

Nigerian Dwarf Goat (Domestic)

(*Capra hircus*)

Habitat and Distribution: The Nigerian dwarf goat most likely descended from *C. Aegagrus*, which is from Central Asia. They were first imported to America in the early 1930's.

Size: 16-24 inches tall and 60-80 pounds

Diet: Grass, alfalfa or some other high-quality forage

Predators: Coyotes, dogs, mountain lions, foxes, eagles, and bobcats

Life Span: 7-18 years

Reproduction: Dwarf Goats can breed year round. After a gestation period of 150 days, twins are usually born, however one or three young are also fairly common. At birth, kids weigh 2-3 pounds and are able to walk and follow their mother when they are just hours old. They nurse from their mother for about 10 months.

Behavior: These goats are very social, and prefer to be with at least one other goat. Herd sizes in the wild tend to be 5 to 20 members, but can be as high as 100. Goats are most active during the day, and spend most of the time grazing. They are herd animals and establish a hierarchy by continually testing each other. The males butt heads for hierarchy status. These aggressive displays rarely result in injury.

Conservation Connection: Secure

Interesting Facts: Nigerian dwarf goats are true miniature dairy goats. They come in varied colors: black, white, gold, brown and any combination of the above. Many people breed and raise Dwarf Goats as 4H projects or as farm animals used for milk.

