

PYGMY GOATS

(*CAPRA AEGAGRUS HIRCUS*)

CONSERVATION STATUS: NOT LISTED

WE ARE MAMMALS
with a lifespan
of 10-15 years



Origin: West Africa.

Diet: Fresh or dried grasses, foliage of trees, shrubs, bushes and various other plants. They are herbivores.

Predators: Coyotes, wolves, foxes, mountain lions, bobcats, bears, hogs and eagles.

Habitat: Mountains, grasslands and deserts. They are well adapted to live anywhere apart from the Antarctica! Pygmy Goats are mostly habited in grasslands and semi-deserts.



Weight Males

27-39kg

Weight Females

24-34kg



Height

56cm for adult males,
females are shorter



Top Speed

15mph

DID YOU KNOW?

Goats are very sociable animals and need to be kept with other goats.

Goats communicate with each other by bleating. Soon after birth, a mother and its kid will recognise each other's call.

Females are called 'does' and males are called 'bucks'. A baby goat is called a 'kid'.

There are over 300 breeds of goat. The goats at Knockhatch are Pygmy Goats.

ADAPTATIONS

Goats have rectangular pupils so are able to see 320-340 degrees and have excellent night vision. They have various adaptations depending on the breed. Some goats have horns to protect them from predators. Mountain goats have a thick white coat to keep them warm and camouflaged against the snow.

REPRODUCTION

Goats are ready to breed from just 4-6 months old. Most goats will breed from September through to March but it can be later. A female goat in heat will often wag her tail and stand near to a male if there is one. The males will often become more dominant around breeding time, fighting with other males and producing a stronger smell. After a gestation period of 5 months, a female will give birth to 1-3 kids. She will feed them her milk until around 12 weeks of age and they will begin eating solids at 2-3 weeks old.

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