

How Much Space do Does Need?

A quick guide to how much land and barn space you need per doe

Minimum Space Requirements for Does

Goats need enough space to rest, exercise, explore and feed in comfort.

A dry, well ventilated enclosed area to lie down, enough feeding stations and a varied environment to explore are important for health and welfare needs of goats!

Overall, guidelines for minimum space requirements for does are around 16 sq. ft. (1.5 m²) per doe for resting in the barn plus 25–50 sq. ft. (2.3–4.6 m²) per doe in an activity area.

Feeding stations measuring 16 inches (40 cm) are recommended for each doe, with more than one feeding place per head. Space may vary according to breed and life stage requirements.

How Much Land Does a Goat Need?

Goats are active animals and like to explore different types of environments. It is important to not overstock pastures and allow the renew of forages to decrease the presence of parasites. To produce 70% of your herd's forage, you will need an acre for 1-3 goats (3-9 goats/hectare). The exact stocking density is variable and depends on the forage yield, soil, climate, season, and length of forage growth. Each goat needs from 4.4 to 7.7lbs (2-3.5kg) of dry matter per day.

Below is a table that shows the range of recommended space allowances per head.

Space Requirements for Does	
Barn	16-32 sq. ft (1.5- 3 m ²)
Activity area	25-50 sq. ft. (2.3-4.6 m ²)
Feed rack	16-55 inches (40-140 cm)
Pasture	0.3+ acre (0.1+ hectare)

*It is important to understand that the space requirements for kids and bucks are not the same as the ones described for does.

