



Photo courtesy of Deep South Kikos

The Kiko goat was developed in the temperate climate of New Zealand in the late 1970's. Feral does of this region possessed great hardiness as compared to many domestic breeds, and were screened to a small number that met selection criteria assigned for use in early development of the breed. The Kiko inherits its maternal and hardiness traits from these feral does. The feral does were hardy, but small in size, so dairy bucks were added to the herd to increase their size and milk production. After four generations of controlled and selective breeding, significant improvement in size and performance had been achieved, and the basis for the Kiko breed was established. Early selection criteria were based primarily on survivability and growth rates. The later selection parameters included rapid rate of growth, improved fertility, early maturity, enhanced nutritional availability for offspring, extended breeding season, and ease of maintenance. Animals with any type of foot problems were culled. Over the next several years, does were culled annually at approximately seventy-five percent. Buck kids were culled at ninety percent and again at 50% to retain only the top five percent of bucks for herd sires.

There are no defined breed standards for Kiko goats as to size, conformation or color. Kiko breeders are encouraged to focus more on the commercially valuable traits. This is the reason there are no sanctioned Kiko goat shows. The dominant color of Kiko goats is white; however they can be any color. The Kiko goat is a performance based breed. The goal of every commercial meat goat producer should be to have as many pounds of kids as possible to load on the truck at market time.

Kiko bucks are very aggressive breeders. A mature Kiko buck should be capable of servicing well in excess of 50 does. Kiko does possess exceptional maternal instincts and should normally kid unassisted. Desirable, the Kiko doe raises twins to weaning that total in excess of sixty percent of her body weight under forage based conditions. Kiko does



normally have good udder attachment with two small teats for the ease of newborns to get that first essential colostrum. Kiko kids exhibit lots of vigor at birth and are normally up and sucking minutes after birth. The kids receive much stimulus from the very attentive dams as they are quick to clean their kids and rarely leave their kid's sides for the first twenty-four to forty-eight hours. Kiko kids are fast growing and reach early maturity. Although mature size is not as great as some other breeds, the kids grow faster and usually reach market weight earlier than larger breeds. Kikos are very aggressive foragers and do well under range conditions. Kikos also possess greater parasite resistance and have fewer hoof problems than many other breeds. Kikos have consistently excelled in forage based buck tests in Georgia, Maryland and Oklahoma, for daily gain and parasite resistance. For more information on independent research and study of the Kiko goat, visit <http://www.kikogoats.com/kikosperform.htm>



Kikos prefer brush and browse over grass pastures and will eat many plants that are undesirable to other livestock species. Many farmers and ranchers have noted an increase in available grasses for other livestock after two to three years of running Kiko goats on their operations due to the Kiko goat eliminating invasive plant species. Kikos are an excellent choice for clearing brush and heavy undergrowth as they have a reach of approximately six feet high.

The largest importation of Kiko goats occurred in the mid 1990's when the American Kiko Goat

association (AKGA) was formed to represent the American breeders, but all the registry work still had to be sent back to New Zealand. In 2000, the American Kiko Goat Association (AKGA) purchased the original Kiko registry from Goatex Group LLC of New Zealand, thereby becoming the registry as well as an association. The AKGA was first incorporated in Texas, later in Georgia and in 2007 became a non-profit Oklahoma Corporation. The AKGA is the official organization of Kiko breeders and owners worldwide. The AKGA has the largest breeder membership and the most accurate registry database in the world. The AKGA serves to promote the Kiko goat, assist members in breeding, raising and registering Kiko goats, and to educate the public about the advantages of the Kiko goat as a meat breed.

There are no age limit requirements to register Kiko goats, as culling is encouraged by the AKGA to continue to advance and improve the Kiko breed. The AKGA also encourages member participation in university research programs for testing of parasite resistance and commercial production traits, to assist in the further advancement of the breed and to assist breeders in selection of breeding stock animals. Since the Kiko has no defined breed standards and can often times resemble other crossbreeds and common brush goats, the AKGA offers a DNA testing program to parentage qualify purebred Kiko goats. The AKGA has recently undergone an extensive registry restoration project, using the available parentage DNA information to determine the correct lineage of goats in the Kiko Goat Registry. The AKGA is the only Kiko registry to acknowledge and correct mistakes of the past using scientifically verifiable genetic information to insure that the AKGA has the most accurate Kiko Goat Registry in the world.

In addition to managing the premier registry service for Kiko breeders, the AKGA also holds a convention and sale each year. The AKGA assists our members with their livestock operations and in promoting Kikos as the best production and low maintenance meat goat breed available. Whether you are raising breeding stock or commercial production animals or looking to expand your current enterprise, Kiko goats could be the livestock investment you are looking for. Visit the AKGA website at www.kikogoats.com or call 254-423-5914 for more information on Kiko goats or to locate a breeder near you. Get the Kiko Advantage!