

# Buying Goats Protocol

When purchasing registered breeding stock it is important that the arrangements of the deal be clearly defined. There should be:

- A purchase agreement
- A clear understanding of health expectations of the goats being purchased
- All records to be included with the goats
- An agreement between buyer and seller of who will be doing the transfer of ownership

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.

## Buyer's Responsibility

Buyers have a responsibility to assure the proper conduct of a sale whether private treaty or public auction. Buyers should become familiar with the Code of Ethics and the Glossary of Terms found <https://canadianmeatgoat.com/ethics>. It is also the buyer's responsibility to ensure that the seller chosen to buy goats from adheres to this Code of Ethics in sales, both private treaty and public auction.

## Purchase agreement

Have a written agreement between you (the buyer) and the seller, 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 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 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 the 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.

### **Health**

It is important to have a thorough knowledge of the animals being purchased. Important questions to ask may be:

- What is the health status of the goats?
- Are the goats free of diseases like Caprine-Arthritis-Encephalitis (CAE) or Johnes? If so, ask for documented proof.
- What is the seller's herd vaccination protocol?
- What is the seller's herd de-worming schedule?
- Is there a health certificate from the herd veterinarian?
- Will the current veterinarian provide withdrawal dates for goats currently being treated; including those fed medicated feed, stating meat withdrawals?
- If any goats have broken needles in them, include a written statement identifying which goat and the approximate location of the broken needle.
- Ask about the seller's kid rearing program.
- Talk to your vet about testing that should be done on the goats prior to purchase. What is the health guarantee of the goats from the time of arrival on farm?
- Is there a pregnancy guarantee if does are sold pregnant?

### **Record keeping**

- Will the owner provide copies of the records for each goat?
- Review production information, if available.
- Are the goats classified?
- Are the goats registered? If so, match the tattoo number to the papers. Who will transfer ownership?
- If a tour of the operation is not offered, ask for a tour. A lot can be learned by what you observe. Be respectful of biosecurity practices when on-farm.

### **Transferring ownership of registered goats**

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 the buyer and seller 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 leaving with your newly acquired registered goat(s) check to ensure you have the following:

- Does the tattoo numbers of the animals purchased correspond with the printed information on the registration certificate?
- Who is going to transfer the ownership with CLRC?
- Are the transfer charges included in the price of the goat(s)?
- If the buyer is sending in the documents, has the seller signed all necessary documents to transfer the 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 the *Registration Forms* section of the CMGA website.**

**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 inquires:**

Canadian Meat Goat Association  
155, Ave des Erables  
St.Gabriel.de.Kamouraska QC  
G0L 3E0  
Tel: 418-315-0777  
E-mail: [info@canadianmeatgoat.com](mailto:info@canadianmeatgoat.com)  
[www.canadianmeatgoat.com](http://www.canadianmeatgoat.com).