GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE

GBAZ Stud Registration Guide

How a GBAZ member becomes a stud breeder and registers goats with the Zimbabwe Herd Book



Boer Goat. Photograph: Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery.

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> *Guide issued by GBAZ; procedures and fees are confirmed by the office and the registrar.*

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This guide explains the pathway in plain English. Where it differs from the registrar's rules, the registrar's rules apply. Fees shown as "as published by the office" change from time to time and are confirmed before you pay.

SECTION 1

Who does what

Two bodies are involved when a goat is registered in Zimbabwe. They have different jobs, and the pathway works only when both are followed.

GBAZ: the breed society

The Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe is the national umbrella body for goat breeds. It sets and publishes the breed standards, trains breeders, judges and inspectors, authorises the inspectors who assess animals against the standard, and decides which of its members are Stud Breeder members. GBAZ also keeps its own register of recorded animals and issues the GBAZ Livestock Record Certificate once an animal has been inspected and entered in that register.

The Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe, formed in March 2026 as a GBAZ chapter, carries out these functions for the Boer breed. Societies for other breeds are expected to follow. Until a breed has its own society, GBAZ performs the society functions for that breed.

The Zimbabwe Herd Book: the statutory registrar

The Zimbabwe Herd Book was established by Act of Parliament in 1980 and operates under the Registration of Pedigree Farm Livestock Act [Chapter 19:11]. Under that Act it alone may register the pedigrees of farm livestock, publish them in stud, herd and flock books and issue certificates of registration. It records births, parentage and pedigrees for cattle, sheep and goats, keeps the herd list, raises the annual levies and issues the registration certificate.

The registrar does not inspect animals. Inspection is done by inspectors authorised by the breed society, and the registrar accepts the signed inspection return as the evidence that an animal has passed inspection.

> **In one sentence**
> GBAZ sets the standard and inspects; the Zimbabwe Herd Book records the pedigree and issues the certificate.

Function	GBAZ (breed society)	Zimbabwe Herd Book (registrar)
Breed standards	Writes, publishes and applies them	Records which standard applies to each breed
Stud Breeder membership	Approves applications and keeps members in good standing	Accepts breeders who are members of the society
Prefix and herd designation letters	Receives the application and recommends it	Allocates and records them
Birth notifications and DNA	Helps members complete them; forwards batches	Records births; stores parentage and DNA results

Function	GBAZ (breed society)	Zimbabwe Herd Book (registrar)
Inspection	Authorises inspectors; inspects; signs the inspection report	Files the inspection return against the animal
Registration certificate	Issues the GBAZ Livestock Record Certificate	Issues the pedigree registration certificate
Transfers, imports, duplicates	Advises; checks that the new owner is a member where required	Records the transaction and re-issues documents
Levies and fees	GBAZ membership fees; inspection fees	Herd levy, per-animal levy, registration and transfer fees

SECTION 2

The pathway at a glance

Nine steps take a goat from a GBAZ member's herd to a registration certificate. The sections that follow explain each step.

1. **Join GBAZ as a Stud Breeder member**
   Pay the joining fee and annual subscription; the application is approved by the council. Join the breed society (for Boer goats, the Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe).
2. **Apply for a herd prefix and herd designation letters**
   The prefix is your stud name (up to 14 characters). The herd designation letters identify your animals for life.
3. **Identify every animal**
   Three-part identification: herd letters or stud number, year of birth, serial number. Tattoo plus a tag.
4. **Notify births within 60 days**
   Each kid intended for registration is notified on the prescribed form or electronically, with the dam and sire identified.
5. **Submit DNA samples**
   A sample is taken for each birth-notified animal as required by the registrar, and parentage is verified.

6 **Inspection by a GBAZ-authorised inspector**
Animals are assessed against the breed standard, normally from ten months of age. The inspector completes and signs the inspection report.

7 **GBAZ office submits the application to the Zimbabwe Herd Book**
The inspection report, the application for registration and the fee are forwarded by the office.

8 **Certificate issued**
The Zimbabwe Herd Book issues the registration certificate. GBAZ issues the Livestock Record Certificate for its register.

