

Norwegian coast goat

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Norwegian coast goat Get to know the unique, Norwegian goat breed

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Preface

The purpose of this book is to share knowledge about the Norwegian coast goat. The book is in no way exhaustive or to be regarded as a specialist book, but we hope the information is useful. If anyone, after reading the book, wants to start with coast goats, we will be very happy! As with other animals, coast goats have personality and behavioural patterns accordingly. The majority are very curious, and some are braver than others. The expression *goats eat everything* should be nuanced to *goats want to examine everything*.

We would like to say a big thank you to Stad Kystgeitlag for the important text contribution. We are very grateful for the financial contribution from Vevelstad municipality, through the agricultural project No hivæ vi oss rundt.

Enjoy!

Torhild Haugann & Kari Anne Bøkestad Andreassen *Editors*







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About the coast goat



The coast goat is defined as a national conservation breed by the Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre at NIBIO and by the Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee. The coast goat has a status of endangered. Although the number of animals has increased in recent years, there is still a great need to increase the population and livestock sales. In its report, NIBIO writes Key Figures 2020 from the Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre that it is a stated goal in the conservation work that all endangered breeds must increase in number so that they are no longer endangered. In addition to increased population sizes, there is a desire for breeds to spread over larger geographical areas.

History

Descriptions of coast goat keeping have been found as far back as the 18th century.

In the former municipality of Selje and on the islands of Skorpa and Sandsøya in the south of Møre og Romsdal, there is a coast goat population. Here, the goat has traditionally been kept as a meat producer in farming adapted to the steep landscape and the harsh climate out on the edge of the sea.

It is only in Selje that we find coast goat keeping preserved as a living and unbroken tradition. Remnants of the coast goat lineage on the islands of Skorpa and Sandsøya are feral. In Skorpa, the goats were kept until 1940, when the island was vacated. The herd on Sandsøy has not been actively managed in recent years.





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Breed description





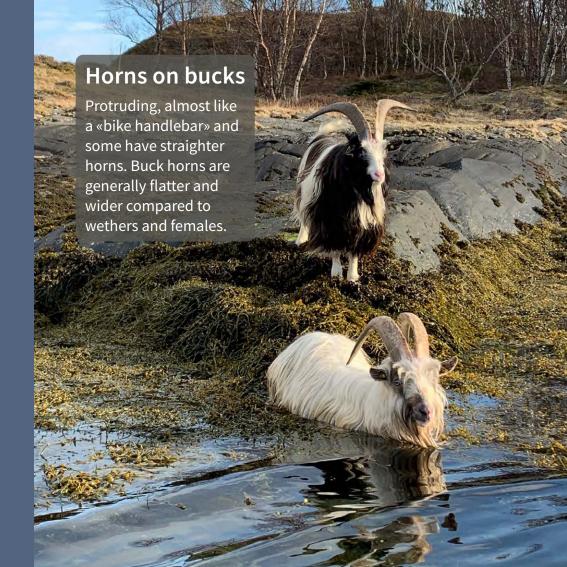
The coast goat's characteristics

The coast goat is very similar to Norwegian dairy goat, but produces less milk and has more meat. The goats have good, strong legs and dense wool and fur coat.

Goat is the general name for the animal, and does are females. Bucks are males while castrated bucks are wethers.

Newborns and young goats are called kids. The birth itself is called kidding.

In parts of the country, young goats are called *hagner*, and there are probably other local names as well.







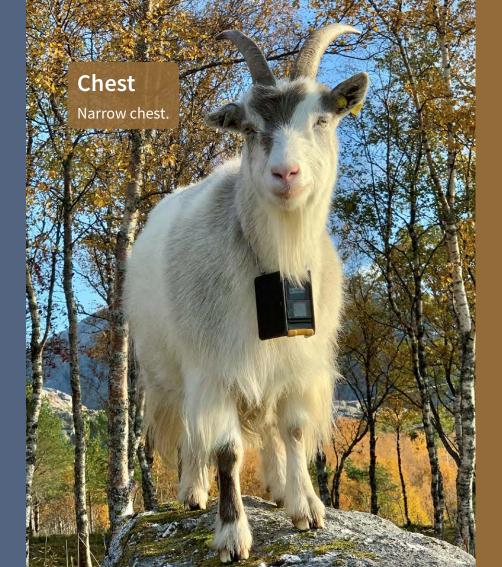
Protruding like the wethers, but smaller, and a few have straight horns.

