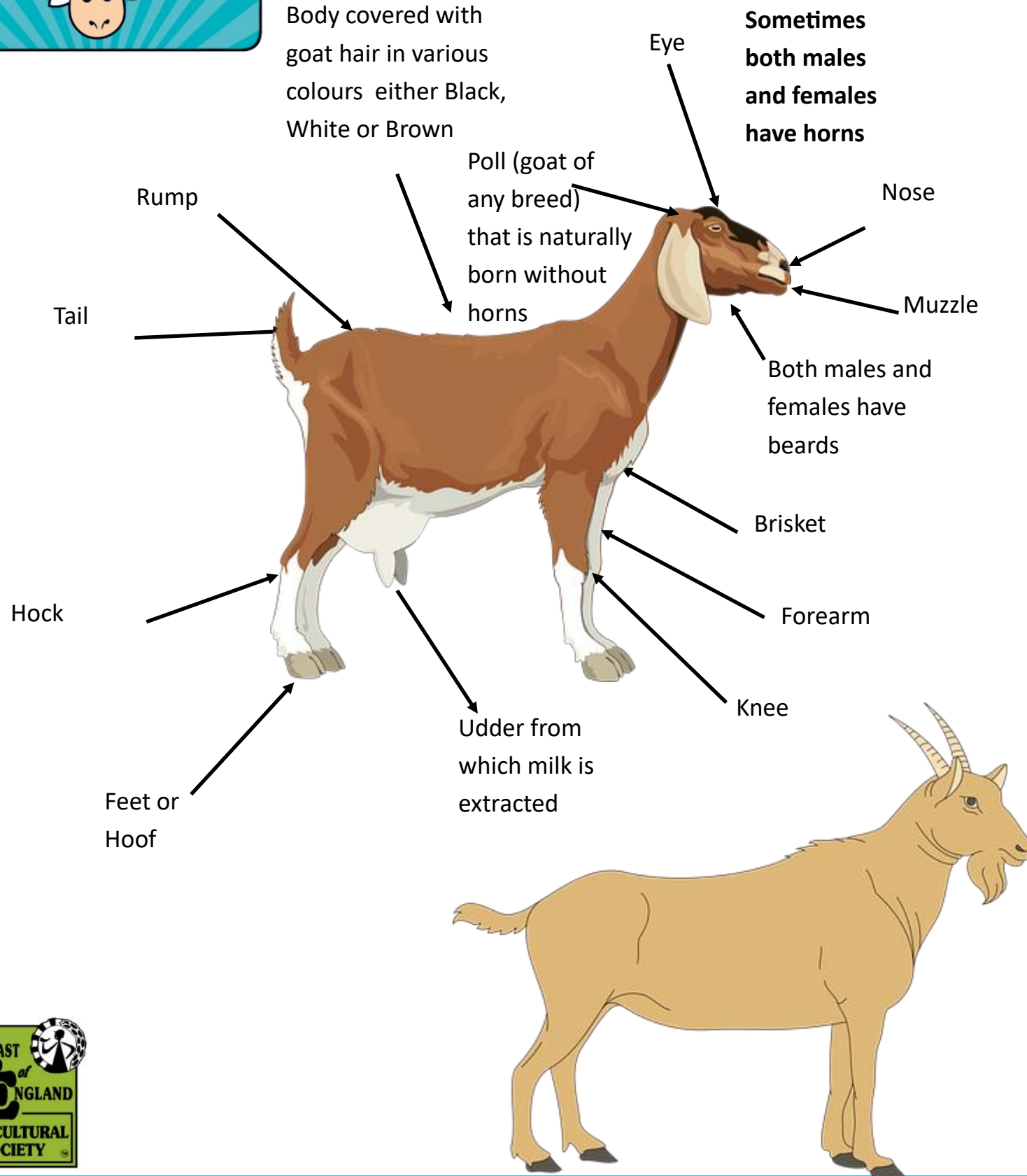















Goats—Parts of the body of a Goat

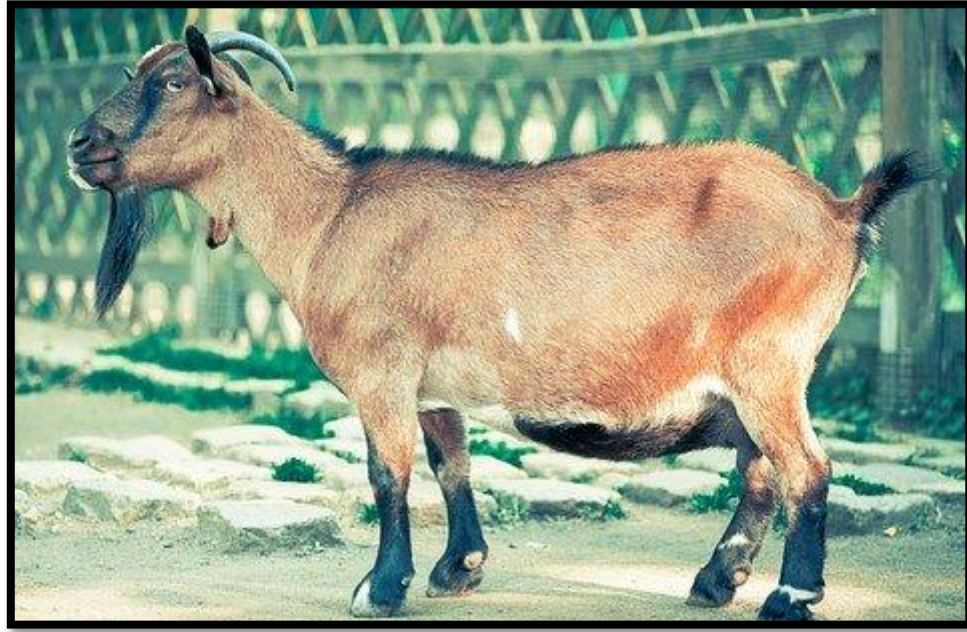
Goats are fascinating are farm animals!



