



# SAN CLEMENTE GOAT

**ARTIODACTYLA**  
**Family: Bovidae**  
**Genus: *Capra***  
**Species: *hircus***



**Range:** San Clemente Island off the coast of southern California.  
**Habitat:** rugged mountain country, rocky crags, and alpine meadows  
**Niche:** terrestrial, diurnal, herbivorous  
**Wild diet:** pastured grasses, bark, leaves, twigs, shrubs.  
**Zoo diet:** alfalfa, oats and omelene  
**Life Span:** (Wild) N/A  
 (Captivity) 10 – 22 years  
**Sexual dimorphism:**  
**Location in SF Zoo:** Children's Zoo Family Farm

---

## APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

---

San Clemente or Channel Island Goats are relatively small type of domestic goat. They are slightly larger than dwarf goats. They are fine-boned and deer-like, and most have very gentle temperaments and excellent mothering abilities. San Clemente Island goats are typically red or tan with characteristic black markings. Both sexes are horned.

<b>Weight:</b>	50 - 90 lbs
<b>Length:</b>	3 1/2 – 5 1/2 feet

---

## STATUS & CONSERVATION

---

San Clemente Island goats are listed as a critically endangered heritage breed by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC). The U.S. Navy became responsible for the island in 1934. Hunting and trapping were allowed, but in 1972, the Navy began a culling program, decreasing the herd from 12,000 to 4,000 in 1980. In 2009, their global population was about 450.

---

## COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

---

Domestic goats have a well-developed herding instinct and prefer to be in groups of 2 or more where they spend most of their time grazing.

---

## COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

---

Goats are polygynous. Most breeding cycles occur in late summer to early winter.

Estrous: 18 – 21 days

Gestation: 5 mos

# of Mammae:

# of Young: one; twins are common

Sexual Maturity:

Weaning Age:

Weight at birth:

---

## MISCELLANEOUS

---

Goats were first introduced to the San Clemente Island from a feral population that was imported from Santa Catalina in 1875. They were thought to be descended from goats brought to the island by Spanish missionaries and settlers but American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (ALBC), in collaboration with the University of Cordoba in Spain, conducted a DNA study of the breed in 2007 and found that the San Clemente goat is a genetically distinct breed and unrelated to the numerous other breeds in the study.

These goats are commonly used for meat and dairy.

### **Sources:**

<http://albc-usa.org/cpl/sanclementegoat.html>

<http://www.scigoats.org/>

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/goats/sanclemente/>

created: 11/2012