



# The Pyrenean goat



Photo: Pyrenean Goat Association– Copyright

## Population:

3 025 animals including 2 800 females in 2009

## Milking qualities :

Average milk production :

315 kg in 228 days

Amount of protein : 9.6kg

Protein content : 30.4 g/kg

Fat content : 38.5 g/kg

Hardiness, adaptation to rough paths and mountain climate

## Contact :

### Pyrenean Goat Association

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## Origin and breeding area.....

The Pyrenean goat often has long black hairs. It traditionally inhabited throughout the Pyrenees. It was known for its rich milk and milking ability of some lineage.

## A breed that has almost disappeared.....

Once present in small flocks of five or six heads in the sheep herds, the Pyrenean goat supplied fresh milk in the summer, a necessity for the shepherd and his dogs. This milk was also widely consumed in the city where the Bearn goatherds led their flocks to sell fresh milk directly to consumers. In 1900 there were up to 1,500 Pyrenean goats in the streets of Paris!

During the second part of the 20th century, the number of Pyrenean goats dropped dramatically.

Because of depopulation, the elimination of goats in forested areas and the competition of selected breeds (Alpine, Saanen) the goat of the Pyrenees was considered nearly extinct. After various actions initiated

by the Regional Conservatory in the early 90s, farmers organized themselves around an association in 2004. Today 2,800 goats and 225 billy goats are recorded.

## Pastoral farming systems.....

Farms that value the Pyrenean breed are generally traditional and located in the Pyrenees. In order to be efficient, these systems value of course more or less wooded and mountain pastures.

Most of these farms have lactating herds, often pluripotent. They value the breed by selling Pyrenean kids raised under the mother.

The goat of the Pyrenees is also used for the production of cheese. Again this is often semi outdoor systems. If the milk production of this breed is modest (200 to 500 kg per lactation), its milk produces a cheese favored by consumers.

## Conservation program.....

The Association of the Pyrenean Goat implements the conservation

program of the breed and a project of structuring and developing the industry with the support of its technical and financial partners (Capgènes, Livestock Institute, Regional Conservatories, local authorities).

The ultimate goal is to preserve the breed and its genetic variability, while ensuring that producers earn enough to live on Pyrenean goat breeding as their main activity.

