

Goat, any ruminant and hollow-horned mammal belonging to the genus *Capra*. Related to the sheep, the goat is lighter of build, has horns that arch backward, a short tail, and straighter hair. Male goats, called bucks or billys, usually have a beard. Females are called does or nannys, and immature goats are called kids. Wild goats include the ibex and markhor.

domestic goat domestic goat Know about the mating behavior of the Persian Ibex of the Caucasus mountains Know about the mating behavior of the Persian Ibex of the Caucasus mountains See all videos for this article Domesticated goats are descended from the pasang (*Capra aegagrus*), which is probably native to Asia, the earliest records being Persian. In China, Great Britain, Europe, and North America, the domestic goat is primarily a milk producer, with a large portion of the milk being used to make cheese. One or two goats will supply sufficient milk for a family throughout the year and can be maintained in small quarters, where it would be uneconomical to keep a cow. For large-scale milk production, goats are inferior to cattle in the temperate zone but superior in the torrid and frigid zones. Goat flesh is edible, that from young kids being quite tender and more delicate in flavour than lamb, which it resembles. Some breeds, notably the Angora and Cashmere, are raised for their wool (see also wool; cashmere; Angora goat); young goats are the source of kid leather.

Goats are sociable animals and therefore become depressed if they are separated or isolated from their companions, however they are not flock-orientated like sheep.

They are one of the cleanliest animals and are much more selective feeders than cows, sheep, pigs, swine and even dogs.

Goats are very intelligent and curious animals. Their inquisitive nature is exemplified in their constant desire to explore and investigate anything unfamiliar which they come across.

They communicate with each other by bleating. Mothers will often call to their young (kids) to ensure they stay close-by. Mother and kid goats recognise each other's calls soon after the mothers give birth.

They are very picky eaters. They have very sensitive lips, which they use to "mouth" things in search of clean and tasty food. They will often refuse to eat hay that has been walked on or lying around loose for a day.

Goats use the sneeze sound as an alarm. They use a sneeze to warn each other of danger, whether real or imagined.

They are extremely intelligent and curious and are very often not given credit for being the smart and loving creatures they actually are.