

Keeping Goats on KI - Permit Information

Fact sheet updated January 2019

Successful eradication of feral goats from Kangaroo Island

In 2018, the Kangaroo Island NRM Board announced the successful eradication of feral goats from Kangaroo Island. During the 12-year eradication program, 1216 goats were destroyed at a cost of \$1.3 million. A new feral population developing from poorly managed domestic goat herds is the greatest threat to the eradication program.

Feral goats damage the natural environment and crops, and they can also harbour and spread exotic animal diseases. They will be just as difficult to remove a second time!

However, properly confined goats pose no problems to the environment. Properly managed domestic goats can be good companions or a profitable business diversification. Goats produce meat, mohair, cashmere, leather and milk. Property owners who are present full time can keep tabs on their goats more readily.

Do you have the right set up to keep goats?

Goat type

Goats bred and raised in captivity are less likely to escape than captured feral goats. The Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board recommends that owners do not take on any goats of feral origin as they can be difficult to domesticate.

Location

Goats on land adjacent to a conservation reserve could pose a high risk and should be lightly stocked, pure bred and have very secure fencing surrounding them that is checked regularly.

Management and infrastructure

Good management practices are essential when keeping goats. Goats are browsers and need roughage; green feed alone is not sufficient. They are easily upset by changes in their diet. If the paddock is light on, put in hay.

Good fencing is the most critical element for reducing the risk of escape. More than one fence between your goats and the 'outside world' gives even more protection. Fences should be well constructed and maintained, with enough wire to contain the goats. Fences should also avoid creek crossings, gutters or floodways, and be sited away from nearby trees where branches could fall and damage them.

Get your fences and the set up right in one paddock on your property before you buy the goats. Inspect fences frequently to ensure that any fence damage is detected early. Goats are more inclined to go under a fence than jump it. Check for wallaby tracks under fences. A hot wire at the bottom will stop goats going under.

Advice on fencing standards is available from Natural Resources Kangaroo Island staff.



Legislative requirements

Natural Resources Management Act 2004

- Goats are declared for Kangaroo Island under Section 174 of the NRM Act. This means that goat owners must obtain a permit from the KI NRM Board if they wish to keep goats as livestock or individual animals for milking or as pets.
- Under the Act, the Board has the authority to issue permits to allow landholders to keep goats, subject to conditions specified in its Declared Goat Policy. This policy outlines the conditions under which a permit may be issued to move, possess or sell goats on Kangaroo Island. Permits are only issued to properties after a risk assessment has been undertaken and the goat enterprise has been assessed as having a Low or Medium risk rating.
- Permits are issued for up to three years, after which they may be renewed subject to the outcome of a property inspection and evidence that permit conditions are being met.

Animal Health Australia LPA (Livestock Production Assurance)

- NVD (National Vendor Declaration) – has to go with goats that are sold (no fee)
- Only animal health treatment products registered for goats are legal to use on goats. Keep records of the treatments on the appropriate forms.

Meat and Livestock Australia NLIS (National Livestock Identification System)

- Property Identification Code (PIC) is mandatory for any property that has one or more goats (to trace exotic disease). The relevant PIC tag must go with any goat that is sold. **The KI NRM Board Declared Goat Policy now also requires that all permitted goats are tagged with the property's PIC number.**
- The purchaser has the responsibility to record the transaction by contacting NLIS.

Risk assessment

As part of the permitting process, KI NRM Board staff undertake risk assessments for farmed goats to assess the risk of goats escaping and establishing new feral colonies.

The procedure strikes a balance between allowing primary producers to run suitably managed goats in safe areas, and protecting native flora and fauna and other commercial enterprises from the risk of degradation, should goats escape and establish feral colonies. This assessment takes into consideration all factors that influence the safe keeping of goats and points are scored according to the level of risk. Risks such as the origin of the goats and the fencing and feed are weighed against the risk of damage in the event of escape.

If you are thinking about keeping goats, please contact:

Team Leader Animal & Plant Control: 0429 616 414

Feral Animal Control Officer: 0427 618 304

For more information

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Natural Resources
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