



# Goat Buying Questionnaire

Finding a Breeder that Breeds with...



**Breeder Name:** Kerry O'Neal **Farm Name:** Rafter O at Cordova Creek

Topic	Questions to Ask	Notes (Rafter O Answers)
<p><b>General</b></p>	<p><b>Registries</b> - What registries do you belong to?</p> <p><b>Type of Housing</b> - What type of housing and turn-out areas do you have? What is the size of your goat areas?</p> <p><b>Size of Herd</b> - What is the size of your herd? How many does, bucks and kids?</p> <p><b>Goat Experience</b> - How many years have you been raising goats?</p> <p><b>Breeds</b> - What breeds do you raise?</p>	<p>MDGA &amp; ADGA</p> <p>We have a doe barn and buck barn – all are dry-lotted. The doe barn turn out area is in a cedar forest and is about ½ acre. The buck area is about ¼ acre.</p> <p>We usually run about 10-14 does, and about 4 bucks. Kid numbers average 15-25.</p> <p>We started raising goats in 2015.</p> <p>We raise Mini Nubians.</p>
<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p><b>Feed &amp; Water</b> - Tell me about your feed and water program.</p> <p><b>Environment</b> - How is your goats' environment conducive to good health?</p> <p><b>Veterinary Care</b> - Who is your goat veterinarian?</p> <p><b>Inspection</b> - How often do you inspect your goats?</p>	<p>Does get a mix of alfalfa pellets, grain pellet, beet pulp shreds, BOSS, and Chaffhaye.. Bucks get a complete pellet and alfalfa/timothy pellet. All get Coastal Hay.</p> <p>Our goats have plenty of room in both their barn and turn out area. They are dry-lotted which reduces parasites.</p> <p>Chisholm Trail Veterinary Clinic – Dr. Charlotte Dawson, Dr. Lynn Green-Ivey, Dr. Steven Golla</p> <p>Multiple times a day.</p>

	<p><b>Biosecurity</b> - Which diseases do you test for in your herd? How often? Ask to see test results.</p> <p><b>Genetic Testing</b> - What genetic diseases do you test for? Ask to see test results.</p> <p><b>Other Diseases</b> - What prevention methods do you use for other goat diseases: Parasites, mastitis, pneumonia, overeating disease, tetanus, etc?</p> <p><b>Husbandry and Other Procedures</b> - How are the following procedures performed on your farm?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disbudding/Dehorning</li> <li>• Castration/Banding/Burdizzo</li> <li>• Surgical Procedures</li> <li>• Euthanasia</li> </ul>	<p>We test for CAE, CL, and Johnes every other year and as needed for new goats. We currently use WADDL. Test results are available on our website (password protected).</p> <p>Our herd is G6S normal through testing and parentage.</p> <p>Parasites – we dry lot and use chemical wormers /treatments as needed.</p> <p>CDT – We vaccinate all adult goats annually, and kids get a two-vaccine series.</p> <p>Pneumonia – We vaccinate with an Intranasal Vaccine for both bacterial and viral causes of respiratory issues.</p> <p>We disbud kids ourselves. Kids are given Banamine for pain control, and we utilize ice packs to reduce pain.</p> <p>All other procedures would be performed by our veterinarian.</p>
<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p><b>Continuing Education</b> - How do you stay up to date on the latest advances in goat health?</p> <p><b>Mentor Program</b> - Describe your mentor program for new buyers.</p>	<p>We attend as many virtual education sessions we can, and we try to attend the ADGA Convention as much as possible.</p> <p>We do offer continued support for all buyers of Rafter O goats! We are always just a phone call, text, or email away!</p>
<p><b>Accountability</b></p>	<p><b>Sponsors</b> - Can you provide me with 3 references who are familiar with your farm and can provide testimonials to support that you breed with HEART?</p> <p><b>Business Practices</b> - Do you conduct business dealings in a fair and ethical manner?</p> <p><b>Sales Agreement</b> - Do you utilize a sales agreement or sales contract?</p>	<p>Alyssa Downs Michelle Taub Samantha Branson Others available.</p> <p>Yes. We strive to make sure every buyer has a good experience, and we will make things right if a problem might occur.</p> <p>We have a sales agreement that each buyer must sign when placing a deposit on a goat.</p>

	<p><b>Record Keeping</b> - How do you maintain records for your herd? What is included?</p>	<p>We use HerdBoss mobile app to track everything that happens to our goats from medicine, maintenance, kiddings, etc.</p>
<p><b>Responsibility</b></p>	<p><b>Code of Conduct</b> - Do you abide by the Purpose and Goals of the Texas Mini Milkers (<a href="#">more info</a>)</p> <p><b>Improving the Mini Breeds</b> - How do you help promote the breeding and raising of high-quality Miniature Dairy Goats?</p> <p><b>Parentage - DNA</b> - Do you utilize the UC Davis Genetics lab to verify ANY questionable parentage to ensure pedigree integrity?</p> <p><b>USDA Scrapie Requirements</b> - Do you abide by the USDA Identification guidelines - approved tags, implants, or tattoos?</p> <p><b>Transportation</b> - Do you abide by interstate animal movement requirements when transporting goats across state lines?</p>	<p>Yes. We are a founding member of Texas Mini Milkers.</p> <p>I serve as President and Show Committee Chair of the Texas Mini Milkers, and Live Show Chair for the Miniature Dairy Goat Association.</p> <p>We have not had this happen, but we would definitely utilize Parentage DNA if there was ever a question.</p> <p>Yes. We use USDA certified microchips and are registered with the USDA Scrapie Eradication Program.</p> <p>We abide by all rules for interstate livestock transport.</p>
<p><b>Tradition</b></p>	<p><b>Performance Programs</b> – Do you participate in at least one of the below programs every year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live Shows</li> <li>• Virtual Shows</li> <li>• Milk Testing – One Day and/or 305 Day</li> <li>• Conformation Clinic</li> </ul>	<p>We participate in all of these programs.</p> <p>Live Shows – 3-4 per year</p> <p>Virtual Shows – 2 per year</p> <p>Milk Testing – One Day</p> <p>Conformation Clinic – every few years</p>

