



# African Pygmy Goat

*Hystrix africae australis*



## Physical Characteristics:

I have short smooth hair in any combination of gray, black and white. I am very good at climbing and jumping. My split hooves have hair between the toes which give me added traction so I won't slip on smooth surfaces. I will be less than two feet tall when I am full grown. Both males and females have horns.

## Habitat / Climate

### Where am I from?

I am native of Cameroon region of West Africa. This area has steep hills and lush vegetation. Now I am found all over the world. I have the ability to do very well on poor pasture.



## Other Family Members:

Cattle  
Antelope  
Bison  
Sheep

### Who are my relatives?

I am of the order *Artiodactyla* which includes all even toed mammals. My family is *Bovidae* and includes cattle but not deer.



## Breeding Potential

Normal issue would two to three kids.  
Number of offspring per year? May be as many as 6.

### How am I born?

My *gestation* period is 21-23 weeks ( about 5 to 6 months). Then my mother gives live birth to two (usually) of us kids. I am born with a full coat of hair ready to nurse after just a few minutes. In a couple of hours I can run and play and keep up with my mother. I am *precocial*. My mother often produces more than one kid crop a year.

## Breeding Season

F M A M J J A S O N D  
A E R R Y N U L G P T V C

### How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live?

I am sexually mature as early as 6 months and a normal life span for me is 8 to 12 years in the wild and up to 22 years in captivity. As an adult I will be 18 to 20 inches tall. The males horns are longer and more curved than the females.

## Names for:

Adult male: Billy or Buck  
Adult female: Doe or Nanny  
Young: Kid  
Group: Herd

### What kind of family life do I have?

My family lives in a herd made up of several females and one dominant male. In the wild if I am a male I would have to fight to get my own herd

### What do I eat and when do I eat?

*Herbivore*. In the wild I eat grass, leaves, shrubs, and twigs. I stand on my hind legs to reach high branches and munch on the leaves. I am a *ruminant* animal which means I have multiple stomachs the same as cows. I am *diurnal*.



### Who are my predators?

Middle to large size carnivores would love to eat me.

### What is the history of my relationship with man?

Goats were one of the earliest domesticated animals. I provide milk and meat to man.