Goat Rental Frequently Asked Questions

Goat Dispatch LLC
507-333-5959
www.GoatDispatch.com
info@goatdispatch.com

1.) **Will predators such as coyotes affect the goats?** In the history of our company we have yet to have an incident with a coyote even though they are working in areas of high coyote density. We believe the electric fencing that helps keep the goats in also helps keep predators out. Also, goats seem to know how to use their horns to protect themselves.

2.) **How do the goats stay in the area you put them in?** We use an easy to deploy temporary electric netting system to keep the goats contained. The fence is energized via solar power/12-volt battery units (remote sites) or plugged in units when close to a power source.

3.) **Is goat grazing legal or does it require a permit in my area?** Check with your city to see if they allow goat grazing. Some cities have ordinances that allow the practice and some do not. Some municipalities are in the process of revising ordinances to allow the use of livestock. Many cities do allow this practice without an ordinance or permit since the goats are only on a property for a short period of time and are considered “in transition” vs goats being kept as pets or livestock 24/7.

4.) **Is the electric fence safe for humans and dogs?** Electric fence technology has come a long way in recent years. They are not the “weed burners” that have been used in the past. These newer units pulse every few seconds vs a continues charge (allowing people to have a reaction time to let go). These units also run off 12-volt batteries (some even solar) and are considered much safer. We also have electric fence signs hanging on the fence to help warn people of the fence. In high traffic areas such as parks, schools and trails we will often run a double fence with the outside being non-electric to help keep pets and small children who can’t read, away from the fence.

5.) **Am I liable if a goat gets out on my property and does damage?** Our company carries liability coverage for goat grazing practice. Our company would be liable to fix or repair any damages that goats may cause. We have yet to have a claim in the history or our company.

6.) **What about the goat droppings?** Luckily goat droppings are in the form of small round pellets, like deer or rabbit droppings. They improve soil health and decompose very quickly with very little odor. Goat droppings are low in nitrogen and help native plants re-establish.

7.) **How long will the goats be working at the site?** Typically the goats graze anywhere from four days to two weeks, depending on the acreage and density of the plants. On some sites we bring more goats and get the job done faster, while others we bring less goats and let the project go longer. We also try to work different parts of the state in zones and try to time projects so they start and end at and roughly the same time.

8.) **How many goats do you bring to a site?** A typical range is five to 30 goats. On some larger sites, over 30 acres, we may bring 100 goats or more.
9.) What do the goats do at night and do they need shelter? Our goats stay on the property during the grazing. The goats settle down at night and sleep under the stars. We supply the goats with fresh water and refill as needed. During the winter season we provide them with shelter and wind breaks.

10.) Can I pet or feed the goats? When goats are working we advise people to not touch or feed them. If people feed them too much over the fence the goats start to learn to become more vocal when people arrive. This practice brings the goats closer to the fence where they may become accidentally entangled. These goats are working and we do not want to fill up their stomachs with food given over the fence as they have lots of unwanted vegetation to eat in the pen! We do host “Meet and Greet Goat Events” where our staff is on hand where we allow people to be a little more interactive with the goats --Watch our Facebook or website page (www.goatdispatch.com) for dates and times.

11.) What if a goat escapes? It is possible that the fence may become knocked down by deer or a fallen branch from a tree. Typically, it takes a while for the goats to find the breach in the fence if they are busy eating so our regular fence checks help to catch these. If a goat or two does get out, they will normally want to stay with the herd so they hang close to the fence and are easy to put back in. Very rarely has the entire herd escaped. In this event we have trained goat watchers to respond and put the goats back in. We typically do this by shaking a container of corn and the goats follow us right back in the pen.

12.) What happens if a goat dies? Our company has goats of all breeds and age ranges. It is possible that a goat may die on a project from old age or accidents. Our crew does extensive health checks to limit the likelihood of this occurrence. If this does happen one of our crew members will be out as soon as possible to the properly dispose of the animal.

13.) What happens if I see a goat limping? Goats are acrobatic creatures and sometimes they may get a sore leg from their movements or from playing with each other. Typically, limping only lasts only for a few days. Our staff will keep a close eye on it and the goat does not get better we will bring it back to the farm for treatment.

14.) What about the sticky seeds in the goat’s fur? After every grazing project our crew members will brush off any excess sticky seeds found in the goat’s fur. We like to keep their fur clean and healthy and prevent the spread of undesirable plants. If a goat does happen to be filled with burdock or cocklebur in the middle of a grazing project, we will clean their fur so they can get back to work – grazing happily.

15.) What about goats transporting seeds that they digest? Goats digestive systems are very advanced and destroy many of the seeds that they eat. We also will have rest periods between projects to help flush out their system if they eat a high-risk plant. We try to graze many target plants before the seeds become viable.

16.) Is Goat Dispatch hiring goat helpers? As our company expands we are always looking for more goat watchers! These employees work part time and are trained in on how to monitor the goats and fencing, and to respond to calls if issues arise. If interested contact our office at 507-333-5959.

17.) Is there anything I can do to help the goats? Yes! Be sure to tell your city, school, and park how much you enjoy seeing them. If you have a cell phone, take pictures and post them on Facebook and Instagram with the hash tag #goatdispatch. We look at these pictures to help track the goat’s progress!