

Native Range Map



LaMancha Goat

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Subphylum: Vertebrata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Artiodactyla
Family: Bovidae
Genus: *Capra*
Species: *hircus*



Photo courtesy of Mary Ann Czerniak

Habitat

- **In the Wild:** The LaMancha goat is a domesticated breed of goat that is not found in the wild. (A breed is a group of organisms within a species developed by artificial selection and maintained by controlled reproduction.) It originated in the United States when in the 1930s; Eula F. Frey of Oregon bred some short-eared goats that had been brought by Spanish missionaries who had colonized California to some Swiss and Nubian sires.
- **Exhibit Location:** Domestic Animal Barn

Characteristics

- The ears, or lack of ears, are the special characteristic of this breed of goat. There are 2 types of LaMancha ears: the “elf ear” and the “gopher ear.” The elf ear is about 2 inches in length, with the gopher ear not exceeding 1 inch. Gopher ears lack most of the cartilage elf ears have. Both ear types should turn either up or down at the tips. The ears appear to be wrinkled folds of skin that lie close to the head.
- Height: 28-30 inches at the withers (the highest point of the back between the shoulders)
Weight: males (bucks) = 150 pounds; females (does) = 130 pounds
- The face is straight. The coat is short, fine, glossy, and varies in color or color combinations.
- Its milk contains high butterfat content.
- **Lifespan: In the Wild** not found in the wild; **In Captivity** 15 years

Behaviors

- These animals have a well-developed herding instinct and prefer to be in a group.
- Goats are diurnal (active during the day), spending most of their time eating shrubs, trees, herbs, and scrub.
- Goats use their 5 senses to experience their surroundings. They communicate using sight, smell, and hearing.
- LaMancha goats are popular as pets due to their temperament.
- They can withstand a great deal of hardship and still produce high quality milk.
- **Enrichments at the Zoo:** peanut butter logs, pine trees and branches, scents on branches (peppermint, etc.), broom brushes to rub on, fresh vegetables hung around their yard, furniture rearranged in their yard

Reproduction

- Goats mature sexually at 6 months of age and can be bred if their size is sufficient. Fall/winter is their natural breeding season. Does come into estrus (time when the female is ready to reproduce) every 21 days for 1-2 days.
- The gestation period is about 155 days. Twins are normally born and triplets are not uncommon.
- The young are born with 6 lower incisors, and by 4 weeks of age have a full set of milk teeth consisting of the 6 lower incisors and 24 molars. The upper jaw does not develop milk teeth; rather it has bony plates to rub against the lower teeth.
- The young (kids) are born able to walk and follow mom just hours after birth. They are weaned at about 10 months of age.

Diet

- **In the Wild:** not applicable (not found in the wild)
- **At the Zoo:** hay, grain, vitamin E

Conservation Status

- **IUCN status:** not listed; **CITES Appendix:** not listed
- LaMancha goats are a common domesticated breed of goat.
- Predators: coyotes, dogs, cougars, foxes, eagles, bobcats

Did You Know?/Fun Facts

- The LaMancha goat produces milk that is high in minerals and vitamins and lower in cholesterol than cow's milk.
- Goats are picky eaters and do not eat tin cans.
- Worldwide, more people consume milk and milk products from goats than from any other animal.
- Goats' milk is more easily digestible than cow's milk.

Sources:

- American Dairy Goat Association, (2003). Breed standards for the 6 currently registered adga breeds. Retrieved Feb. 09, 2006, from American Dairy Goat Association Web site: <http://www.adga.org/breedstandards.html>
- Ensminger, M., & Parker, R. (1986). *Sheep and goat science*. 5th ed. Danville, IL: The Interstate Printers & Publishers, Inc.
- Mileski, A. 2004. "Capra Hircus" (on-line), Animal Diversity Web. Accessed January 22, 2006 at http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Capra_hircus.html.
- Oak Knoll Dairy, (2003). Did you know?. Retrieved Feb. 09, 2006, from Vermont's Own Oak Knoll Dairy Web site: <http://www.oakknolldairy.com/know.html>.