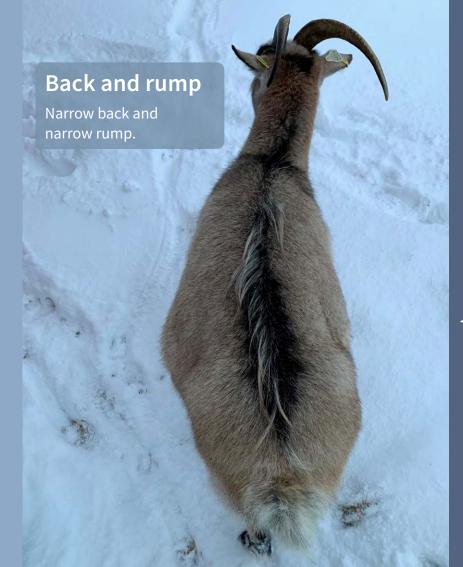










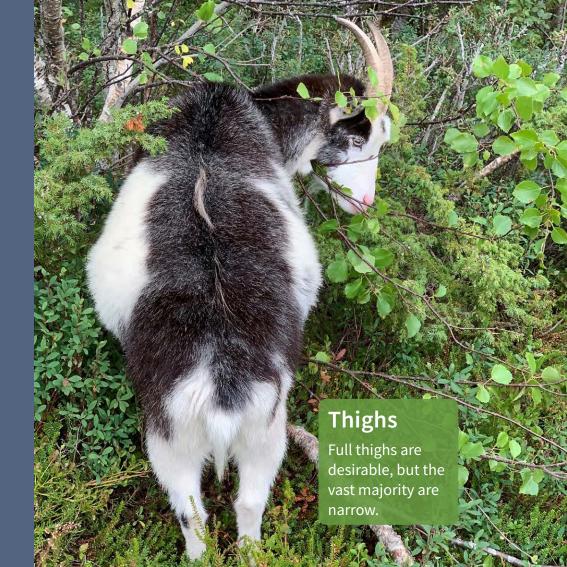




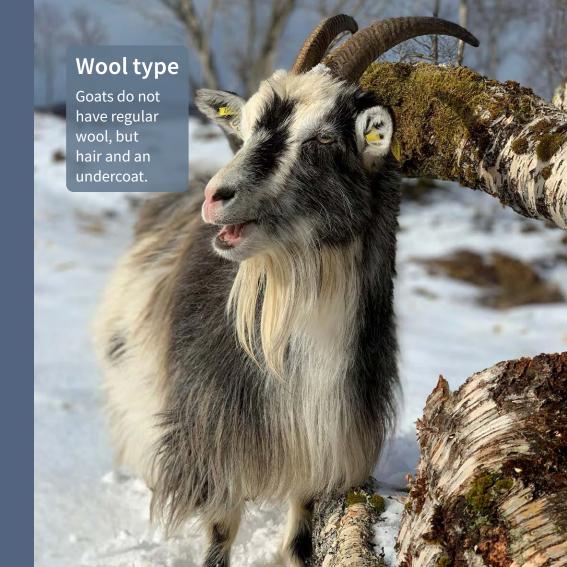


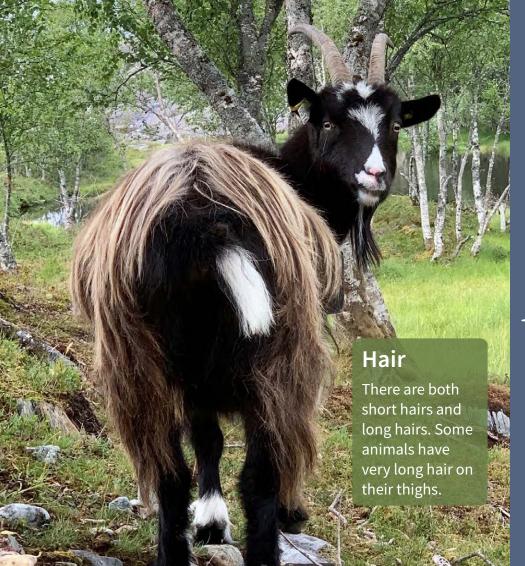






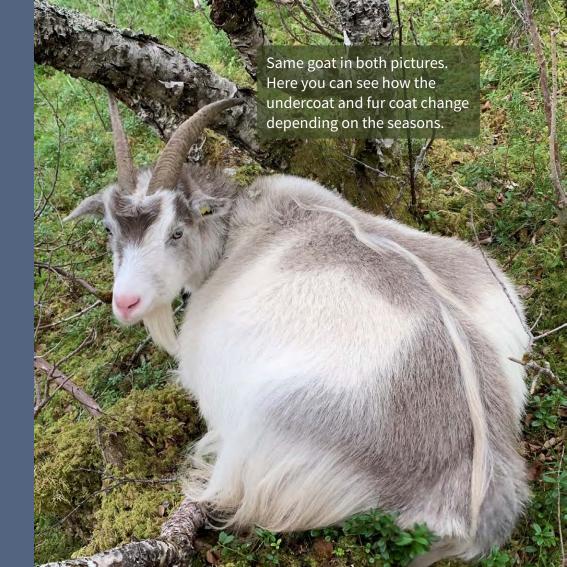














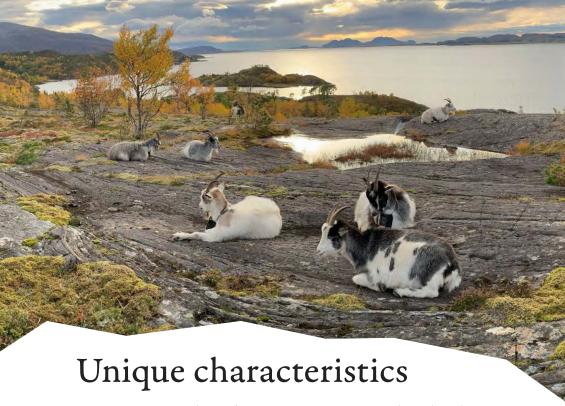






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Special features



Coast goats mostly stick to a «territory». Within this they graze over large areas. They have a great diversity when it comes to food. They eat seaweed and kelp on the shore, shoots, buds and leaves of most types of trees, including pine trees. Heather, grass and various herbs are on the



menu – depending on the season. If given the opportunity, the vast majority of garden plants would be included!

Please note: Cultivated evergreens are recommended to be removed as these are toxic, at worst fatal, to coast goats.