9 **Keep the record current**
Verify the herd list each year, pay levies by the end of March, notify transfers within 30 days and notify every new kid crop within 60 days.

SECTION 3

Step 1: Stud Breeder membership

Membership of the Zimbabwe Herd Book rests with the breed societies. A breeder who wants to register goats must first be a full member of the society in the stud category.

Categories and fees

Category	Who it is for	Joining fee	Annual subscription
Ordinary and Associate Member	Goat farmers, students, supporters and organisations who want training, networking and the newsletter	US$20	US$20
Stud Breeder	Breeders who intend to record and register pedigree goats with the Zimbabwe Herd Book	US$50	US$50

The fees above are those on the current GBAZ membership form. All applications are subject to approval by the council, and the schedule may be revised at the annual general meeting; the office confirms the current amounts before you pay. A member under 18 years of age applies with a parent or guardian.

How to apply

1. Complete the GBAZ Membership Application Form (available from the office or the website) and tick the Stud Breeder category. Give the name under which you want to be recorded: your own name, a farm name or a company.

2. Pay the joining fee and the annual subscription by bank transfer or in cash at the office, and send proof of payment to the office WhatsApp line.
3. The office receipts the payment and places the application before the council. Approved members receive a membership number and the annual membership certificate.
4. If you breed Boer goats, apply at the same time for membership of the Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe, which applies the Boer standard and arranges Boer inspections. Members of other breeds deal directly with GBAZ until a society for the breed is formed.

Staying in good standing

The annual subscription falls due each year. Only members in good standing may notify births, present animals for inspection, enter official auctions and have animals registered. A member whose subscription lapses is marked inactive with the registrar; animals cannot be registered or transferred until the subscription and any arrears are paid.

SECTION 4

Step 2: Herd prefix and herd designation letters

The prefix is the name of your stud and becomes the first part of every registered animal's name. The herd designation letters are the short mark that identifies your animals on their ears and in the register.

The prefix

- A prefix is a single word or short name of up to 14 characters, for example the name of your farm or stud. It must not already be in use for the same species and must not be misleading.
- The prefix is applied for through GBAZ on the registrar's prescribed form, with the registration fee as published by the office. GBAZ checks the application and recommends it to the Zimbabwe Herd Book, which allocates the prefix.
- Once allocated, the prefix is used for all your registered goats of that breed, for example MOPANI RIDGE 26-0007 (the example prefix MOPANI RIDGE is fictional).
- A prefix belongs to the breeder, not to the animal. When an animal is sold its name, including the breeder's prefix, stays with it.

Herd designation letters

- Herd designation letters (HDL) are two to four letters allocated with the prefix, for example MOP. They are tattooed or tagged on every animal and recorded against every birth notification.
- Where the registrar or the breed society allocates a numeric stud number instead of, or in addition to, letters, the stud number performs the same function in the identification.
- Both the prefix and the herd designation letters are confirmed in writing by the registrar before any animal is identified with them. Do not tattoo animals with letters that have not yet been allocated.

Fees for this step
Prefix and herd designation letter registration: fee as published by the office and the registrar. There is no charge for the GBAZ recommendation.

SECTION 5

Step 3: Identification of every animal

No animal can be birth-notified, inspected or registered without permanent, legible identification. The registrar requires two means of identification on every animal.

The three-part identification number

Every goat intended for registration carries an identification number made up of three parts, in this order:

Part	What it is	Example
1. Herd designation letters or stud number	The letters or number allocated with your prefix. The same for every animal you breed.	MOP
2. Year of birth	The last two digits of the year in which the kid was born.	26 (for 2026)
3. Serial number	A running number that starts again at 0001 each year, in the order in which kids are tagged.	0007

Written in full the number reads MOP 26 0007, or MOP 7/26 in the registrar's short form. The GBAZ Animal Register template uses the same three parts so that your own records line up with the Herd Book's.