Body covered with goat hair in various colours either Black, White or Brown

Sometimes both males and females have horns

-  Goats were one of the first animals to be tamed by humans and were being herded 9,000 years ago
-  Goats can be taught their name and to come when called
-  The life span of a goat is about that of a dog
-  Baby goats (kids) are standing and taking their first steps within minutes of being born.
-  They are actually very picky eaters. They have very sensitive lips, which they use to “mouth” things in search of clean and tasty food. They will often refuse to eat hay that has been walked on or lying around loose for a day.
-  Goats are herd animals and will become depressed if kept without any goat companions. So, it is unhealthy for a goat if a family just owns one as a pet.
-  Goats, being mountain animals, are very good at climbing; they’ve been known to climb to the tops of trees, or even dams!
-  Goats were the first animal to be used by humans for milk. People all around the world eat and drink milk products from goats more than any other animal.
-  Goats are very agile and can jump very high when needed. Some goats can jump as high as 5 feet! All over the world goats are known as great climbers and can often be found climbing hills, rocks, and even on rooftops!
-  Goats were the first animal to be used by humans for milk. People all around the world eat and drink milk products from goats more than any other animal.
-  Goats are herbivores, which means they eat only vegetation. Their favourite food is grass, though mountain goats also eat mosses and plants



The male goat is called a billy or buck

A group of goats is called a herd. Goats are very social creatures and become lonely if left alone for long periods of time.

Goats are raised for many purposes:



A female goat is called a doe or nanny

Some females have horns!



Meat

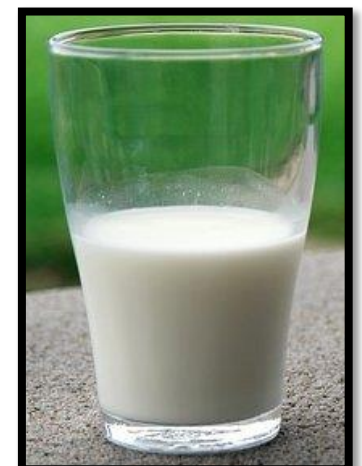
Goat soap and wool



A baby goat is called a kid



Milk/
cheese/
yogurt/
Ice
cream



Where do goats live?

Many goats live on farms. When they live on farms, goats live in pens, or small fenced-in areas for animals. Farmers put straw inside the pens for goats to sleep on. Goats also like to climb. They can get up steep, rocky embankments.



What is the gestational period for a Goat?

Goats have a gestation period (pregnancy) of five months and the average birth rate for goats is 2.2 kids per year. The doe can have 1 to 6 kids per litter, but it is much more common to have a small litter of 1-3 kids.



The act of giving birth is called kidding- no, we are not kidding *hehe*!

Each kid has a unique call, and along with its scent, that is how its mother recognizes it from birth – not by sight.



Kids

Kids can be born with or without horns, and are often able to stand within minutes of birth and are able to walk with their mom almost immediately. Kids are usually very social with other young



What do Goats eat?

Goats are foragers, NOT grazers. In their natural habitat, they roam mountaintops and reach up as high as possible to pick out choice bits of forage around them. Goats eat plants like trees, shrubs, hay and grains. Like cows, goats have a special stomach to help them break down plant material



Do Goats have teeth?

Goats have teeth that are specifically made for chewing and grinding all of the different types of food that they come across. On their lower jaw, goats have 8 incisor teeth used for biting off leaves and branches. Goats have 24 molars on the lower jaw, as well, that they use to grind up their food.



On their upper jaw, however, goats do not have teeth; instead, they have a special pad, called a dental pad, that helps them rip and tear their food!

Communication

Goats communicate with each other by bleating. Mothers will often call to their young (kids) to ensure they stay close-by. Mother and kid goats recognise each other's calls soon after the mothers give birth.



Do Goats make friends?

Goats might not seem like the most cuddly animals, but researchers have found evidence that goats are as clever as dogs, and just as capable of building emotional relationships with humans as all the other domesticated animals we've let into our hearts and homes



Do they have good eye sight?

Goats have prominent eyes. Goats' pupils (like many hooved animals) are rectangular. This gives them vision for 320 to 340 degrees (compared to humans with 160-210) around them without having to move and they are thought to have excellent night vision.



Do goats sleep?

Goats are very light sleepers that wake up at any sound, which explains why people rarely see them sleeping. Domesticated goats sleep about 5 hours a night, and will take short naps during the day. If they have a companion goat, goats prefer to sleep huddled together.



Mating (Rutting)

For male goats (buck or billy goat), the time directly before mating is called a rut which is a time where males are obsessively interested in the female goats (doe or nanny goat). During this time male goats will often fight among each other (seen in the image) and will even release a smelly musty odor--yuck!--in order to communicate both to other males and interested females!



Since goats breed for such a long period of their lives, breeding happens annually and for a lengthy amount of time: the period begins usually around late-August and extends all the way until early-January; however, many goats even breed out of season.

Goats around the world

In developing countries, raising goats can empower women as income earners, improve food security and nutrition, and even challenge gender norms. Aid projects in Uganda, Guatemala, and Afghanistan have all demonstrated the transformational power of goats

