



South African goat breeds: Kalahari Red

SCOPE: This Info-pack provides a brief description of the Kalahari Red goat breed.

KEY WORDS: Type, Origin, Description, Production, Products, Distribution, Numbers.

Recommended citation: Snyman, M.A., 2014. South African goat breeds : Kalahari Red. Info-pack ref. 2014/009. Grootfontein Agricultural Development Institute.

Type

Locally developed meat goat.



Photo: Kalaharireds.net

Origin of the breed

Indigenous goats arrived in South Africa and Namibia with those migrating tribes which traditionally kept goats. Early records describe lob eared goats in the Western, Eastern and Northern Cape Provinces and in areas of Namibia. Some farmers in the Northern Cape Province and the Namibian part of the Kalahari desert preferred red lob eared goats and began selecting for a specific type – slightly smaller than the red and white improved Boer goat.

Ben Vorster, of Tshipese in the Limpopo Province, Tollie Jordaan, of the farm Grootvlakte in the Somerset East district, Albie Horn of the farm Hartebeeshoek in De Aar and Louis van Rensburg of the farm Wonderpan in Prieska in the Northern Cape, all started breeding and selecting red goats. On 28 June 1996 Louw Pretorius of Landbouweekblad heard about Ben Vorster's goats and published an article on them. After this article had been published, farmers

became aware of one another and began communicating.

In 1998 the goats were shown with the Savannah goats in Bloemfontein, under the name of Brown Savannah. The aspiration to register a separate breed was an important driving force. DNA tests were conducted to determine whether there was sufficient genetic separation between the Boer goats, Savannahs and Kalahari Reds. The results of all the tests showed that the difference between the red goats and the Boer goats was greater than between the Boer goats and the Savannahs. On 5 July 1999 the Kalahari Red Club was founded in Kimberley. The name Kalahari Red was to be used for the goats. The members managed the Club until 19 October 2004, where, during an Annual General Meeting at Kuruman, it was decided to merge with the SA Boer Goat Breeders' Society.



Photo: Kalaharireds.net

Description

The Kalahari Red is a red medium to large framed lob eared meat goat. It has a fine head, lob ears, round horns that are bent backwards

and a loose, supple skin with folds (especially in bucks). The doe must be feminine, wedging slightly to the front, which is a sign of fertility. The buck is heavier in the head, neck and forequarters and must be masculine.

The ideal is a brown goat with colour shadings that ranges between light brown to dark brown. It has a smooth short hair coat that is very well pigmented.



Photo: Jstsaying.wordpress.com

Production norms

Age at first breeding: 6 months

100-day weaning weight buck kids: 25 kg

100-day weaning weight doe kids: 21 kg

Mature weight does: 75 kg.

Products

- Meat – Tender tasty meat at a young age. Healthy, low fat meat.
- Excellent quality skin (value-added trait).

Normal production environment

Arid to semi-arid savannah.



Photo: Boerboksa.co.za

Breed numbers

There are currently 55 registered Kalahari Red members and many commercial producers. There are about 7 000 Kalahari Red goats registered with the breeders' society. The total number of Kalahari Red goats in South Africa is unknown.

References

This info-pack was compiled from various sources of information. The text may contain extracts from the following:

www.ilnika.com/kr/index.php/kalahari-red-origin-and-history

www.boerboksa.co.za