Tattoo and tag rules

- Tattoo: the herd designation letters are tattooed in one ear and the year and serial number in the other, using green or black tattoo paste on a clean, dry ear. Tattoo kids before weaning and before the birth notification is sent, so that the number on the form is the number on the animal.
- Tag: a plastic ear tag carrying the same three-part number is the second means of identification. Tags must be legible from a short distance. A lost tag is replaced with a tag bearing the same number; a new number is never issued to an animal that already has one.
- One animal, one number, for life. The identification number is never re-used, even after an animal dies or is sold.
- An animal whose tattoo is illegible or whose tag does not match its papers will not be inspected until its identity has been confirmed, if necessary by DNA parentage testing at the owner's cost.
- Inspected animals may receive an additional GBAZ inspection tag or plate showing the result of inspection. The colour and format of inspection tags are set by the council and published by the office.



Identification must be checked against the papers before inspection. Photograph: Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery.

SECTION 6

Step 4: Birth notification within 60 days

A birth notification tells the registrar that a kid has been born, who its parents are and who bred it. It is the foundation of the pedigree and the first document in every registered animal's record.

What to notify

- Kid identification number (the three-part number), sex, date of birth and birth type (single, twin, triplet).
- Dam identification number and registration number, and sire identification number and registration number.
- Breeder's prefix and membership number, and the name of the owner if different from the breeder.
- Service details where the sire was not the breeder's own: a service certificate if the dam was bought in kid, and a sire-loan certificate if the sire was borrowed or hired.
- Artificial insemination or embryo transfer details where used, with the registered sire and the certificate of the inseminator.

When and how

- Notify every kid intended for registration within 60 days of birth. Kids that will not be registered need not be notified, but a kid that is not notified in time cannot be registered later without penalty.
- Use the registrar's manual birth notification form, obtainable from the office, or an electronic submission through the registrar's herd recording software where the office has enabled it for your herd.
- Send completed forms to the GBAZ office, which checks them and forwards them in batches to the Zimbabwe Herd Book, or lodge them directly with the registrar as the office directs.

Late notification fees (registrar, from January 2026)

Age of kid when notified	Fee per animal	Condition
Up to 60 days	No late fee	Standard notification
61 to 180 days	US$2	Accepted
181 to 365 days	US$5	Accepted
More than 365 days	US$10	Only with the breed society's written approval

The standard birth notification fee, where charged, is as published by the registrar. Late fees are in addition to it.

SECTION 7

Step 5: DNA sampling

DNA confirms parentage and protects the value of a pedigree. The registrar requires DNA samples with birth notifications and treats a DNA result as the prerequisite for upgrading an animal into the Herd Book register.

- Take a sample from every birth-notified kid as directed by the office: a hair sample with roots, a blood card or a tissue sample from an ear punch, using the kit supplied or approved by the registrar.
- Label each sample with the animal's full three-part identification number and the date, and record it in your animal register.
- Sires and dams used in a stud should have a DNA profile on file before their kids are notified, so that parentage can be verified when the kid's sample is tested.
- Samples are sent through the office to the laboratory used by the registrar. The laboratory fee is as published by the office and is payable by the breeder.
- Where a DNA result excludes the stated sire or dam, the birth notification is corrected before the animal can be inspected or registered.

> **Parentage disputes**
> If an animal's recorded parentage is questioned at a show, an auction or a sale, the registrar relies on the DNA profile on file. Breeders who sample every animal rarely face a dispute they cannot settle.

SECTION 8

Step 6: Inspection by a GBAZ-authorised inspector

Inspection is the test of the breed standard. Only animals that pass inspection are entered in the stud register; the rest remain recorded as herd animals or are culled from the register.

Who inspects

- Inspectors are trained and authorised by GBAZ, or by the breed society for its breed. The office keeps the list of current inspectors. Until Zimbabwe has enough qualified inspectors for a breed, GBAZ may invite inspectors from a recognised partner society abroad; in 2025 eleven breeders were inspected in this way.
- An inspector may not inspect his or her own animals, or animals in which he or she has a financial interest.
- The registrar does not inspect and does not question the inspector's decision; disputes about an inspection are decided by the GBAZ council, with the inspector, and that decision is final.

