

GOATS



- PRODUCTION -

Care, Feeding, Breeding, Economics



one of the smallest
domesticated
ruminants

has served mankind
earlier and longer
than cattle
and sheep.

is managed for the
production of milk,
meat and wool



460 million goats worldwide produce more than 4.5 million tons of milk and 1.2 million tons of meat

Also mohair, cashmere, leather and dung;

More people consume milk and milk products from goats worldwide than from any other animal.

In the United States there are between 2 and 4 million head of goats

Texas leads in Angora, meat and bush goats; California leads in dairy goats.





Breeds of goats vary from as little as 20 lb mature female bodyweight and 18 inches female withers for dwarf goats

Meat and milk production up to 250 lb and 42 inches withers height for Indian Jamnapari, Swiss Saanen, Alpine and AngloNubian

Some Jamnapari males may be as tall as 50 inches at withers





Angora goats weigh between 70 to 110 lb for mature females and are approximately 25 inches tall.



Birthweights

Female singles are between 3 and 9 lb

Twins often a pound lighter

Males 1/2 lb heavier.

Twinning is normal in goats with a high percentage of triplets

Some breeds have an average annual litter size above 2 per doe or more than 200% reproduction rate.





Goat Terms:

Female – Doe

Intact Male – Buck

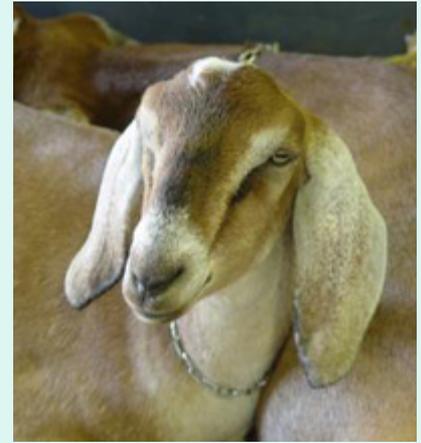
Castrated Male – Wether

Young – Buck or Doe Kids or Doelings

goats may have horns of the scimitar or corkscrew types

many are dehorned in early age with a heated iron, caustic or later on with a rubber band or surgical saw

Goats may also be genetically hornless



Goats can be short haired,
long haired, have curled hair

They are silky or coarse
wooled

They may have wattles on the
neck and beards.



Swiss and other European breeds have erect ears

Indian and Nubian have pendulous, drooping, large ears

American LaMancha breed has no external ear



Goats come in almost any color, solid black, white, red, brown, spotted, two and three colored, blended shades, distinct facial stripes, black and white saddles, depending on breeds.



The digestive tract of the goat after nursing has the typical four stomach compartments of ruminants

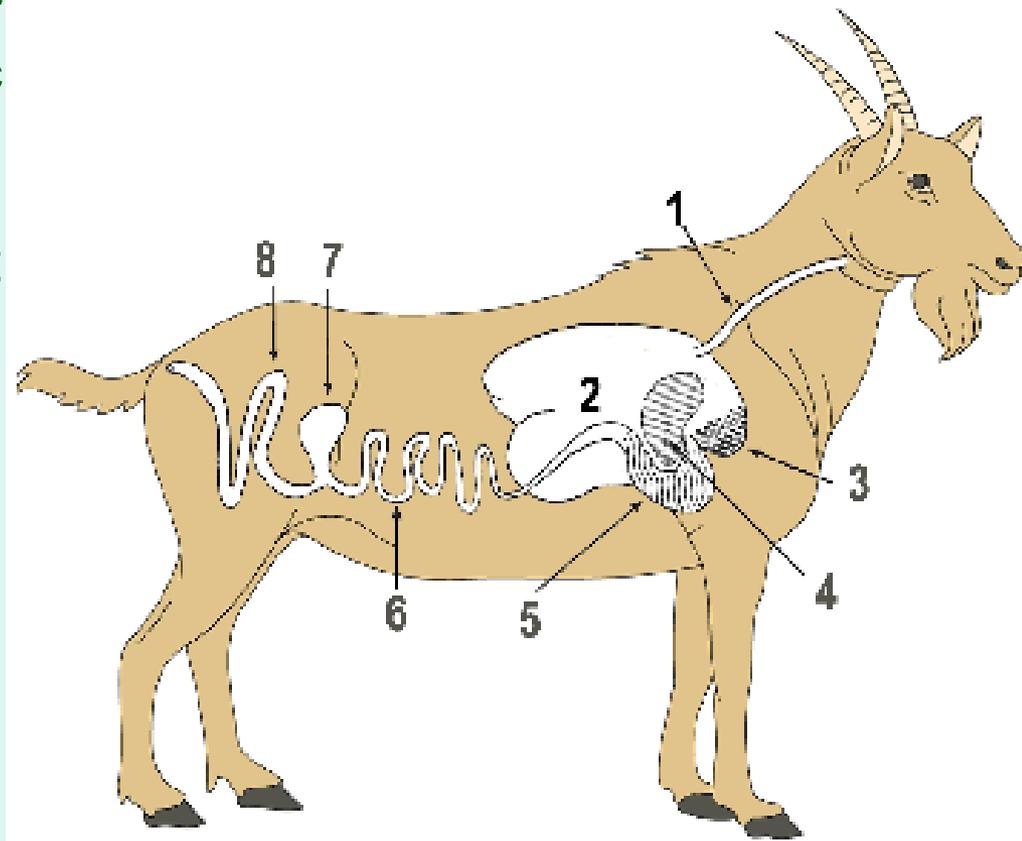
the rumen (paunch) (4-6 gallon) #2

the reticulum (honeycomb) (1-2 liters) #3

the omasum (maniply) (1 liter) #4

the abomasum (true stomach) (3.5 liters) #5

The intestinal canal is about 100 feet long (11 liters), or 25 times the length of a goat. #6



