

GOAT FACTS



Female goats are called "Nannies" or "Does"



A male goat is called a "Buck" or a "Billy"
A castrated male is called a "Wether"



A baby goat is called a "Kid"

* Goats were one of the first animals domesticated by man, dating back approximately 10,000 years.

* There are three types of goats:

“Domestic goats”: *Capra hircus*, which are raised and bred as farm animals,

“Mountain goats”: *Oreamnos americanus*), which live in steep, rocky areas in the American Northwest, and

“Wild goats”: include ibex, markhors and turs.

* There are approximately 450 million goats around the world.

* Goats can be used for their milk, meat, hair, and skins throughout much of the world.

* Goats can live 12-14 years and have been known to live far longer.

* Goats are members of the Bovidae family, which also includes antelopes, cattle, sheep and buffaloes.

* Goats have a gestation period of 150 to 180 days.

* The average birth rate is 2.2 kids per year.

* The act of giving birth is called “kidding”.



* There are approximately 200 breeds of domestic goats worldwide!

* The sizes of goats vary greatly. Nigerian dwarf goats weigh about 20lbs, Pygmy goats weigh from 53 to 86 lbs, while Anglo-Nubian goats weigh up to 250lbs.

Popular Breeds:

Dairy Goats	Meat Goats	Fiber Goats
Alpine, Guernsey, LaMancha, Nigerian Dwarf, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Sable, Toggenburg	Spanish, Boer, Kiko, Mytonic, Savannah, Texmaster	Angora, Cashmere



Goats pupils are rectangular. This gives them vision for 320 to 340 degrees around them without having to move!

* Goats are herbivores (they only eat vegetation) and ruminants!

* They have four stomach compartments and they digest their food in two stages.

* The rumen can hold 4 to 6 gallons; the reticulum can hold up to 0.26 to 0.5 gallons; the omasum can hold up to 0.26 gallons and the abomasum can hold up to 1 gallon.

* It takes 11 to 15 hours for food to pass through a goat's digestive system.

* Goats are “selective opportunistic feeders” as they can change their feeding behaviors according to the season and diet availability.

