



Baby Doll Southdown Sheep

Ovis aries

Habitat: They are a domestic species.

Diet: They are herbivores and eat plant material such as grasses, leaves, and brush. At the Lake Superior Zoo, the majority of their diet is hay.

Lifespan: They can live up to 15-16 years of age.

Description: Baby Doll Southdown Sheep have large, wide heads. They are polled, meaning that they don't have horns. They have "smiling" fuzzy wide muzzle; short, straight legs; stocky build, less than 25 inches; dense wool; and are usually black or white.

Breeding: Gestation is about 5 months. They can have 1-3 young at a time.

Behavior/Adaptations: Baby Doll Southdown Sheep are gentle, mix well with other animals. They are a herd animal, which means that they are very social.

Breed Origin: They were originally bred by John Ellman about 200 years ago in East Sussex in southeast England.

Conservation: Baby Doll Southdown Sheep are not listed.

Interesting Facts:

- Due to their wide muzzles, they look as if they are smiling.
- They come from very old blood lines, so that are very hardy.
- There are one billion domesticated sheep.



Shetland Sheep

Ovis aries

Habitat: They are a domestic species.

Diet: They are herbivores and eat plant material such as grasses, leaves, and brush. At the Lake Superior Zoo, the majority of their diet is hay.

Lifespan: They can live up to 10-20 years of age.

Description: Ewes are polled (lack horns), Rams are horned. They have fine, soft wool on their body except and lacking wool on their face, nose, and legs. They have small erect ears and a short tail. They have 11 main colors and about 30 patterns of colors.

Breeding: Gestation is about 5 months. They mostly have single young, but twins are possible when food is ample.

Behavior/Adaptations: They are flock animals. Shetland Sheep can be skittish but are friendly and gentle.

Breed Origin: They originated on the Shetland Isles of Scotland and are now found around the world.

Conservation: Shetland Sheep are not listed.

Interesting Facts:

- This breed has been around for centuries.
- Shetland Sheep still retain primitive survival instincts, which make them easier to care for than many modern breeds.
- Due to cross breeding, their conservation status was a Category 2 (Endangered) in the early 1900's.
- Native Shetland wool is the first nonfood item to receive Protected Geographical Status in the UK with Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) under the European Union's Protected Food Name scheme.



Nigerian Dwarf Goat

Capra aegagrus hircus

Habitat: They are a domestic species

Diet: They are herbivores and eat plant material such as grasses, leaves, and brush. At the Lake Superior Zoo, the majority of their diet is hay.

Lifespan: 10-15 years

Description: To be considered a Nigerian Dwarf the goat must measure on longer than 22.5" at the withers for females and 23.5" for the males. The ideal weight is considered to be around 75 pounds. They come in many different colors and are typically horned, however most breeders disbud the horns to prevent injury to their herd.

Breeding: They are polyestrous, meaning they have several estrous cycles within a breeding period. They become sexually mature within the first year, and after a gestation period of about 145-155 days, they can have 1-4 kids at a time. The young will nurse until they are about 3 months old, after which time they are weaned.

Behavior/Adaptations: The females can produce between 1 and 8 pounds of milk per day, with an average of 2.5 pounds. With one quart of milk weighing 2 pounds, these goats can produce up to 1 gallon of milk a day!

Breed Origin: They are believed to have originated in Western Africa and came to America when zoos were shipping large cats from Africa. The goats that were not fed to the cats during transport were taken in by the zoos.

Conservation: Not Listed

Interesting Facts:

- These goats are popular pets because of their calm and trainable nature.
- They also can be used as therapy goats and visit with people in hospitals and nursing homes



Pygora Goat

Capra aegagrus hircus

Habitat: They are a domestic species.

Diet: They are herbivores and eat plant material such as grasses, leaves, and brush. At the Lake Superior Zoo, the majority of their diet is hay.

Lifespan: They can live up to 12-14 years of age.

Description: Medium-sized fleece producing goat. Pygora goats are 22-27 inches at withers (the ridge between the shoulder blades). The legs and face are clear of fleece. They can vary in color, being black, white, grey, brown, red, or a mix of those colors. Fleece ranges from 1-6 inches in length. They are born with horns, but are often debudded as kids.

Breeding: Gestation is 145-150 days. 1-4 kids are born each time. Twins are common.

Behavior/Adaptations: They are herd animals and are alert, curious, friendly, cooperative, and easy to handle.

Breed Origin: They are a cross between Pygmy goats and Angora Goats. They were first bred by Katherine Jorgensen in Oregon.

Conservation: Pygora goats are not listed.

Interesting Facts:

- Pygora goats are one of four fiber producing goat breeds. They produce three types of fleece; cashmere like, mohair like, and a combination of the two. Fleece is used for spinning, knitting, spindling, crocheting, weaving, making tapestries, and other fiber arts.



Pygmy Goat

Capra aegagrus hircus

Habitat: They are a domestic species.

Diet: They are herbivores and eat plant material such as grasses, leaves, and brush. At the Lake Superior Zoo, the majority of their diet is hay.

Lifespan: They can live up to 10-15 years of age.