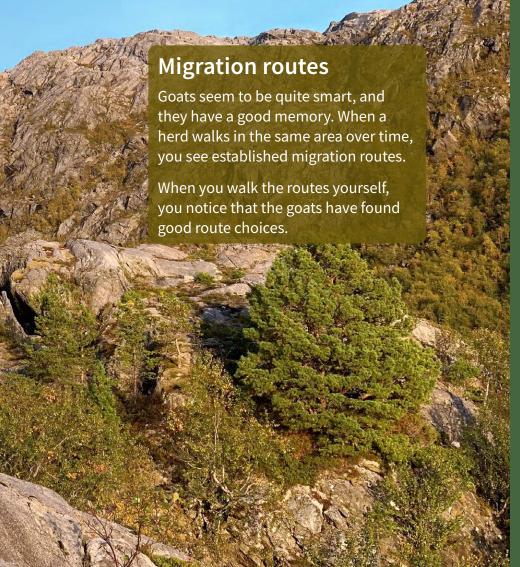


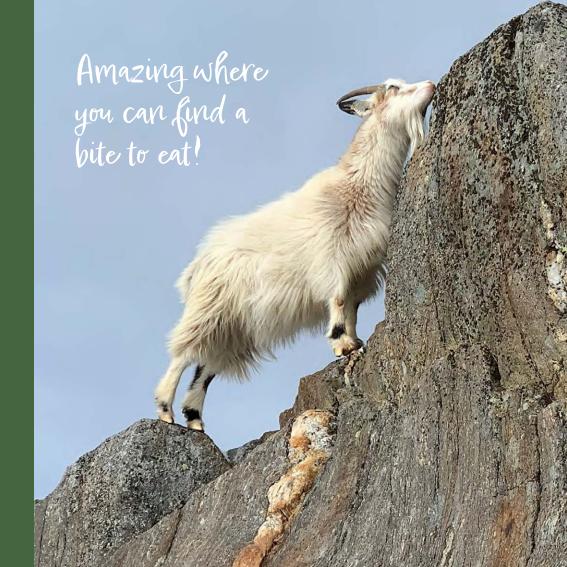


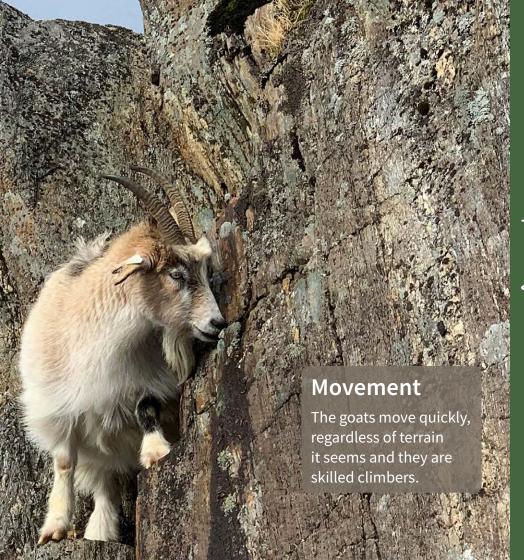




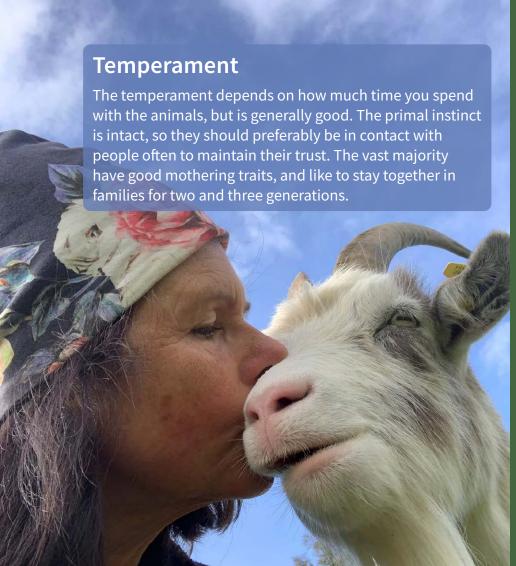


















Conservation work



The coast goat is a unique Norwegian breed of goat that has been kept for meat production, isolated from the common dairy goat in Norway. Researchers at NIBIO and NMBU have conducted studies of DNA from Norwegian dairy goats and coast goats from Selje and Skorpa, and the results show that coast goats clearly differ genetically from the Norwegian dairy goat.

The key figures from the Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre show that the number of coast goats is increasing, but the breed is still under threat. The table below shows the number of breeding goats with locked breed code registered in the *Ammegeitkontrollen* for the years 2015–2020:

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
283	317	345	326	348	432



A conservation-worthy livestock breed in Norway is a breed that is considered national and with an endangered or critically endangered population size.

