



# The French Angora breed



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## Population in France :

4,500 goats, 2,200 of them recorded.

Weight of males : 40 to 60 kg

Weight of females : 30 à 40 kg

## Characteristics of the fleece :

Weight at 180 days : 2 to 2,6 kg

Average fineness: 27 to 30 microns

Length of lock at 180 days : 13 to 14 cm

## Origin and breeding region.....

The Angora goat, well known in central Asia for 5,000 years, spread throughout the world in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. French Angora goats came from imports during the 1980s from Canada, Texas, Australia and South Africa. Since then, the goats have been improved thanks to the setting up of a French selection program centred on improving the Mohair fibre towards a fixed quality, homogeneous and with no long strands.

## Aptitudes and uses.....

The Angora goat is a hardy animal, with quite a placid disposition, easy to rear. The weights are on average from 30 to 40 kg for females and from 40 to 60 kg for males. Their life expectancy is about ten years.

After a gestation period of 5 months the Angora females give birth on average to one kid per year.

The principal production of this livestock is Mohair fibre, a natural fibre of very high quality, used alone or mixed with other fibres to make luxury garments, a variety of wools,

cloth, velvet... The animals are sheared twice a year.

## Selection Program

French breeders, anxious to produce quality mohair (no long coarse hairs, fineness of the fibre lower than 30 microns, homogeneous fleece), have undertaken a work of selection within Capgènes-Angora section, in collaboration with the INRA and the Livestock Institute.

Each year, 2,200 breeding animals belonging to 35 breeders are tested on their performances in the farms. This includes the recording of the bloodlines, the weights of fleeces, a score taking into account the length and shape of the lock, the coarse hair rate, and the coat of the animal.

It is complemented by the laboratory analysis of samples indicating the yield when thoroughly washed as well as the fineness of the fibre.

All these results are individually used by the breeders in their selection work and placed in common with the framework of the collective selection scheme.