Diseases

Goats are not too different from cattle and sheep in the same regions



Goats have more internal parasites than dairy cows

They have less tuberculosis, milk fever, post partum ketosis and brucellosis than dairy cows

Their milk tends to be of lower bacteria counts than cow milk

They have more
prepartum pregnancy
toxemia than dairy
cows

Goats may have
laminitis, infectious
arthritis, Johne's
disease, listeriosis,
pneumonia, coccidiosis,
scours, scabies,
pediculosis, liver fluke
disease and mastitis.





goats breed normally from August through February

Twins are common, triplets are not rare



Goats are in puberty at 1/2 year of age and can be bred if of sufficient size.

Does come into estrus in 21 day cycles normally, lasting approximately 1 to 2 days.



Length of pregnancy is 150 days

Two litters per year is possible



Saanen - from Switzerland

Totally white, with or without horns.

Mostly short haired.

Have been exported around the world as leading milk producers.

An Australian Saanen doe holds the world record milk production of 7,714 lbs in 365 days.

Saanen were originally bred for odor free milk.



Toggenburg

From Switzerland

Brown with white facial, ear and leg stripes

Straight nosed, horned or hornless,

Mostly shorthaired, erect eared goat,

Reliable milk producers summer and winter

Bred pure for over 300 years



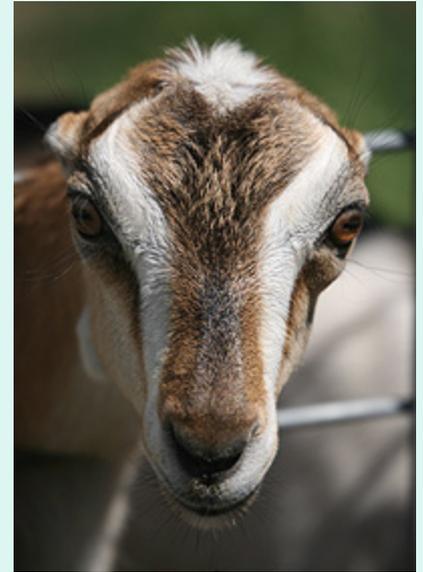
LaMancha

Developed in California from Spanish Murciana origin and Swiss and Nubian crossings.

They have straight noses, short hair, hornless or horns, No external ear due to a dominant gene.

Known for excellent adaptability and good winter production.

Produce fleshier kids than the Swiss, but are not milking as much.



(Anglo)-Nubian

Developed in England from native goats and crossed with Indian and Nubian

Have heavy arched "Roman" noses

Long, drooping, pendulous ears

Spiral horns and are shorthaired.

Are leggy and as tall as Saanen, but produce less milk, though higher milk fat levels

Are more fleshy. Less tolerant of cold but do well in hot climates.

They "talk" a lot, and are in numbers the most popular breed in USA and Canada.

Have a tendency for triplets and quadruplets.

Are horned or hornless and have many colors that may be "Appaloosa"-like spotted.





Angora

Originated in the Near East.

Long upper coat (mohair) is the valuable product in the Angora in contrast to the Cashmere, where the fine underwool is the valuable product.

Head has a straight or concave nose, thin, not very long; pendulous ears and twisted horns, in both sexes.

Small breed, usually white. The haircoat is long with undulating locks and ringlets of fine, silky hair. The top quality fleece of purebreds may be 1-2 lbs, but slightly more in males and wethers.

They are bearded. Spring moult is natural and shearing occurs just before. Not very prolific and twinning is less frequent than in other breeds

Pygmy

From West and Central Africa

Are dwarf, short legged goats

Growth rate and milk production
are lower than standard size

Twinning is frequent

They breed all year

Bred mostly as pet or for
genetic purposes



Housing

Standard goats require large pasture

Pygmy Goats much less – some kept in homes

Fencing is essential – goats get out of fence not made especially for them

A shed to get out of weather is helpful

House Bucks and Does separately



Feeding

Goats require pasture and foraging

Also feed good commercial goat food

(dry rolled ration – Corn, Oat Barley)

Maintain constant, clean water

Do Not overfeed rations – they make up what they need in grass and bushes

Alfalfa Hay is alternative when pasture is small



Medical Care

Require tetanus and possibly BoSe (selenium supplement)

Regular trimming of hooves – garden or sheep trimmers

Possible worming needed

Lice shampoo

Grooming – especially for Pygmy or Angora

Normal temperature is 102.5



Popularity

Goats are most popular 4-H or FFA Project

Easy to raise

Fun to own

Adapt well to living with people

Social animal – have more than one