Description: Pygmy goats weigh between 53-86 lbs. and can measure up to 16-23 inches at the withers (ridge between the shoulder blades). They have nine different color patterns including whites, blacks, greys, and browns. They are broad chested, short legged, and their head is medium in size with medium erect ears. They are horned, but many owners will de-horn them.

Breeding: They are polyestrous, meaning they have several estrous cycles within a breeding period. They become sexually mature within the first year, and after a gestation period of about 145-155 days, they can have 1-4 kids at a time. The young will nurse until they are about 3 months old, after which time they are weaned.

Behavior/Adaptations: Goats are herd animals which makes them very social. Pygmy goats require companionship and are often affectionate.

Breed Origin: Came from Cameroon Valley of West Africa. They were imported into the USA from European zoos in the 1950's for zoos and research.

Conservation: Pygmy Goats are not listed.

Interesting Facts:

- Can adapt to almost any climate.
- Very common as backyard pets and in petting zoos.
- They have a dew claw like in dogs and cats.



Nupine Dairy Goat

Capra aegagrus hircus

Habitat: They are a domestic species.

Diet: They are herbivores and eat plant material such as grasses, leaves, and brush. At the Lake Superior Zoo, the majority of their diet is hay.

Lifespan: They can live up to 8-12 years of age.

Description: Nupine goats come in any color or combination of colors and are often two-toned. Their ears stick straight out and are referred to as "airplane." They are medium to large in size.

Breeding: Can be bred at 7-10 months old. Gestation is about 5 months. Mating season is typically August-January. Twins are common, but single or triplet offspring are not unheard of.

Behavior/Adaptations: Goats are herd animals which makes them very social. Nupine Goats are very curious, social, and intelligent.

Breed Origin: Nupine Goats are a cross between Alpine and Nubian goats. Alpines originated in the French Alps. Nubian has Asian, African, and European blood, but was originally bred in Great Britain.

Conservation: Nupine Dairy Goats are not listed.

Interesting Facts:

- They enjoy nibbling on things, but if something doesn't taste good to them, they will spit it out.
- Domestic goats as well as sheep are one of the longest domesticated species dating back 10,000 years.
- Goat's milk can be used for drinking, cheese yogurt, butter, ice cream, and body products such as soap and lotion.
- Nubian goats were bred with Alpine goats because Alpines produce milk in high volume and Nubian milk has high butter fat content.
- People with lactose intolerance or dairy allergies can often tolerate goat's milk.



Llama

Lama glama

Range: Andes Mountains in South America

Habitat: They are a domestic species.

Diet: They are herbivores and eat plant material such as grasses. At the Lake Superior Zoo, the majority of their diet is hay.

Lifespan: They can live up to 20 years of age.

Description: The llama is four to five feet long, four feet tall at the shoulders and weighs 250-400 lbs. when mature. The body is covered with long dense wool ranging from white to black with gray, beige, brown, red, and roan. The limbs and neck of a llama are long and slender. Llamas are related to camels.

Breeding: Llamas are induced ovulators where ovulation occurs 4-36 hours after breeding. They breed throughout the year without any specific month or season. Gestation is 350 days and a single baby called a cria is born. Cria weigh between 18-35 lbs. and are nursing within 90 minutes and weaned after 5-6 months.

Behavior/Adaptations: Llamas live in large social groups of 20 plus animals. Each group is defended by a dominant male. Llamas are very social herd animals and do sometimes spit at each other as a way of disciplining lower-ranked llamas in the herd. A llama's social rank in a herd is never static. They can always move up or down in the social ladder by picking small fights. This is usually done between males to see who will become the alpha. Their fights are visually dramatic with spitting, ramming each other with their chests, neck wrestling and kicking, mainly to knock the other off balance. The females are usually only seen spitting as a means of controlling other herd members.

While the social structure might always be changing, they live as a family and they do take care of each other. If one notices a strange noise or feels threatened, a warning bray is sent out and all others come to alert. They will often hum to each other as a form of communication.

Predators: Cougars, coyotes.

Conservation: Llamas are not listed.

Interesting Facts:

- Llamas have special blood that allows them to live in high altitude where the oxygen is thinner.
- Llamas are used as livestock guards. Single castrated males bond well with sheep and goats and protect the herd.



Plymouth Rock Chicken

Gallus gallus domesticus

Habitat: They are a domestic species.

Breed Origin: They are a subspecies of the wild bird, Red Jungle Fowl and in some part Grey Jungle Fowl which are both from India. The Plymouth Rock breed originated in New England in the middle of the 19th century.

Diet: Chickens are omnivorous and eat insects, grains, seeds, produce, and occasionally small rodents or reptiles.

Lifespan: They can live up to 6-10 years of age.

Description: Plymouth Rock Chickens are large bodied chickens and weigh from 7.5-9.5 lbs. They come in 8 color variations. Barred was the first and most popular color variation. They have yellow skin, legs, and beak with red faces and ear lobes.

Breeding: They lay a clutch of about 12 large brown eggs. They are broody hens and will incubate them all at once. Incubation is about 21 days and the eggs hatch within 2 days of each other.