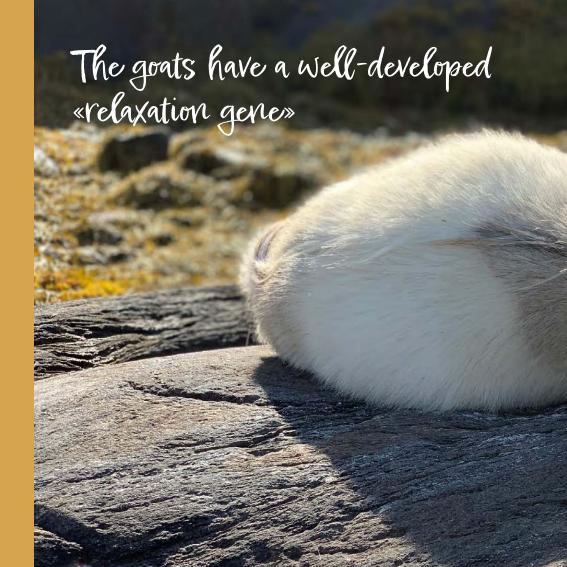
Criteria for a national livestock breed are:

- The breed must have been imported to or established in Norway before 1950.
- The breed must not have had a significant crossing of imported breeding material, or the import must have taken place in line with Norwegian breeding objectives.
- The breed must have, or have been of commercial and cultural significance.



The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has published guidelines on how to categorise livestock breeds as endangered. The guidelines take into account the high or low reproductive capacity of the species.

Goats are in the low production capacity category, along with sheep, cattle and horses. In these species, the breed is critically endangered if the number of breeding females is below 300, endangered if the number is below 3 000, and vulnerable if the number is below 6 000.













Feeding



There are many ways to solve feeding, but given the goat's «me first» attitude it is important that everyone has easy access to food. Some choose to let the animals go in and out of the pen as they wish, while others are inside during the winter. The picture shows pregnant goats that have been brought in a couple of weeks before the expected time.



The mineral and vitamin requirements are probably well covered in goats that can graze freely on many different plants over large areas. Coast goats rarely need large amounts of feed, but it is recommended to provide supplements adapted to goats during indoor feeding periods and for pregnant animals.

Salt or mineral stones suitable for goats provide easy access to necessary minerals and should be available at all times. There are otherwise many types of supplemental feed on the market.

It is also possible to add boluses, which provide safe access to selected minerals over a period of 4 – 6 months, depending on the product.

The picture on the left shows examples of such boluses, which are capsules that gradually dissolve and release their contents. Two types of infusions are also shown in the picture. The bolus is placed in the dispenser, inserted into the mouth and over the pharynx, the bolus is released and inserted into the honeycomb stomach where it remains. Bolus with copper must only be given in areas where low copper values have been detected. Administration of the bolus is usually done by a veterinarian.























Health





Coast goats are robust and generally healthy animals, but can be affected by disease in the same way as other animals in the small livestock family.

This chapter describes the serious infectious diseases that have largely been managed to be fought through restrictions on the movement of animals, the «Healthier goats» project and testing. In addition, certain diseases, as well as preventive measures and hoof care, are described.

It is important that animal owners are aware of their responsibilities, both in terms of infection control measures and animal health and welfare.





Serious infectious diseases

The reason why it is generally forbidden to move sheep and goats from one herd to another is that apparently healthy animals can spread serious diseases.

Examples of such diseases are scrapie, Visna-maedi/CAE virus, paratuberculosis and caseous lymphadenitis (CLA).



Scrapie

Scrapie, or TSE, comes in two forms, classic or atypical (Nor98). Classic scrapie was last detected in Norway in 2009, while 5–12 cases of Nor98 are detected annually.

It is a prionic disease that affects sheep and goats, especially sheep. It is a B-disease and suspicion must be reported immediately. Scrapie affects the brain and always has a fatal outcome. There is no scrapie test in live animals.

Visna-maedi/CAE virus

Mædi is a lung disease in sheep caused by a lentivirus. The same virus can cause caprine arthritis/encephalitis (CAE) in goats, which is seen as arthritis, inflammation of the brain, inflammation of the udder and pneumonia. In both sheep and goats, these are B-diseases, which will trigger strict restrictions from the Norwegian Food Safety Authority.



