GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE

Before your first goats arrive: farm readiness checklist

Thirteen things to settle before the first animal is unloaded. Legal items first; the rest are recommended practice. Research compiled 18 November 2026; review due November 2027.

Tick each item before the first animal is unloaded. Legal items first.

Farm: _____ Date: _____ Checked by: _____

LEGAL AND REGISTRATION

- [ ] LEGAL REQUIREMENT
  Land tenure and water: confirm your right to occupy; obtain written authority from the catchment council or ZINWA before drilling a borehole (Water Act [Chapter 20:24], s.35(1) as cited by practitioners) and register existing boreholes; apply for a groundwater abstraction permit (form GW4). The 2025 reforms said borehole and water-use fees were being cancelled, but implementation is partial.

- [ ] LEGAL REQUIREMENT
  EMA: check whether your project is a First Schedule prescribed activity needing a prospectus and EIA (dams, irrigation, drainage of wetlands and forest conversion are confirmed listings; feedlots and abattoirs could not be confirmed). The EIA licence fee was announced as 0.05 percent of project value, capped at US$100,000.

- [ ] LEGAL REQUIREMENT
  Register with the local veterinary office or AHMC as a livestock owner; ask for a stock card and which dip tank or AHMC you fall under.

- [ ] LEGAL REQUIREMENT
  If you will buy and sell goats as a business, register with the Agricultural Marketing Authority as a livestock buyer or trader.

FENCES, HOUSING AND PENS

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Perimeter fence 1.2 to 1.5 m, mesh no larger than 10 cm, offset hot wire inside; lockable gate; sign-in board and footbath at the gate.

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Housing to FAO space: for 50 kg does 0.9 to 1.1 m2 inside plus 2.5 m2 of yard and 0.4 m of trough per doe; raised slatted floor; kidding pens one per ten does.

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Quarantine pen built and stocked with its own trough, bucket, boots and footbath, downwind of the main kraal.

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Water trough that cannot be fouled; cleaned weekly.

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Feed store rodent-proof; chemical store locked; vaccine fridge working with a thermometer.

RECORDS AND CONTACTS

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Registers printed: stock card, identification, movement file, treatment (with withdrawal date column), dipping, mortality, quarantine log, visitor log, breeding.

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Vet contact numbers on the wall of the office and the kraal: DVS head office +263 242 706603, your district office, ZRP (0242) 703631.

THE SELLER AND THE FIRST 30 DAYS

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Agree with the seller: veterinary movement permit obtained before police clearance; Zimbabwe Herd Book registration certificates for stud animals; the seller's treatment and vaccination history.

- [ ] RECOMMENDED
  Plan the first 30 days as quarantine; book a veterinary inspection for day 25 to 30.

Legal requirement: a requirement under a named Zimbabwean statute or statutory instrument. Recommended: guidance from FAO, WOAH, the MSD Veterinary Manual, extension services, manufacturer labels or market research. Unverified: a planning figure GBAZ is still confirming. Sources and the last-verified date are on the web page.