**More Notes:**

# Supporting Information

## Health

**HEART Breeders shall abide by the Five Freedoms of Dairy Goat Well-being:**

- **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst:** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
- **Freedom from Discomfort:** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease:** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to Express Normal Behavior:** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind.
- **Freedom from Fear and Distress:** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

**Housing** - an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area. Acceptable stocking density calculations based on laying areas of 15 sq. ft. per goat and turnout lots/pasture space of 25 sq. ft. per goat.

**Feed** - a diet that is adjusted as appropriate to the animal's age and breed in order to promote balanced nutrition. In all cases, nutritional maintenance through feeding of quality forage, mineral concentrates, etc. should be provided to maintain good health. Body Condition Scores should be utilized. Adequate bunk space should be provided so that goats do not need to compete for food.

**Water** - all goats should be provided with continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day. During winter, the water supply should be kept clear of ice. Provisions should be in place to ensure an emergency supply of suitable drinking water in case normal supplies fail (e.g. due to freezing, drought, power failure, well malfunction, etc.)

**Environment** - the environment in which the goats are kept should take into account their welfare needs and provide the best husbandry approaches; should be designed to protect the goats from physical and thermal discomfort, fear, and distress; and should allow them to perform their natural behaviors. The animals should be protected from pain, injury, and disease, and their environment should be conducive to good health. All goats regardless of location should be provided voluntary access to

pasture or turnout/exercise lots where weather allows and climatic conditions are suitable.

**Veterinary/Client Patient (VCP) Relationship** - should maintain a VCP with a veterinary clinic and/or veterinarian.

**Inspections of Livestock** - daily inspections encompass the monitoring of animals' body condition and feed/water consumption; signs of lameness; condition of the coat, udder, and leg; cleanliness of the animals; and any signs of disease. All goats should be inspected and monitored regularly to confirm animal health and for the early detection of injuries and early signs of lameness, sickness, and disease so that appropriate and timely actions may be taken.

**Biosecurity Plan** - Goats can carry a variety of diseases: CAE, CL, Johnes', Q-Fever, Brucellosis, and Tuberculosis. Breeders should have a Biosecurity Plan for reducing the risk of disease introduction to the herd, and potential buyers are advised to purchase goats from herds with good Biosecurity Plans and Practices. At a minimum, CAE (Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis) should be addressed. Prevention or elimination of CAE relies on three main control points: kid management, herd-wide testing, and culling or isolating infected animals. The frequency of disease testing is dependent on a number of factors - ask your potential breeder more on this subject.

**Genetic Testing** - Mini Nubians and Nubians are known to carry the G6S genetic defect. The minimum acceptable requirements for HEART breeders: only using G6S Normal bucks (either through testing or proved through parentage with documented tests) and testing all kids when a doe is a known G6S carrier.

**Other Disease Prevention Plan** - Parasites, mastitis, pneumonia, overeating disease, tetanus, etc. are problems that plague goats. Breeders should have a plan to prevent and address these diseases.

**Husbandry and Other Procedures** - These practices should be performed by designated, trained, and competent personnel or the herd veterinarian using appropriate, well-maintained equipment in order to minimize suffering and optimize recovery: Disbudding/Dehorning, Castration/Banding/Burdizzo, Surgical Procedures, and Euthanasia.

<p><b>Education</b></p>	<p><b>Continuing Education</b> - HEART breeders should pursue 5 continuing education hours per year so that they stay current on the best breeding practices, including advances in goat health.</p> <p><b>Mentor Program for Buyers</b> - HEART breeders should provide a Mentor Program for New Buyers.</p>
<p><b>Accountability</b></p>	<p><b>Business Practices</b> - HEART breeders should conduct business dealings in a fair and ethical manner.</p> <p><b>Sales Agreement</b> - HEART breeders should utilize a sales agreement or sales contract.</p> <p><b>Record Keeping</b> - HEART breeders, at a minimum, should keep herd records, showing what new animals were added and what animals left the herd. Health records for each goat are strongly encouraged.</p>
<p><b>Responsibility</b></p>	<p><b>Code of Conduct</b> - HEART breeders should abide by the Purpose and Goals of the Texas Mini Milkers (<a href="#">more info</a>)</p> <p><b>Improving the Mini Breeds</b> - HEART breeders should help promote the breeding and raising of high-quality Miniature Dairy Goats.</p> <p><b>Parentage - DNA</b> - HEART breeders should utilize the UC Davis Genetics lab to verify ANY questionable parentage to ensure pedigree integrity.</p> <p><b>USDA Scrapie Requirements</b> - Goats leaving a HEART breeder's property should follow USDA Identification guidelines - approved tags, implants, or tattoos (<a href="#">more info</a>).</p> <p><b>Transportation</b> - HEART breeders should abide by interstate animal movement requirements when transporting goats across state lines (<a href="#">more info</a>).</p>
<p><b>Tradition</b></p>	<p><b>Performance Programs</b> - HEART breeders should participate in at least one of these programs every year: Live Shows, Virtual Shows, Milk Testing, Conformation Clinic</p>

Buyer Tip: When purchasing goats sight unseen, don't settle for pictures only! Be sure to schedule a live video chat with the seller so you can view goats before purchasing. Ideally, HEART breeders will send you many video and photo updates until you pick up your goats.