Paratuberculosis

Paratuberculosis can affect many animal species and is caused by a resistant bacteria that causes chronic and insidious disease with an incubation period of up to 10 years. Symptoms in sheep and goats are usually chronic emaciation. Paratuberculosis is also a B disease.

Caseous lymphadenitis (CLA)

Caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) is a chronic bacterial infection in sheep and goats that causes swelling and abscesses in the lymph nodes. In goats, abscesses most often appear in the head and neck region. Caseous lymphadenitis is a C disease, and affected animals should be culled while all animals must be examined regularly.





Testing

Before moving goats that have not been previously tested, samples must be taken to rule out diseases which they can be tested for. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended to repeat testing every three years. The veterinary certificate must specifically check whether a test has been done for lentivirus (Visnamaedi/CAE) during the last 36 months before moving.

Blood or milk samples may be taken, and the animals being tested should be tested for Visna-maedi/CAE (lentivirus), Caseous lymphadenitis (CLA) and paratuberculosis. The samples are sent to the Mastittlaboratoriet in Molde.





Other diseases

Coast goats can suffer from other diseases that sheep and goats are generally be prone to, such as mastitis, brucellosis, respiratory infections and listeriosis.

In case of reduced appetite, fever, impaired vision, altered pattern of movement and other abnormal symptoms, consult your veterinarian.



Mastitis

After kidding, goats can get mastitis, or udder inflammation. This can be caused by many things, including the kid drinking on one side only, too little or too much milk production, sores and tears on the teats, unfavourable anatomy or anything else that causes bacteria to enter the teat canals and multiply in the udder.

Mastitis in goats is often acute and relatively often causes gangrene. Restless kid, decreased appetite in goats, fever and tender and swollen udder are the most common symptoms. Treatment must be initiated quickly, however, an acute progression is often seen, where the goat can become seriously ill and in the worst case die.

Goats that recover after treatment may still lose parts of the udder. In any case, it is not recommended to breed goats that have previously had mastitis.



Poisoning

Some plants are poisonous, but are still eaten by both goats and other animals. As a rule of thumb, you can say that neither goats, sheep nor other animals should have access to evergreen plants.

Some varieties that regularly cause serious poisoning include rhododendron, pieris floribunda, yew, box, kalmia and laurel. In some cases where goats have eaten gold rain/laburnum, they lost their lives almost immediately.

The most serious cases are often seen in winter and spring. There is no medication or antidote that helps, and often the outcome is fatal.

The goat in the image ate aconite in early spring. Luckily, it went well!



Parasites

Parasitic roundworm is the most common internal parasite in sheep and goats, and treatment is recommended once or twice a year.

Spring	Kid is treated when released in outlying fields, or 3-5 weeks after release on spring pastures on fenced areas. Adults usually do not need treatment in the spring. Treatment of all adult animals in the event of release onto outlying fields contributes to the development of resistance. If individual animals are thin, a stool sample should be submitted before any treatment.
Autumn	Young goats and adults should be treated before mating.

Parasitic drugs used against roundworms are benzimidazoles (white group – Panacur, Valbazen and Curaverm) and avermectins (blank group – Ivomec, Ivermax and Dectomax). It is recommended to alternate between the two groups at intervals of two to three years.

Any additional treatments against parasites other than roundworms are done in consultation with a veterinarian.





Vaccination

There are no marketed vaccines for goats in Norway, but vaccination with a clostridial vaccine before kidding against enterotoxaemia is recommended in the same way as for sheep before lambing. Different vaccines may have different dosing intervals, but usually vaccines are given to previously vaccinated animals 2 to 4 weeks before the expected time of kidding. If the goats have not been vaccinated before, the first dose is given 6 weeks before the last dose.

Vaccination against pasteurellosis is not recommended for goats.





Castration of male goat kids

Male goat kids are castrated to avoid the strong odour and tainting of the meat, and to avoid undesired mating on the pasture. Surgical castration (cutting) should preferably be performed within the first four weeks, and is done by a veterinarian. Burdizzo can also be used for castration.

