distress and suffering. It should, therefore, be controlled by prevention rather than cure. Although most mastitis control advice available is targeted at dairy cows, the same principles apply. Dairy goat producers should, therefore, follow a Mastitis Management Action Plan (Mastitis MAP) which, together with good stockmanship and environmental management, will help you to control mastitis infection.

The Mastitis MAP should cover:

- hygienic teat management (such as keeping the teats clean);
- promptly identifying and treating clinical cases;
- non-lactating management and therapy;
- accurate record keeping;
- culling of chronically infected goats; and
- regular milking-machine maintenance and testing.

For further information on controlling mastitis consult your veterinary surgeon.
Milking

168 You should never leave lactating dairy goats unmilked or with over-full udders. Anyone who milks goats – including relief milkers – should be fully competent to perform all milking procedures - be they milking by hand or machine. Ideally, formal training should be given to milkers, which would include a period of full supervision by competent, trained operators.

169 A milking machine that is working properly is essential for:

- the goats’ comfort;
- optimum milking performance; and
- udder health.

During each milking session, you should make simple checks (such as the working vacuum level) and carry out routine maintenance to make sure that the milking machine is working properly.

170 Where necessary, you should upgrade the milking machine so that there is no machine damage caused to teats and that the cyclic vacuum fluctuations are within the recommended range. You may need specialist advice for this.

171 Milking machines should be checked to ensure correct operation in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations and those contained in the ‘British Standard for milking machine installations’ (see the Appendix). Any faults should be rectified immediately.

172 Each year, a trained and competent operator should carry out at least one full working assessment of the machinery, to ensure that it is operating correctly and to make any necessary repairs or adjustments. Ideally, a milking time assessment should also be made at this annual test to measure the level of cyclic vacuum fluctuation and teat condition.

173 You should minimise the amount of time that goats have to wait to be milked. The standings should be of sufficient size for the goats being milked and to allow the goats to enter and leave the milking parlour easily, with a minimum of stress. The entrance and exit areas of the milking parlour, where animals will tend to collect, should be wide enough for the animals to move easily on non-slip floors.

174 Where automatic backing gates arrangements are used in collection yards, they should be designed to encourage goats to move towards the parlour, without causing them any distress. These gates should not be electrified.

On-Farm Animal Welfare Team
May 2004
Appendix

Useful publications

A  Defra publications related to goat welfare as at ………

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PB number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0409</td>
<td>Code of Practice – the welfare of animals in livestock markets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9326</td>
<td>Farm fires: protecting farm animal welfare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1147</td>
<td>Emergencies on livestock farms.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1387</td>
<td>Guidance on the transport of casualty farm animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2339</td>
<td>A short guide to the Dairy Products (Hygiene) Regulations for Dairy Farmers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2594</td>
<td>Explanatory guide to the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3477</td>
<td>Welfare of red-meat animals at slaughter – pre-slaughter handling: a pocket guide.</td>
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<td>3478</td>
<td>Welfare of red-meat animals at slaughter – stunning and sticking: a pocket guide.</td>
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<td>3575</td>
<td>Assessment of practical experience in the handling, transport and care of animals: guide to employers.</td>
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<td>7350</td>
<td>Better biosecurity provides peace of mind, healthy stock and a more viable business.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7189</td>
<td>The Weeds Act 1959 – Preventing the spread of harmful weeds (Revised version only available on the Defra website).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7190</td>
<td>The Weeds Act 1959 – Guidance note on the methods that can be used to control harmful weeds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1149</td>
<td>Lameness in sheep.</td>
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You can get copies of all these publications, free of charge, from:

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B Legislation related to goat welfare as at [………]

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TSO Publications Centre  
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Telephone orders: 0870 600 5522  
E-mail: book.enquiries@theso.co.uk  
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C Other useful publications related to goat welfare

Code of practice on the responsible use of animal medicines on the farm (2001) (Veterinary Medicines Directorate)  
If you would like any more information or advice about this Code, please contact your local Animal Health Divisional Office or Defra’s Animal Welfare Division on 020 7904 6521.