



Barbados Sheep

Ovis aries



Physical Characteristics:

I am a type of sheep that does not produce wool. Unlike my relative the goat, only male sheep have horns. I have a split hoof and a foot print that looks similar to that of a deer.

Habitat / Climate

Sheep are found all over the world in all types of climates.

Where am I from? The Barbado breed originated in Texas. They originated from Barbados Blackbelly sheep, which are a cross of the Rambouillet and mouflon, and came either from West Africa or the island of Barbados.



Other family members:

Bison
Impalas
Antelope
Sheep

Who are my relatives? I am a mammal from the order *Artiodactyla* and the family *Bovidae*, which includes cattle, antelopes, gazelles, sheep, springboks, hartebeest and relatives. I am directly related to the Barbados Blackbelly sheep. The Blackbelly males have horns



Breeding Potential

Sheep have a gestation period of about 5 1/2 months. They have 1-2 young at time.

How am I born?

I am born precocial, which means that I am able to get up and follow my mom very shortly after I am born. I am a herd animal and so females will often have young about the same time and the herd will often keep the young together toward the center of the herd.

Breeding Season

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| A | E | A | P | A | U | U | E | C | O | E | |
| N | B | R | R | Y | N | L | G | P | T | V | C |

Sheep can have young year round

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live? I will be sexually mature at 18 months and live from 8-13 years.

Names for:

Adult male- Ram
Adult female- Ewe
Young- Lamb or
Yearling - Hogget
Group:- Flock

What kind of family life do I have? Sheep are considered to be the oldest domesticated animal. One reason for this is their tendency to stay in herds. Nomadic people were able to easily travel with a herd of sheep.

What do I eat and when do I eat? I am a diurnal grazer (eat grass during the day) like cattle and goats I am a ruminant which means that I chew my food twice.

Who are my predators? Wolves, coyote, big cats

What is the history of my relationship to man?

Sheep have been domesticated for 10,000. I have a long relationship to man especially in the Mediterranean and Britain where we are the most common type of livestock. We have had a place in religion, art and traditions in many cultures.