



GOAT

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL



Goats are curious. They are also agile and well known for their ability to climb and balance. This makes them some of the few farm animals that can regularly be found in trees. Due to their agility and curiosity, they are known for escaping their pens. If any of the fencing can be climbed, goats will almost always escape. Goats are intelligent. Once a goat has discovered a weakness in the fence, they will go back to it repeatedly, and other goats will observe and quickly follow.



Goats tend to have less herding behavior than sheep and act more like cattle. When grazing, they will often spread out across the field, as do cattle. When goats are nursing their kids, they will leave them lying separated in the field rather than clumped like sheep.



Research has found goats are more like dogs in their communication style. They will look to a human for help. For instance, when presented with a box, goats are able to remove the lid and retrieve a treat inside. However, if the box is turned so the lid cannot be removed, a goat will turn, look at a person, and move toward them. Then they will look back toward the box. This is very similar to a dog's behavior. Goats will follow their owners around.

Humans use goats as providers of milk, manure, and fiber. They also use them to graze areas other livestock will not eat. Goats are used for their meat and hide. Goats are easier and cheaper to manage than cattle and are often raised in impoverished countries. In fact, goat meat is the most consumed meat per capita in the world.

FUN FACTS

Goats have a gestation period of five months and the average birth rate for goats is 2.2 kids per year.

Contrary to the belief that goats are willing to eat anything, they are actually picky eaters. They have sensitive lips, which they use to “mouth” things as they look for clean and tasty food. They will even refuse to eat hay if it has been walked on or lying around loose.

Coffee was first discovered by goat herders when they noticed the animals had an unusual amount of energy after eating coffee beans.

GOAT VIDEO



Need a laugh?
Watch these
curious goats!

GOAT YOGA



Watch this
video to see
goat yoga!

After watching the video, discuss these questions with your friends:

1. If goat yoga were free, would you do it?

2. If you had to pay to take a goat yoga class, would you do it?

3. What do you think would be the best/worst part of goat yoga?
