

Selling Goats Protocol

As a goat farmer you may find yourself in a position to sell registered breeding stock from your herd. As a seller of goats it is not your responsibility to screen potential buyers. However, as a goat farmer you should ask some questions to ensure goat farming is for them. People with little to no experience may become overwhelmed and come back to you for advice and guidance. Are you prepared to support the buyer?

The Canadian Meat Goat Association (CMGA) is incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act, which is a Federal Law. According to the Act, **the seller of a registered animal must provide registration papers transferred into the new owner's name within six months of the date of sale.** This is the law and will be enforced by federal/provincial law enforcement.

Outlined below are some points to help get you started as a seller:

1. What is the health status of your goats? If you are selling goats as health status unknown (meaning you are not guaranteeing those animals are free of specific diseases) then let potential buyers know that.
2. If you are selling goats as disease free then provide written proof from your herd veterinarian. A verbal statement does not constitute proof.
3. Ensure the goats are moved well in advance of their freshening dates, if applicable. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulations prohibit the transport of animals likely to give birth during transport. Knowing that transport stress can induce labour, producers need to use caution during the last 10 per cent of gestation.
4. When potential buyers come to your farm provide biosecurity wear, i.e. disposable boots or boots worn on your farm, to prevent new diseases being introduced to your farm.

Purchase agreement

Have a written agreement between you (the seller) and the buyer, clearly stating the conditions of the sale and have both parties sign the document, even if you are very good friends. When the conditions of sale are clearly outlined less problems will occur. Consider including the following points:

- What is the agreed upon price? Is a deposit required to hold the goats?
- What are the payment terms?
- Ensure there is a clear guideline if the goats do not move by the agreed upon date. If the goats do not move by the agreed upon date, clearly state what happens to the goats, including if the owner is free to resell the goats.
- If the seller and buyer agree the goats can stay past the original agreed upon date, are there additional costs associated with the goats staying longer (i.e. for feed, labour, etc. This could be a dollar amount per head per day)?
- State the disease status of the herd in the agreement, either health status unknown or provide a written report from your veterinarian stating the disease status and withdrawal dates for meat and milk for any goats receiving treatment or medicated feed.
- If additional testing is required by the seller who is responsible for the additional costs?
- Who is responsible for the transfer of ownership for registered animals?
 - According to the Animal Pedigree Act, the seller of a registered animal must provide registration **papers transferred into the new owner's name within six months of the date of sale.** This is the law and will be enforced by federal/provincial law enforcement.

- If a buyer wishes to handle the transfer of the animal, the seller must protect themselves by having the buyer sign a statement to that effect that the buyer assumes responsibility to submit the registration certificate and signed transfer form to the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC) for processing, including transfer fees.
- Who is responsible for trucking?
- It is the responsibility of the buyer to determine the animal's eligibility to be imported or exported in Canada.
- A receipt should be issued outlining
 - Date of purchase
 - Price
 - Terms
 - If it's a kid with papers still to come, be sure to write the kid's tattoo (exactly as it appears on the animal) and birthdate
 - Registration number of the dam and sire
- If an animal is to be sold by agreement without papers, the seller should protect themselves against future claims by having the buyer sign a statement that he/she understands the papers will not be available for that animal.

Transferring ownership of registered goats

When selling a registered animal it is the responsibility of the seller to sign the transfer of ownership papers and mail to the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation (CLRC). According to the Animal Pedigree Act, **the seller of a registered animal must provide registration papers transferred into the new owner's name within six months of the date of sale.** This is the law and will be enforced by the federal/provincial law enforcement. If the seller and buyer are in agreement, the seller can sign the transfer application on the back of the original registration certificate and present to the buyer. The buyer will then send the transfer of ownership and necessary fees into the CLRC.

When selling registered goats check to ensure:

- Does the tattoo numbers of the animals sold correspond with the printed information on the registration certificate?
- Who is going to transfer the ownership with the CLRC?
- Are the transfer charges included in the price of the goat?
- If the buyer is sending in the transfer of ownership papers, have you signed the documents, does the buyer understand additional charges will apply when transferring ownership?
- Remember that an animal can only be sold as a purebred if it has original CMGA registration papers and the tattoo on the animal's ears exactly matches the tattoo shown on the papers. If you are buying kids that don't have papers yet, do not take them home if they are not tattooed and insist on getting a copy of the registration papers for the dam and papers or a breeding certificate for the sire. Be sure that the animal or dam of the animal you are purchasing is actually owned by the seller according to the papers. Only the registered owner can transfer the animal into your ownership. All Breeding Guarantees are between the buyer and the seller.

NOTE: There are different transfer fees for members and non-members of the Canadian Meat Goat Association. For a complete listing of fee schedules visit <http://www.clrc.ca/35fees.pdf>

The membership application and appropriate fees should be submitted to:

Canadian Livestock Records Corporation
2417 Holly Lane
Ottawa, ON
K1V 0M7
1-877-833-7110

For more information about meat goat farming in Canada or for member inquiries:

Canadian Meat Goat Association
449 Laird Rd., Unit 12
Guelph, ON
N1G 4W1
Tel: 519-824-2942
E-mail: info@canadianmeatgoat.com
www.canadianmeatgoat.com.