

# BRITISH GOATS ARE BEST

BRITISH GOAT SOCIETY  
INFORMATION LEAFLET

## Why Buy British

British Goats are acknowledged to be amongst the best in the world. British breeders have been producing pedigree goats of high milking ability for over one hundred years. The British Goat Society was founded in 1879 and since then, breeding and milking records have been kept. The unique method of showing goats in Britain places strong emphasis on good sound conformation and high milk yields. Milking and showing achievements are reflected in a goat's pedigree.

## British Goats Are Healthy

Due to the United Kingdom being an island, British Goats enjoy a very high standard of health. Over the years strict controls over the importation of animals has been enforced and means that herds in Britain are free of many diseases endemic in other countries. There is very little Caprine Arthritic Encephalitis in this country and the vast majority of herds test on an annual basis to ensure that they remain free from this disease.

## Dairy Goats



**Anglo Nubians:** This breed is particularly suitable for tropical climates. It is a dual purpose breed suitable for milk and meat. In this country, yields in 365 days average just under 1000 litres. Butterfats and proteins average 4.8% and 3.5%.

**British Alpine:** A black and white breed which gives a good milk yield (1200 litres or more) with good butterfats and proteins. Large numbers of this breed are not available.



**British Saanen:** White in colour, is the premier commercial goat for persons requiring large quantities of milk. Some will milk up to 2,000 litres in 365 days and will continue milking without being mated again. Butterfats average 3.5% and proteins 2.9%. They have a very placid temperament and are very adaptable to different management systems.



**British Toggenburg:** This brown and white breed is another good choice for commercial herds. Milk yields are good although perhaps not quite as high as the British Saanens with butterfats of 3.6% and proteins 3.0%.

**Golden Guernsey:** A small breed with a moderate yield, the average being around 750 litres a year. Not an ideal choice for farming in large numbers, more suitable as a household goat.

**Saanen:** A smaller version of the British Saanen. Numbers are very limited, but males have been very useful in improving native stock and are worth considering..

**Toggenburg:** Smaller and often with longer hair than the British Toggenburg. It is noted for long lactations and good sound conformation. Again numbers are limited, but males would be useful for improving stock.

### **Fibre Goats**

**Angora:** Strains have been imported from Australasia, South Africa and Texas, combining to produce goats that consistently have a high standard of mohair.

**Cashmere:** Recently great strides have been made in creating a breed that produces a viable cashmere crop.

### **Meat Goats**

**Boer:** The Boer is the only breed in Britain bred exclusively as a meat animal. At present numbers are low but the population is increasing. However, many of the dairy and fibre breeds produce good carcasses.

### **British Goats Abroad**

British goats have been exported to more than forty countries with many different climates. Adult animals do not always adapt well, but their progeny are very successful. Kids of 5 to 6 months of age, travel well and adapt easily, also transportation costs are lower. Males purchased as kids have been found to produce a considerable improvement when mated to native stock. Of course, the success of imported animals is very dependent upon a high level of management.

### **Where do you Start?**

First of all consult your local Department of Agriculture to obtain a list of the health requirements for bringing British goats into your country, they will also inform you of the correct procedure to follow.

Next contact the British Goat Society who will be able to put you in touch with persons who can assist you. The British Goat Society itself does not buy or sell animals, but they will register goats being exported and provide pedigrees. We can put you in touch with our Overseas Representative, goat breeders and goat export agents or, if you have decided which breed you want, the relevant Breed Societies.

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