



## What Is A Pygora Goat?

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.

Pygoras were developed by Katharine Jorgensen in Oregon. The Pygora Breeders Association (PBA) was formed in 1987 and maintains the registry herd book. All Pygoras come from registered parents and can trace their lineage back to two specific parent breeds: American Angora Goat Breeders Association (AAGBA)-registered goats and National Pygmy Goat Association (NPGA)-registered goats.

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.

## How Big Are Pygoras?

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.



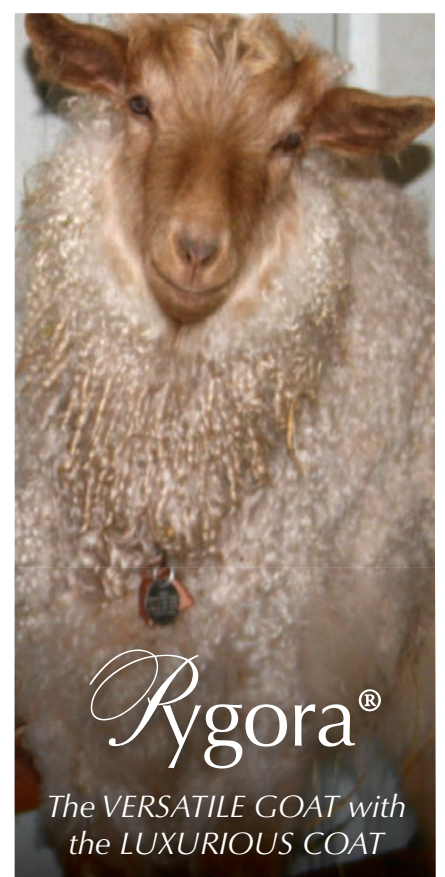
## Benefits of Joining The PBA

### Your PBA membership includes:

- the *Pygora Pypeline*—a quarterly newsletter filled with valuable information on what is happening in the Pygora world
- free classified ads in the *Pygora Pypeline* and free listing in the Member's section of the PBA website
- reduced rates for services such as goat registrations and transfers
- free use of the official PBA display banner (member must pay shipping costs)
- free *Goat of the Month* photo posting on the PBA website homepage with the name of the goat, breeder and owner
- participation in Pygora fleece studies with access to study reports
- opportunities to participate in sanctioned PBA goat and fleece shows
- opportunities to apply for Education Fund grants available for promoting and educating the general public on the Pygora goat
- access to Pygora educational materials, including informative brochures
- opportunities to make a difference in the PBA community by volunteering on any of several committees or on the board. You can be a part of the decision making.
- voting rights for adult members

124 S. Perry St., Saint Marys, OH 45885  
Website: [www.pba-pygora.org](http://www.pba-pygora.org)

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## How Much Fleece Does A Pygora Produce?

The amount of fleece a Pygora can produce depends on fleece type (type C produces the least amount and type A the greatest amount). Type As may produce as much as 3 lb. of raw fleece while type Cs may produce only 8 oz. of raw fiber. Type Bs average 1 lb. per shearing. The raw fleece includes both desirable fiber and guard hairs. The guard hairs must be removed. This process is called dehairing. The amount of guard hair removed from raw fiber averages 40%.

Pygoras can be sheared twice a year: in the fall and in the spring, depending on weather and fleece. Supplying freshly-shorn goats with good bedding and shelter is very important. For more details on shearing, see the PBA brochure on *Shearing Pygoras*.

## What Colors Are Pygoras?

Pygoras come in a wide range of colors: white, black, greys, caramels and browns. They often show two different colors throughout the year: a lighter, in-fleece color and a darker, out-of-fleece color. They may have a dark dorsal stripe, socks, crowns, 'frosting' on ears and noses, or facial masks. *For details on recognized colors and patterns, please see the Pygora Breed Standard on the PBA website.*

## What Else Can A Pygora Do?

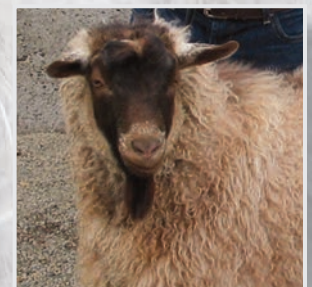
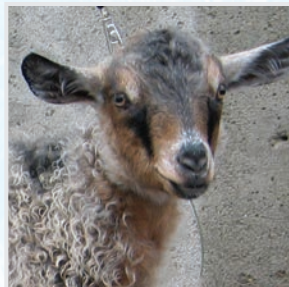
In addition to producing fiber, the Pygora can serve as a pet or as a multipurpose 'homestead' goat producing fiber and milk. Some Pygora owners regularly milk their does.

## What Is A Pygora's Personality?

Pygoras are friendly, playful, curious goats. They like to spend time with their people. It is important to note that, like any animal, a Pygora must be handled properly with love and respect for it to be a trusting, happy, sociable goat. Goats are herd animals and do not do well by themselves.

## What Care Do Pygoras Require?

Pygoras tend to be very healthy goats as long as they receive proper care, including appropriate feed, such as good-quality hay and/or pasture and browse, access to free-choice goat minerals and clean, fresh water. Pygoras also need regular hoof trims and vaccinations and should be dewormed as needed. They breed and kid easily, and are naturally good mothers. To ensure a healthy goat, find a good goat veterinarian and establish a relationship with them before you need them.



## Fleece Facts

### Do All Pygoras Have The Same Fleece Type?

*No, there are 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.

No fleece type is better than the others; they just have different characteristics. All three fleece types should be dehaired to enjoy the full softness of the fiber. For details on Pygora fleece, see the PBA brochure *Pygora Fleece Facts*.