

## Vital Statistics ~ Normal Goat

Temperature: 104 degrees (+ or - 1)

Heart Rate: 70 - 80 beats / minute (faster for kids)

Respiration Rate: 12 - 15 / minute (faster for kids)

Rumen Movement: 1 - 1.5 / minute

Remember these are the average for a normal goat---this does not mean that your goat has to conform exactly. They are individuals and will vary.

### Life span

**Does** = 11-12 years average age, but... usually the death in does is kidding related. Does that are "retired" from breeding around age 10 live longer: 16-18 years

**Wethers** = 11-16 years average age

**Bucks** = 8-10 average age - bucks usually live shorter lives than does and wethers due to the stresses of going into rut each year.

Most goats do not reach their full size until they are about three years of age.

### Heat / Pregnancy

Onset of First Heat: 7 - 12 months of age (earlier in minis)

A mini goat (Pygmy or Nigerian Dwarf) can come in heat as early as 8-12 weeks !

Length of each Heat: 12 - 48 hours

Heat Cycle 17 - 23 days (avg: 21 days) Dairy Goats normally come in heat during the months of Sept/Oct ~ February while mini's come in heat every 17-23 days year round.

Length of Gestation 145-155 days (avg. 150)

**Pygmy Bucks or Bucklings sexually mature at 3-4 months old.** They start urinating on their own face, chest and front legs and drink their own urine. This is called "**Rutting.**" It is for the male to attract females and many species do this, even Deer. (This is why most people want wethers, castrated males, as pets.) Some bucklings can breed and sire kids at very early ages. They are very prolific, so they need to be kept separate from younger does and even their dam (mom.) after they are weaned around 8-12 weeks old.

