# Urban Goats

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### Why goats?

- Milk (dairy products and soap)
- Meat
- Fertilizer
  - Manure (compost)
  - Milk or whey
- Livestock feed
  - Milk or whey
  - Can be used as milk replacer





## Can you raise goats?

- Zoning
- Space requirements
- Housing requirements
- Time commitment
- Financial commitment



# Choosing a breed

#### **Breeds**

- Standard dairy goats
- Miniature dairy goats
- Nigerian dwarf dairy goats



#### Considerations

- Size of goat & ease of handling
- Space requirements
- Feed costs
- Milk production
- Butterfat
- Weight of kids (meat)

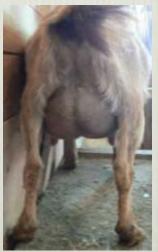
### Buying a goat

- "You get what you pay for."
- Buy from healthy herds that test regularly and/or are closed.
- Buy from a milking herd that keeps records.
- If you've never milked before, it's a good idea to buy an experienced milker with a nursing kid (or two).

Compare udders.









#### Do you need a buck?

- Separate housing required
- Stinky
- Larger breeds difficult to handle
- What if you don't have a buck?
  - Lease a buck
  - Board and breed doe
  - Driveway breedings



### Housing

- Needs to protect goats from wind, snow, and rain
- Should not be insulated
- Permanent vs. portable
- Where will you milk?



### Fencing in cities

#### Not so good

- Woven wire
- Welded wire
- Single-strand electric
- Portable electric fencing

Chain link

Better

- Wood
- Livestock panels



### Feeding

#### Kids

- Milk for at least 8 weeks
- Hay, pasture, browse, and grain
- Dry does and bucks
  - After 6 months, grass hay, browse, pasture
- Pregnant does
  - Grass hay, browse, pasture until last two weeks of pregnancy

- Add 1-4 cups grain during last two weeks of pregnancy, depending on size
- Milking does
  - Alfalfa hay, browse, pasture
  - 1 pound grain for every 3 pounds milk produced
  - Check label on commercial rations



#### Health Care

- Vaccines
- Communicable diseases
  - \* CAE
  - Johnes
  - \* CL
  - Zoonotic diseases
    - Tuberculosis
- Listeriosis
- Toxoplasmosis

- Parasites
  - Internal
    - Barber pole worms
    - Tape worms
    - Other worms
  - External
    - Lice
    - Mites

## Got goat milk?

- Make cheese -- chévre, feta, cheddar, gouda, parmesan, mozzarella, gjetost, & more!
- Make butter, sour cream, yogurt, and buttermilk!
- Cook with it!
- Make soap!
- Supplies:
  - Cheesemaking.com
  - DairyConnection.com
  - Many soapmaking supply sites online!



#### Questions?

- For more information –
- www.homegrownandhandmad ethebook.com
- www.antiquityoaks.com
- NigerianDwarfGoats.ning.com

Homegrown & Handmade: A Practical Guide to More Self-Reliant Living

