



Pygmy goats are active, friendly animals that are happiest in a herd, but bond with other animals as well. These affectionate creatures are smart and can be easily house trained. They provide their owners with years of companionship and entertainment.

AFRICAN PYGMY GOATS

Other Names: African Pygmy Goat; Cameroon Dwarf

Scientific Name: Capra aegagrus hircus

Place of Origin: Africa Average Weight: 40 to 60 lbs

Lifespan: 10 to 15 Years

Doe: Female goat primary purpose for breeding, pets and showing

Wether: Castrated male primary purpose as a pet and/or showing. Wethers have no smell or odor.

Buck: Breeding male primary purpose as a breeding male.

The Pygmy Goat is a hardy, good-natured animal; a gentle and responsive pet. Pygmy goats are not a dairy breed and most owners do not milk their female goats. Pygmy Goats need the company of their own kind and should not be kept alone.

History: While most domesticated goats trace their roots to Asia, the African pygmy goats originated in Africa as their name suggests. These hardy goats produce a good amount of milk for their size, and were originally kept as dairy goats in the Cameroon Valley of West Africa. Pygmy goats were first brought out of Africa as additions to European zoos, and from Europe, pygmy goats made their way into the United States in the 1950s. While they were only found in zoos and research facilities in the United States at first, they quickly became popular pets because of their unique, friendly personalities, low costs to keep, and hardy construction. Today, the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy lists African pygmy goats as a rare breed.

Behavior / Temperament / Activity level: Pygmy goats are generally active, friendly animals that are happiest in a herd. However, they will also bond with other animals should they not have at least one other goat companion. These affectionate creatures are quite smart, and can easily learn tricks and be house trained. Ultimately, African pygmy goats provide their owners with years of companionship and entertainment.

Housing and Fencing Requirements Modest: an 8' x 6' shed, furnished with benches and hay rack, being suitable for two pets. Electric light should be provided well out of reach of the goats.

A good fence is essential, not only to keep your goats in, but to keep stray dogs out. Non-climb 2"x4" fencing is ideal, but 4'

high livestock fencing will do the job Goats are escape artists due to their high intelligence (on par with a dog), so you will need to repair any holes.

Diet: A basic diet of 50/50 hay and clean drinking water should be supplemented by 2 to 8 oz. of concentrates a day, depending on age and condition.

To keep your Pygmy goats healthy they should be provided with a good goat mineral, baking soda, and iodized salt free choose.

Pygmy goats are "browsers" not grazers - they should not be considered as lawnmowers.

Breeding: It is now thought best to leave goats until 12-18 months of age before breeding them. The gestation period is approximately 5 months. As matings earlier than this age are possible but undesirable, male kids should be separated from females at 10 weeks of age. Kids may be weaned at 6 to 8 weeks.

Owners not wishing to breed should choose two wethers castrated males make excellent pets. Care should be taken to avoid obesity, which can cause stones in the urethra.

Health: Their hooves will need trimming every 4 to 6 weeks. They will also need to be wormed at least twice a year, and should be treated against lice during the autumn and spring. Vaccinations will be required against enterotoxaemia. Your vet will advise you on this matter.

Some major health problems that can affect pygmy goats include Caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE), Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL), and Johne's Disease; however, purchasing from a reputable breeder who regularly tests its herd for these diseases will greatly reduce the chances of receiving goats with health problems.

Zoning Requirements: Pygmy goats are considered livestock so you should check with your city or county before bringing any into your home. That being said, pygmy goats don't require a large space and are found in rural, suburban, and urban areas across the United States. It is quite possible that you will be able to raise pygmy goats at your home; even if your city's current policies are unfavorable toward raising pygmy goats, there is no harm in asking them to make allowances so you can bring pygmy goats into your home.



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