

Calculating Goat Body Weights

It is important to know the weight of a goat when calculating medicine dosages, balancing rations, selling meat kids, and monitoring rate of gain.

The best method is to weigh the goat on a livestock scale. If a scale is not available, there are other methods that will provide a close estimation of the goat's weight.

- 1. If the goat is not too heavy, pick it up** and stand on a bathroom scale. Subtracting your weight from the total will determine the goat's weight.

The following methods use measurements of body size to estimate the weight of the goat. While these are quite accurate for average sized goats, goats that are extremely thin, obese, or pregnant will vary from the estimated weights.

- 2. With a cloth measuring tape,** measure in inches around the goat's heart girth and the distance from the point of the shoulder to the pinbone.



The girth measurement is taken by placing a tape or thin piece of material around the animal's girth. The tape encircles the animal just behind the withers on top and just behind the elbows on the bottom.



The length of the animal from the point of the shoulder to the pinbone is also measured. The tape must be pliable enough to bend around to the point of the shoulder and to the pinbone (identified by the black arrows) as shown in this picture.

Use the following formula to estimate the weight in pounds:

heart girth (inches) X heart girth (inches) X shoulder to pin distance (inches)/300

For example, a mature doe that has a 36 inch heart girth and is 33 inches from the point of shoulder to the pinbone, weighs approximately 143 pounds:

$$(36 \times 36 \times 33)/300 = 143 \text{ pounds}$$

- 3. With a cloth tape, measure around the heart girth** in inches. Use the following table to look up the goat's estimated weight:

The measurement should be taken at the heart girth (just behind front legs up to withers). It should be snug, but not overly tight. These are reasonable estimates of the weight.

INCHES	CENTIMETRES	POUNDS	KILOGRAMS
10 3/4	27.3	5	2.27
11-1/4	28.6	5 1/2	2.49
11-3/4	29.9	6	2.73
12-1/4	31.1	6 1/2	2.95
12-3/4	32.4	7	3.17
13-1/4	33.7	8	3.63
13-3/4	34.9	9	4.08
14-1/4	36.2	10	4.54
14-3/4	37.5	11	4.99
15-1/4	38.7	12	5.44
15-3/4	40.0	13	5.90
16 1/4	41.3	15	6.8
16-3/4	42.7	17	7.71
17-1/4	43.8	19	8.62
17-3/4	45.1	21	9.52
18-1/4	46.4	23	10.43
18-3/4	47.6	25	11.34
19-1/4	48.9	27	12.24
19-3/4	50.2	29	13.15
20-1/4	51.4	31	14.06
20-3/4	52.7	33	14.97
21-1/4	53.9	35	15.87
21-3/4	55.3	37	16.78
22-1/4	56.5	39	17.69
22-3/4	57.8	42	19.05
23-1/4	59.1	45	20.41
23-3/4	60.3	48	21.77
24-1/4	61.6	51	23.13
24-3/4	62.9	54	24.49
25-1/4	64.1	57	25.85
25-3/4	65.4	60	27.21
26-1/4	66.7	63	28.57
26-3/4	67.9	66	29.93
27-1/4	69.2	69	31.29
27-3/4	70.5	72	32.65
28-1/4	71.7	75	34.01
28-3/4	73.0	78	35.37
29-1/4	74.3	81	36.73
29-3/4	75.6	84	38.10
30-1/4	76.8	87	39.46
30-3/4	78.0	90	40.82
31-1/4	79.4	93	42.18
32-1/4	81.9	101	45.8
33-1/4	84.5	110	49.89
34-1/4	87.0	120	54.42
35-1/4	89.5	130	58.96
36-1/4	92.1	140	63.49
37-1/4	94.6	150	68.08
38-1/4	97.2	160	72.56
39-1/4	99.7	170	77.10
40-1/4	102.2	180	81.63
41-1/4	104.8	190	86.17
42 -1/4	107.3	200	90.7

INCHES	CENTIMETRES	POUNDS	KILOGRAMS
43-1/4	109.8	210	95.3
44-1/4	112.4	220	99.8
45-1/4	114.9	230	104.3
46-1/4	117.5	240	108.8
47-1/4	120	250	113.4
48-1/4	122.5	260	117.9
49-1/4	125.1	270	122.5
50-1/4	127.6	280	127
51-1/4	130.2	290	131.5
52-1/4	132.7	300	136.1