

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Policy: SC-33-500  
Date: 6/15/15  
Enabled by: The Guide,  
The Ag Guide  
AWA, PPM  
Supersedes: 10/05/2013

### **Title: Husbandry and Handling of Goats**

---

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum standards of care for goats.

II. Policy:

All units providing care for goats must meet or exceed these minimum requirements, which are based on the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching* (the Ag Guide). Goats used in biomedical research and non-standard Ag practice teaching must additionally meet the requirements in the Animal Welfare Act and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, current edition.

III. Procedure:

Daily:

**(365 days a year without exception)**

Observe each animal and check for health concerns, which must be documented with the date. Record sick and dead animals. Injuries or herd health concerns covered by approved facility SOP's may be treated by facility managers and do not need to be reported to a veterinarian. Consult with a clinical veterinarian for other health concerns or if potential herd health issues are observed.

Check feed- animals should be fed daily an amount that takes into consideration the nutrient density of the feed and the nutrient requirements of the animal. Exceptions to daily feeding must be approved in animal care and use protocols. Expiration dates for bagged feed must be readily available per AV Food Storage Policy. If a manufactures mill date is not available, indicate date received.

Check water- sufficient clean water must be available in a consistent manner to meet the animal's daily needs under all environmental conditions.

Dairy does in milk should be milked on a regular schedule that is appropriate to ensure udder health & welfare of the animal. Dairy does should be milked in a quiet environment and with a consistent routine.

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

### Enclosures:

Enclosures must be in good condition and free of objects or damage that could cause injury. Every animal should have sufficient space to move about, adequate access to feed and water, a comfortable resting site, and the opportunity to remain reasonably dry and clean.

The sheltered area for outside lots or pastures should be at least 5.4 ft<sup>2</sup> per goat. Minimum stall area for dairy goats requires at least 16 ft<sup>2</sup>/goat.

Social housing should be considered the default for housing animals according to the IACUC policy on Social Housing of Social Species.

Enclosures need to be cleaned according to the SC 50-104 policy regarding Cleaning and Disinfecting Stalls, Runs and Enclosures for Large/Agricultural Animals

### Handling and Transport:

Whenever possible, animals should be moved in a relaxed manner at a normal walking speed with minimum noise to reduce stress and prevent behavioral agitation in alleys, chutes, milking parlor and trailers. When handling goats, the natural tendency for goats to show herding behavior should be used in the animal's best interests. Animals should be gated off into smaller groups during transport to prevent injuries.

Special Considerations: For animals that may enter the food chain, the policy on Quality Assurance - Drug Residues and Labeling of Drugs Used in Food Animals must be followed