
Nigerian Dwarf Goat

Capra hircus

Class: *Mammalia*

Order: *Artiodactyla*

Family: *Bovidae*

Characteristics:

The Nigerian Goat can have a straight, short to medium hair with varying colors. The ideal height for this breed is 17” for Does and 19” for bucks. Breeding standards dictate that the ears standing up and the bridge of their noses are straight. Their bodies must also be proportional to that of other milking goats ([Oklahoma State University](#)). This breed of goats often still have horns, but are disbudded for herd safety.

Behavior:

Nigerian Dwarf Goats are considered extremely docile. It has been noted that even breeding bucks are considerably tame. They integrate well with other goat populations ([Oklahoma State University](#)).

Reproduction:

Females are fertile year round, but common practices is to breed an individual female three times during a two year span. Females can produce from three to four offspring per parturition more than once per year. Female kids have been known to be fertile around seven weeks. Male kids are fertile around three months ([Oklahoma State University](#)).

Diet:

Wild: A variety of grasses, hay and grains.

Zoo: Hay, straw, grains & goat pellets.

Conservation:

Only 3500 individuals registered to the American Goat Society, but economic and social trends seem to be favorable for the breed.

FYI:

- Nigerian goats produce up to four pounds (one to two liters) of 6-10% buttermilk a day.
- The difference between a pygmy goat and a dwarf goat are their body proportions. The Nigerian dwarf goat are proportional to that of common milking goats while the pygmy is more like “a beer keg with legs” ([Oklahoma State University](#)).



Range & Habitat:

Found across the world on farms, prefer open areas, but need shelter during the winter.



Lifespan: up to 20 years in captivity, unknown in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Bred for milk and size.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Not Evaluated