Requesting an inspection

1. Ask the office for an inspection, giving the number of animals, their identification numbers and the farm location. Farm inspections are grouped by district where possible so that travel is shared.
2. Have the animals penned, clean and in working condition on the day, with the birth notifications, DNA records and the animal register ready. Animals that cannot be caught and read are not inspected.
3. Animals are normally presented from ten months of age. An animal older than twelve months that has been birth-notified but not inspected stays in the kid record until an inspection return is filed.
4. Pay the inspection fee as published by the office: an inspector's day fee and travel, and a per-animal fee, invoiced after the inspector's report is received.

What the inspector decides

Result	Meaning	What happens next
Stud (passed)	Meets the breed standard with no cull defects	Application for registration goes to the registrar; GBAZ Livestock Record Certificate may be issued
Herd	Breed type and sound, but with faults that exclude it from the stud register	Recorded as a herd animal; may be used in an appendix or upgrading scheme where the breed society runs one
Cull	A disqualifying defect under the standard	Not registered; may not be sold as a registered or inspected animal



Inspection assesses the whole animal against the written standard. Photograph: Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery.

SECTION 9

The inspection report

The inspection report is the document the registrar files against each animal. It must be complete, legible and signed, or it is returned.

For every animal presented, the report records:

1. The animal's identification number, exactly as tattooed and tagged, and its tag or plate number if a separate inspection tag is fitted.
2. Sex, breed and date of birth.
3. The dam's identification number and the sire's identification number, as on the birth notification.
4. The result of inspection (stud, herd or cull) and, for a herd or cull result, the reason in the words of the breed standard.
5. The date of inspection and the place.
6. The inspector's name, authorisation number and signature, confirming that the animal was inspected by a GBAZ-authorised inspector.
7. The breeder's name, prefix and signature, confirming the identity of the animals presented.

The inspector sends the report to the office within a week of the inspection. The office keeps a copy, enters the result in the GBAZ register and forwards the report to the Zimbabwe Herd Book with the applications for registration.

SECTION 10

Step 7: Submission to the Zimbabwe Herd Book

The registrar registers an animal on an application supported by the inspection report, the birth notification and the DNA result. The GBAZ office submits the application for its members.

1. Complete the registrar's application for registration for each animal that passed inspection, or sign the batch application prepared by the office from the inspection report.
2. Pay the registration fee per animal as published by the registrar and confirmed by the office. Levy arrears must be settled before an application is processed.
3. The office checks that the birth notification, DNA record and inspection report agree, then submits the batch to the Zimbabwe Herd Book.
4. The registrar enters the animal in the register under your prefix and issues the certificate. Queries from the registrar come back to you through the office.

> **Processing time**
> Submissions are processed in the order received. Complete paperwork is the quickest route: an application returned for a missing signature or an identification mismatch goes to the back of the queue.

SECTION 11

Step 8: Certificates

Two certificates can follow a successful inspection. They have different purposes and are issued by different bodies.

Zimbabwe Herd Book registration certificate

Issued by the registrar under the Registration of Pedigree Farm Livestock Act. It shows the animal's registered name (prefix and identification number), registration number, breed, sex, date of birth, parentage and breeder, and it is the only document that proves pedigree registration. It is required for an animal to be sold as a registered animal and is transferred to the new owner on sale.

GBAZ Livestock Record Certificate

Issued by GBAZ through the member portal once an inspected animal has been entered in the GBAZ register of recorded goats. It records the inspection and the entry in the association's register, carries a serial number and a verification code, and can be checked by anyone on the GBAZ website. It is not a pedigree certificate: pedigree registration certificates are issued by the Zimbabwe Herd Book.

Duplicates and corrections

- A lost or damaged registration certificate is replaced by the registrar on application and payment of the duplicate fee as published.
- Corrections to a certificate (for example a wrong date of birth) are applied for through the office with evidence; the registrar records the alteration.
- A GBAZ certificate that was issued in error is revoked by the office and shows as revoked on the verification page.

