



South African goat breeds: Toggenburg

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

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

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Type

Milk goat.



Photo: Dairy-goats.com

Origin of the breed

The Toggenburg is a Swiss dairy goat from the Toggenburg Valley of Switzerland at Obertoggenburg in the Swiss Alps. They are also credited as being the oldest known dairy goat breed. The pure Toggenburg was developed in Switzerland, while the British Toggenburg was bred in Britain; thus indicating that other bloodlines may have been introduced to the pure Toggenburg imported from Switzerland to Britain.

Pure Toggenburgs were imported to South Africa early in the 20th century, but none were registered here. Some good milkers were the result of cross breeding with South African-type milch goats originating from the pure Saanen importations of 1900 to 1914. For almost 20 years no Toggenburgs were registered in South Africa and all the old bloodstock disappeared. In 1951, W.H. Morris of Cape Town imported a pure Toggenburg male and two females in kid from Switzerland. From 1934 to 1951 two pure

Toggenburg females and 18 males were registered directly with Studbook, while from 1959 to 1985 the Society applied for the registration of 167 females and 58 males.

Description

This is a medium size, sturdy breed. The hair is short or medium in length, soft, fine, and lying flat. Bucks are known for a pronounced beard. The colour is solid varying from light fawn to dark chocolate with no preference for any shade. Distinct white markings are as follows: white ears with dark spot in middle; two white stripes down the face from above each eye to the muzzle; hind legs white from hocks to hooves; forelegs white from knees downward with a dark band below knee acceptable; a white triangle on either side of the tail; white spot may be present at root of toggles or in that area if no toggles are present. The ears are erect and carried forward. Facial lines may be dished or straight, never roman.

The udder should be well developed, not fleshy, and have a soft texture after milking. The udder should be carried high and well under the body. Good udder attachment is particularly important. The teats should be moderately sized, squarely placed and point slightly forward.



Photo: Northvalleyfarms.com

Production norms

Slightly smaller than the other Alpine breeds, the does weigh at least 55 kg.

The average height, measured at the withers, is about 79 cm for does and 90 cm for bucks.

Milk production: 2.0 kg/day

Milk fat: 3.2 - 3.7%

Milk protein: 2.7%

Products

Milk and milk products, such as a variety of soft and hard cheeses.



Photo: Littlesnodwellfarm.co.uk

Role in breed development

The British Alpine was developed from the Toggenburg, Nubian goats and indigenous British goats.



Photo: Allgoats.com

Normal production environment

Toggenburgs perform best in cooler conditions and it is reported to be the least suited of the dairy breeds to tropical conditions.



Photo: Nantahala-farm.com

Breed numbers

Today 21 Toggenburg females and eight Toggenburg males are registered with the breeders' society in South Africa. The total number of Toggenburg 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.milkgoats.co.za/milkgoat_society