



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	A	P	A	U	L	U	E	C	T
N	B	R	Y	N	G	P	T	V	C	E

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.