SECTION 12

After registration: herd list, levies and transfers

Registration is not a once-off event. The register stays accurate only if the breeder keeps it current every year.

The annual herd list

Each January the registrar draws up a herd list from the certificates and birth notifications on file and circulates it to the breeder as a levy list. Check it, mark animals that have died or been sold, add any missed, sign it and return it by the end of February. A herd list that is not returned leads to automatic in-activation of the herd with the registrar.

Levies (registrar, effective January 2026)

Levy	Amount	When
Annual herd levy	US$240 per herd	Levy list in January; payment by the end of March
Per-animal levy, small stock (goats and sheep)	US$2.00 per animal on the herd list	With the herd levy
Quarterly instalments	On application to the registrar	Agreed before the end of March

GBAZ's own annual subscription (Section 3) is separate from the registrar's levies and is paid to the association.

Transfers of ownership

- When a registered animal is sold, the seller completes the transfer section of the certificate or the registrar's transfer form, signs it and hands it to the buyer with the certificate.
- The transfer is notified to the registrar within 30 days of the sale, with the transfer fee as published. The registrar re-issues the certificate in the buyer's name.
- A buyer who is not a GBAZ member can own a registered animal but cannot register its progeny until he or she joins as a Stud Breeder member and obtains a prefix.
- Animals sold at GBAZ auctions are transferred through the auction paperwork; see the GBAZ Auction Rules.

Deaths, culls and re-instatement

- Report deaths and culls on the annual herd list, or earlier through the office, so that levies are not raised on animals you no longer have.
- A herd that has been in-activated for non-return of the herd list or non-payment can be re-instated on application and payment of the re-instatement fee as published by the registrar.

SECTION 13

Imported animals

Registered goats imported into Zimbabwe can be entered in the Zimbabwe Herd Book, provided the pedigree is documented and the veterinary requirements are met.

1. Before the animal travels, obtain an import permit from the Department of Veterinary Services and the export health certificate required by the exporting country. Quarantine and testing requirements are set by the Department, not by GBAZ or the registrar.
2. Obtain an export pedigree certificate from the registrar in the country of origin showing at least 14 ancestors (three generations), the animal's identification and its DNA profile where available.
3. Apply through the GBAZ office for registration of the imported animal with the Zimbabwe Herd Book. The registrar's fee for an imported animal is US$20 per animal from January 2026, plus the standard registration fee as published.
4. The animal keeps its original registered name and prefix. Its identification is recorded as tattooed or tagged in the country of origin; a Zimbabwean tag may be added but the original number is not changed.
5. GBAZ may require an imported animal to be inspected against the Zimbabwean breed standard before it is presented at a GBAZ auction or show, and before its progeny are inspected.
6. Imported semen and embryos are registered through the registrar's AI-sire and embryo procedures, with the certificates of the exporting registrar and the inseminator or embryo technician.

SECTION 14

Fees and levies summary

Fixed amounts below are taken from the GBAZ membership form and the registrar's published schedule effective January 2026. All other amounts are as published by the office and may change.

Item	Payable to	Amount
Stud Breeder membership: joining fee	GBAZ	US$50 (current form)
Stud Breeder membership: annual subscription	GBAZ	US$50 (current form)
Ordinary and Associate membership: joining fee and annual subscription	GBAZ	US$20 and US$20 (current form)
Breed society membership (Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe)	Breed society	As published by the society
Prefix and herd designation letters	Registrar, through GBAZ	As published by the office
Birth notification (within 60 days)	Registrar	As published by the office
Late birth notification	Registrar	US$2 (61 to 180 days); US$5 (181 to 365 days); US$10 plus society approval (over 365 days)

Item	Payable to	Amount
DNA sampling and laboratory	Laboratory, through GBAZ	As published by the office
Inspection	GBAZ or breed society	Inspector's day fee and travel plus per-animal fee, as published by the office
Registration certificate	Registrar	As published by the office
Transfer of ownership (within 30 days)	Registrar	As published by the office
Duplicate certificate; re-instatement; alterations	Registrar	As published by the office
Imported animal	Registrar	US$20 per animal (from January 2026) plus registration fee
Annual herd levy	Registrar	US$240 per herd (from January 2026)
Per-animal levy, small stock	Registrar	US$2.00 per animal (from January 2026)

SECTION 15

Checklist for a new stud breeder

Tick each item off in order. The office can confirm where you are on the list.

