

Goat Welfare Annex

Global Rangelands Standard V0.2

This annex sets out species-specific requirements for goats and should be applied alongside the requirements of Principle 6: Animal Welfare of the Global Rangelands Standard. It does not repeat core Principle 6 requirements where these already provide equivalent or stronger coverage. Additional requirements are included where goat-specific welfare needs or risks require further specification, or where a quantitative threshold, specific prohibition or more prescriptive expectation is needed.

Interim basis for COP17: Requirements below are aligned with the goat-relevant welfare requirements of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard v1.02, taking account of equivalent or stronger requirements already contained in Principle 6. The annex will be reviewed and, where necessary, revised as part of the ongoing development, technical review and pilot testing of the Global Rangelands Standard.

Theme 6.1 – Animal health and disease prevention

Minimum requirements

- G6.1.1 Goats are observed at least once in every 24-hour period for signs of sickness, injury, lameness or abnormal behaviour.
- G6.1.2 Goats identified as sick, lame or injured are observed at least twice in every 24-hour period until their condition no longer requires increased monitoring.
- G6.1.3 Newly acquired goats are quarantined for a minimum of 21 days from other goats in a way that prevents nose-to-nose contact while avoiding complete social isolation.
- G6.1.4 Goats' hooves are checked at least twice each year and trimmed as needed to prevent overgrowth, disease, injury and lameness.
- G6.1.5 Horns are monitored and managed so that they do not become ingrown or otherwise cause injury, inflammation or abrasion to the goat.

Improvement requirements

- G6.1.6 The goat herd is assessed on site at least annually by a qualified veterinarian to review herd welfare and the management and medical practices used to maintain it.

Theme 6.2 – Nutrition and access to water

Minimum requirements

- G6.2.1 Animal by-products or fishmeal are not fed to goats unless directed by a veterinarian for a justified animal-welfare reason. By-products from sick animals are never fed to goats.
- G6.2.2 Goats do not fall below body condition score 2 on a five-point scale where 1 is very thin and 5 is very overweight.
- G6.2.3 Goats are managed to prevent nutritional diseases relevant to the production system, including enterotoxaemia, polioencephalomalacia, pregnancy toxaemia, urinary calculi and white muscle disease.
- G6.2.4 Goats have access to materials suitable for browsing, such as shrubs, bushes or fresh cuttings.
- G6.2.5 Where the majority of goats' nutrition comes from fodder, a feed management plan is in place, the diet contains sufficient roughage for rumination, and dietary changes are introduced gradually over at least two weeks.

Improvement requirements

- G6.2.6 The majority of goats' nutrition comes from forage.
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Theme 6.3 – Humane handling, living conditions and husbandry

Minimum requirements

Handling and social management

- G6.3.1 Goats are not kicked, struck, tripped, thrown, dropped, dragged or lifted by the coat, tail, horns, ears, head, neck or back legs, and are not chased or struck using whips, sticks or stones.
- G6.3.2 Goats are kept in stable groups of familiar conspecifics with opportunities for bonding and other affiliative interactions. Breeding males are not kept separated from other goats outside the breeding season, except where separation is justified for health, welfare, management or safety reasons.
- G6.3.3 Goats are given an appropriate opportunity to rest during the middle of the day. For goats, this is at least two hours.
- G6.3.4 Hot-iron branding is not permitted.

Housing and enclosures

- G6.3.5 Where goats spend the majority of their time in a shelter or other enclosed space, they are provided with environmental enrichment that encourages exploratory, foraging and play behaviour, including climbing opportunities such as logs, stumps, raised platforms or mounds.

- G6.3.6 Where goats spend the majority of their time in a shelter or other enclosed space, a written goat welfare plan is maintained and reviewed at least annually.
- G6.3.7 Where goats spend the majority of their time in enclosures, housing provides at least 2 m² of space per goat.
- G6.3.8 Where goats spend the majority of their time in enclosures, they have access to an outdoor exercise area providing at least 5 m² of space per goat, in addition to the housing area. Access may be restricted only for justified, time-bound welfare or safety reasons.
- G6.3.9 Where artificial lighting is used, goats are not exposed to it for more than 16 hours in any 24-hour period and have access to natural light during daylight hours.
- G6.3.10 Artificial flooring used for sleeping is soft or deformable, clean and dry and is not bare concrete or a similar hard surface. Sick, injured, pregnant or young goats less than one year old are not kept on slatted floors.
- G6.3.11 Wet manure is removed from shelters daily.

