

PBA Media Handout

Thank you for your interest in Pygora goats and the Pygora Breeders Association. To ensure correct facts about Pygoras, the PBA has created this media handout. If you have any questions, please contact Terri L. Kistler at terri@whistlekickpygoras.com or Ruth Hawkins at rhawkinsdesign@yahoo.com

Media Handout Text

A Pygora™ is a fiber goat purposely bred to produce fine fiber for hand spinning. The Pygora goat produces a wonderful, lofty, soft, fiber that does not coarsen as the goat ages. Add in an affectionate, engaging personality, a manageable size, good health and fleece in a range of colors and you have the perfect fiber goat.

Pygora kids weigh about 5 lb. at birth. Adult does (female Pygoras) average 80-120 lb. and must be at least 18 in. tall. Adult bucks (male Pygoras) and wethers (neutered males) average 75-140 lb. and must be at least 23 in. tall.

A Pygora goat will have one of three fleece types:

- Type A—this fleece averages 6 inches in length, is long, lustrous, has ringlets and should have very few guard hairs. The fiber is very fine and feels silky, smooth and cool to the touch. Type-A goats usually are shorn twice a year.
- Type B—this fleece is a strong, lustrous fiber that is curly and very soft. A type-B fleece averages 3-6 inches long, and may have two types of guard hairs: an obvious, stiff guard hair and a silky guard hair. It is the uniquely Pygora fleece - very versatile, warm to the touch and soft. Type-B goats usually are shorn twice a year.
- Type C—this fleece is a matte fiber with crimp and a very short staple length (usually 1-3 inches). It has a very obvious coarse guard hair and is warm to the touch. Type C has the finest diameter of the three fleece types and can be as soft as fine cashmere. A type-C coat can be harvested by brushing, plucking or shearing. The yield is quite small, but the effort is worth it. Type-C fleece is unbelievably soft.

Pygoras tend to be very healthy goats as long as they receive proper care. They breed and kid easily, and are naturally good mothers.

Pygoras were developed by Katharine Jorgensen in Oregon. The Pygora Breeders Association (PBA) was formed in 1987 and maintains the registry herd book. *The only goat that may bear the name 'Pygora' is a goat registered with the PBA.* In addition, all Pygora goats must conform to the Pygora Breed Standard, which includes conformation, color/patterns and fleece characteristics.

For more information on Pygoras or the Pygora Breeders Association, see the following:

- Pygora Breeders Association website – www.pba-pygora.org
- PBA brochures (available free on the PBA website): What is a Pygora?, Pygora Fleece Facts, and Spinning Pygora Fiber
- *Pygora Goat Management* by Chris Utterback
- *Fiber Fun: The Pygora Goat Fiber Handbook* by Chris Utterback
- *Raising Happy, Healthy Pygora Goats* by Terri L. Kistler

To find out more about Pygoras and the PBA, we recommend the following:

- Download the three PBA brochures (“General Information”, “Fiber Facts”, and “Spinning Pygora”), available on the PBA website (<http://www.pygoragoats.org/>)
- Obtain any or all of these recommended Pygora books:
 - *Pygora Goat Project Book* by Chris Utterback (yamafarm@canby.com or call 503-263-2400)
 - *Raising Happy, Healthy, Pygora Goats* by Terri Kistler (available on Amazon or on www.whistlekickpygoras.com)
 - *Fiber Fun: The Pygora Goat Fiber Handbook* (How to harvest, process and sell fiber from your Pygora goat) by Chris Utterback (yamafarm@canby.com or call 503-263-2400)