- ☐ GBAZ membership application submitted in the Stud Breeder category, fees paid, proof of payment sent, membership number received.
- ☐ Breed society membership applied for (Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe for Boer goats).
- ☐ Prefix (up to 14 characters) and herd designation letters applied for and confirmed in writing by the registrar.
- ☐ Tattoo set, tattoo paste and ear tags bought; animal register (GBAZ template) started.
- ☐ Foundation animals' registration certificates in hand and transfers to your name notified within 30 days.
- ☐ Every kid tattooed and tagged with the three-part number before weaning.
- ☐ Birth notifications submitted within 60 days of birth, with service or sire-loan certificates where needed.
- ☐ DNA samples taken, labelled and sent; sire and dam profiles on file.
- ☐ Inspection requested; animals, papers and register ready on the day; inspection fee paid.
- ☐ Inspection report signed and received by the office; applications for registration submitted with fees.
- ☐ Registration certificates received and filed; GBAZ Livestock Record Certificates downloaded from the portal.
- ☐ Herd list checked and returned by the end of February; levies paid by the end of March; subscription renewed.

SECTION 16

Frequently asked questions

I am an Ordinary member. Can I register my goats?

No. Registration requires Stud Breeder membership. You can upgrade at any time by paying the difference in the joining fee and the Stud Breeder subscription; the office will confirm the amount.

My goats are unregistered but good. Can they be registered?

Animals without a recorded pedigree can be inspected and recorded as foundation or herd animals. Where the breed society runs an appendix or upgrading scheme, their inspected progeny by registered sires move up the register over generations. Ask the office whether a scheme exists for your breed.

Do indigenous Matebele and Mashona goats have a pathway?

Yes. GBAZ published written breed standards for the Matebele and Mashona goats in 2021 with the VALUE project and uses them for inspection. The registration pathway is the same; the office advises on the current inspection arrangements for indigenous breeds.

Who are the inspectors?

Inspectors authorised by GBAZ or the breed society, listed by the office. GBAZ runs junior and senior courses to train Zimbabwean inspectors and judges, and may invite inspectors from a recognised partner society abroad until enough local inspectors are qualified.

How long does registration take?

It depends on the inspection date and on the registrar's processing. Complete paperwork submitted straight after inspection is normally the fastest. The office can tell you where a batch stands.

Can I register a kid whose sire I do not know?

No. Both parents must be identified on the birth notification, and the DNA result must agree. Keep bucks in a separate camp outside the breeding season and record service dates so that every kid has a known sire.

I bought a registered doe in kid. What do I need?

The transfer of the doe into your name, and a service certificate from the seller naming the sire and the service dates, so that the kid can be birth-notified under your prefix with the correct parentage.

What does the GBAZ certificate prove?

That the animal was inspected and entered in the GBAZ register of recorded goats. Pedigree registration is proved only by the Zimbabwe Herd Book certificate.

I missed the 60-day deadline.

Notify the kid as soon as possible and pay the late fee: US$2 up to 180 days, US$5 up to 365 days. After a year the registrar accepts the notification only with the breed society's written approval and a US$10 fee.

Where do I get the forms?

The membership form and the animal register template are on the GBAZ website under Resources. Registrar forms (prefix application, birth notification, application for registration, transfer) are obtained from the office.

SECTION 17

Contacts

WHATSAPP SUPPORT	+263 77 196 7856 (GBAZ)
OFFICE	+263 77 412 2660 (WhatsApp, proof of payment and registrar queries)
E-MAIL	zhb-sec@lit.co.zw
OFFICE ADDRESS	Livestock Centre, Exhibition Park, Samora Machel Avenue West, Belvedere, Harare; P O Box BE 209, Belvedere, Harare
WEBSITE	GBAZ website: Resources, membership form, animal register template, member portal

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