Physical alterations and husbandry procedures

- G6.3.12 Goats older than eight weeks are not castrated unless there is a justified animal-management or welfare reason to do so.
- G6.3.13 De-scenting, disbudding, dehorning and removal of wattles are not permitted.

Breeding, kidding and care of young goats

- G6.3.14 Does younger than 12 months and bucks younger than 18 months are not used for mating.
- G6.3.15 Does are not bred more frequently than once every 10 months.
- G6.3.16 Where goats are used for breeding, the ratio of females to breeding males is appropriate for the age of the males and does not compromise their sexual health.
- G6.3.17 Surgery, ovum pick-up, embryo transfer and electro-ejaculation are not used during artificial insemination.
- G6.3.18 Cloned, genetically engineered or gene-edited goats are not used.
- G6.3.19 Planned caesarean sections are carried out by a veterinarian. Emergency caesarean sections may be carried out by another competent person where delay would threaten the life of the doe or kid.
- G6.3.20 During the kidding season, at least one person is available who is demonstrably familiar with kidding and common complications and knows when to intervene or seek assistance.
- G6.3.21 Adequate emergency supplies of colostrum are available before the kidding season. All newborn kids receive sufficient colostrum, with the first feed within two hours of birth and adequate intake within 24 hours.
- G6.3.22 Kids are not weaned before 16 weeks of age or before reaching at least 40% of expected adult weight.

- G6.3.23 Kids unable to suckle sufficiently are manually fed or fostered and continue to receive milk until at least 16 weeks of age or until they reach at least 40% of expected adult weight.

Fibre harvesting

- G6.3.24 Combing and shearing are carried out by competent persons using suitable, well-maintained equipment and methods that minimise discomfort, fear, distress and risk of injury.
- G6.3.25 Where goats are restrained during fibre harvesting, restraint does not restrict circulation or cause injury or distress. Restrained goats are continuously supervised.
- G6.3.26 Fibre harvesting outdoors is undertaken only in weather conditions that do not pose a health risk, and harvesting is suspended if adverse weather develops and suitable indoor harvesting is not available.
- G6.3.27 Measures are taken to prevent cold stress following fibre harvesting. Goats that cannot be housed or otherwise protected from cold following harvesting are combed rather than shorn.
- G6.3.28 Goats' access to food and water is completely restricted for four hours before fibre harvesting.
- G6.3.29 Additional time and care are taken with goats being harvested for the first time.
- G6.3.30 Fibre is combed only when it has begun to shed naturally.

Improvement requirements

- G6.3.31 Goats are not kept on slatted floors.

Theme 6.4 – Responsible veterinary treatment and medicines

Minimum requirements

No additional goat-specific minimum requirements are proposed under this Theme. The core requirements of Principle 6 apply.

Improvement requirements

- G6.4.1 Medical treatment records identify the individual goat or goats receiving each treatment.

Theme 6.5 – Humane transport and slaughter

Minimum requirements

Transport

- G6.5.1 Goats in the last two months of gestation, or young goats whose umbilical cord has not healed, are not transported unless this is necessary to receive medical treatment. The core Principle 6 fitness-for-transport requirements continue to apply to sick, injured or otherwise vulnerable animals.
- G6.5.2 Where goats are moved on foot, they are moved at a pace that does not cause exhaustion.
- G6.5.3 Transport vehicles provide sufficient space for goats to lie down and to stand without their heads touching the roof.
- G6.5.4 Goats have access to nutritionally complete feed appropriate to their life stage and unrestricted water within two hours before loading for transport.
- G6.5.5 For journeys longer than eight hours, goats are provided with water, feed and rest at least every eight hours. They are unloaded into an outdoor exercise area providing at least 5 m² per goat for at least eight hours before transport recommences and are able to eat and drink to satiation during this period.

Slaughter

- G6.5.6 Goats are not sold for international slaughter.

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