Behavior/Adaptations: They are extremely social and live in flocks. It is mostly groups of several hens and one rooster; however multiple roosters are possible as long as there are enough hens to form small subgroups. They tend to be calm and docile.

Uses: They are very well rounded are used for meat as well as egg production.

Conservation Status: Domestic classified as threatened by The Livestock Conservancy.

Interesting Facts:

- More than 50 billion chickens are reared for meat and eggs annually worldwide.
- Plymouth Rock chicken feather early and are cold hardy.
- Barred Plymouth Rock hackles (feathers on neck and throat area) are used extensively in artificial fly construction.



Modern Game Chicken

Gallus gallus domesticus

Habitat: They are a domestic species.

Breed Origin: They are a subspecies of the wild bird, Red Jungle Fowl and in some part Grey Jungle Fowl which are both from India. The Modern Game breed originated in England around 1850-1900.

Diet: Chickens are omnivorous and eat insects, grains, seeds, produce, and occasionally small rodents or reptiles.

Lifespan: They can live up to 6-10 years of age.

Description: Modern Game Chickens are small bodied and weight about 5.5 lbs. They have long slender legs and neck. They are lightly feathered with 12 different color variations being possible. Their skin, wattle, and comb vary from red to mulberry.

Breeding: They lay a clutch of about 12 small white eggs. Modern Game Chickens are not broody (eggs must be incubated artificially). Incubation is about 21 days and all eggs hatch within two days.

Behavior/Adaptations: They are extremely social and live in flocks. It is mostly groups of several hens and one rooster however multiple roosters are possible as long as there are enough hens to form small subgroups.

Uses: They are primarily ornamental birds. They were bred to mimic and epitomize the visual appeal of fighting cocks but were never fought.

Conservation Status: Domestic classified as critical by The Livestock Conservancy.

Interesting Facts:

- Modern Game Chickens also come in bantam (small) which can be as small as 16 oz.
- Their wattles and combs are sometimes dubbed (removed) to mimic ideal fighting cocks.



Pekin Duck

Anas platyrhynchos doesticus

Range: Domesticated species

Habitat: Farms

Diet: Pekin Ducks are omnivorous and consume both plant and animal matter. In the wild they eat vegetation and insects and here at the zoo, they eat pellet duck food, carrots, greens, insects, and hard boiled eggs.

Lifespan: They can live to be 9-12 years old.

Description: They are all white, but sometimes they have a yellowish-white coloration to their feathers if they are not exposed to sunlight. They have a bright yellow bill, legs, and feet. They can weigh to be 8-11 pounds.

Breeding: One female can lay about 200 eggs per year. They usually need to be artificially incubated. The eggs need to be incubated about 28 days before hatching in approximately 99.5° F.

Behavior/Adaptations: They imprint on humans easily if not in a flock of other ducks. They are very social.

Breed Origin: They originated near Nanjing, China and descended from the Mallard duck.

Interesting Facts:

- They are too heavy to fly.
- The breed began as dark colored mallards in China and due to the increase in grain availability in the canals, they became white and increased significantly in size. After the evolutionary roll, farmers began to domesticate the larger, white birds.
- American Pekin Ducks started with about 9 birds imported to Long Island so they are sometimes referred to as Long Island Ducks.



Indian Peafowl

Pavo cristatus

Habitat: Forests and Rainforests

Range: They are found throughout Southeast Asia

Diet: Peafowl are omnivorous and eat mostly plant parts, flower petals, seed heads, insects and other arthropods, reptiles, and amphibians.

Lifespan: They can live up to 15-20 years of age.

Description: The male, called a peacock, has iridescent blue-green or green colored plumage. The peacock tail (train) is not made up of actual tail feathers, but rather they are highly elongated upper tail coverts. The "eyes" of their fathers are best seen when the peacock fans its tail. Peafowl have a crest atop the head. The female, called the peahen, has a mixture of dull green, brown, and grey in her plumage. She lacks the long upper tail coverts of the mail, but has a crest. The female can also display her plumage to ward off female competition or signal danger to her young. Peafowl are 27-51 inches long. The peacock tail length is 55-63 inches long. Peafowl range from 2.6-13 lbs. and have a wingspan of 31-63 inches.

Breeding: Indian Peafowl are polygamous where males congregate in leks (a gathering of males displaying for reproductive competition). After mating, the male has no more involvement with the female or her young. The peahen lays 3-6 eggs in a nest concealed in scrub vegetation. Incubation lasts 28-30 days. The chicks are precocial, meaning that they are able to walk and eat after hatching. The young will follow their mother around shortly after they hatch.

Behavior/Adaptations: Peafowl roost overnight in large groups in tall open trees. In the morning, they will break up into small foraging groups. During the nonbreeding season the groups tend to form in all peacock or peahen.

Conservation: Indian Peafowl are considered a species of least concern.

Interesting Facts:

- Indian Peafowl is the national bird of India.
- They are prominent in the mythology and folklore of the Indian people.
- Hindus consider the bird to be sacred because of the God Kartikeya (son of the Lord Shiva and Parvati and brother to the God Ganesh) rides on its back.
- Legends hold that the peafowl can charm snakes and addle their eggs.