

Pygmy Goat Medal Test Study Guide

BRONZE LEVEL

The Pygmy Goat was developed from the West African Dwarf found most commonly in the Cameroon Valley. They were taken to Europe primarily by the British during the colonial era. They were later imported into the United States from European zoos in the 1950s for use in zoos as well as research animals. They were eventually acquired by private breeders and quickly gained popularity as pets and exhibition animals due to their good-natured personalities, friendliness and hardy constitution. The main organization overseeing the breeding and showing of Pygmy Goats is the NPGA (National Pygmy Goat Association).

Normal Values

Rectal temperature	101.5 – 103.5 °F
Pulse	60 – 80 per minute
Respiration	15 – 30 per minute
Puberty	4 – 12 months
Estrous cycle	18 – 23 days
Estrum	12 – 36 hours
Gestation	145 – 155 days

Goat Vaccinations

Although there are many diseases that goats may be vaccinated against around the world, in the United States we are concerned with only a few. These include enterotoxemia and tetanus, and goats in confinement must be vaccinated against these diseases. You also may choose to vaccinate against rabies. These are the only vaccinations to be concerned with unless your herd has been infected with a specific disease requiring additional vaccinations. Selenium injections (BO-SE is used for goats) are not vaccinations but are often listed with vaccination schedules.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Pygmy Goat is genetically small, cobby, and compact. Its frame is clearly defined and well angulated; limbs and head are short relative to body length. The Pygmy Goat is full-barreled and well-muscled; the body circumference in relation to height and weight is proportionately greater than that of dairy breeds. The Pygmy Goat is hardy, agile, alert and animated, good-natured, and gregarious. The legs and feet should work together so that the gait (tracking) is smooth, balanced, ground covering and effortless. (05-02, 06-16)

General Care:

- Daily—clean water, fresh feed (grain and/or hay); loose goat minerals available at all times
- Monthly—trim hooves every 4-6 weeks
- Yearly—vaccinations (CD&T)
- As needed—Bo-Se and Copper (if deficient in either of them; talk to your vet for dosages)

Goat Family Terms:

A **buck** (male goat) and a **doe** (female goat) are bred while the doe is in heat. About five months later, she will freshen (have her **kids** [baby goats]). The **dam** (mother goat) and **sire** (father goat) will be the parents of more does and bucks. Most bucks will be castrated/neutered around 4 months old, making them into **wethers**.

There are 13 signs that your goat may not be feeling well:

- tends to stay away from other goats and/or you
- has a distressed or depressed expression in the eyes
- looks dull and listless
- does not want to move
- grinds teeth
- breathes in a quick, shallow fashion or coughs a lot
- has no appetite, is not interested in food
- urinates frequently
- tries to urinate but is unable to do so, especially wethers
- exhibits a changed color and consistency in the feces, ie, scours (diarrhea)
- has a temperature above normal
- shows drastic change from normal habits and behavior
- head pressing, presses head against wall or fence

NPGA Recognized Colors (http://npga-pygmy.com/resources/conformation/color_chart.asp)

CARAMEL WITH BLACK MARKINGS

CARAMEL WITH BROWN MARKINGS

GREY AGOUTI

BROWN AGOUTI

BLACK AGOUTI

BLACK

SOLID BLACK

Know the Following Body Parts:

Barrel	Cannon	Chine	Crown	Dewclaw
Flank	Hock	Loin	Udder	Withers
		Rump		