The kids are sedated, given painkillers with a long-term effect and local anaesthetic. They wake up about an hour after the procedure and seem relatively unaffected.

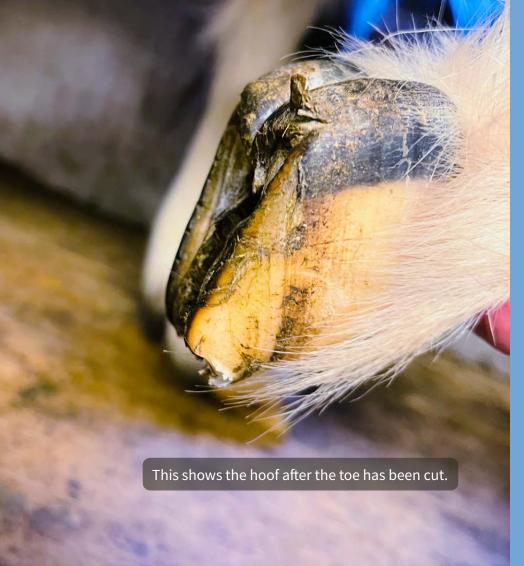


Hoof care

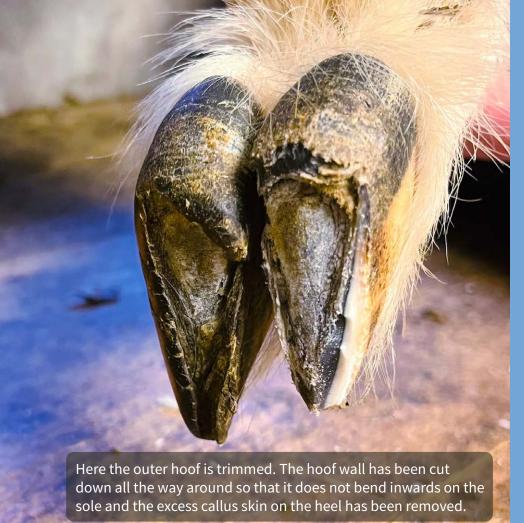
When the goat walks on soft ground, the hooves do not wear sufficiently. The hooves must be checked regularly and cut, or trimmed, if necessary.

The picture shows the hard outer walls growing inwards over the softer sole, and it is built up with callus skin in the heel area. This creates pockets where dirt collects and can cause discomfort. If the heel pad and sole are covered with by hard hoof wall, this gives the goat less grip in the terrain.



















Rearing and meat products



The mode of rearing and culinary practices associated with coast goat keeping are culturally and historically unique with national conservation values.

The coast goats are outside most of the year. However, they are brought in in late winter and give birth inside. This is to protect the newborn kid from birds of prey and other predators, and to keep the animals tame.

Most male goat kids are castrated. Ribs for pinnekjøtt and cured leg from 3-4 year old wethers are traditionally the most sought-after product from coast goat keeping, especially in Western Norway.



Coast goat from Vevelstad Skredderviken Farm

The coast goat is a conservation-worthy Norwegian breed, which has been reintroduced to Helgeland through the Kystgeitlaget in Vevelstad. The coast goat is a suckling goat and is not used for milk production. The kids stay with their mother until they are at least six months old. The coast goat grazes in all kinds of terrain, on all types of vegetation. This creates a lean and tender meat with an exciting flavour, which is also very rich in protein. There are many great recipes for goat and kid on Matprat.no among others.

In the past, goat's head, called skjeltehaud, was also highly valued, and everything on the goat was used. Today, much of the old traditional cooking is fading out. Good demand for traditional food from coast goat, and a great response to newly developed products should provide good opportunities for continued keeping and rearing of coast goats.

The Kystgeitlaget in Vevelstad has sold meat products from coast goat through the regional REKO ring and directly to customers via a niche agreement with slaughterhouse, and this has been highly sought after.

Goat kid meat is seen on restaurant menus more and more and increasingly used in dishes that are not distinctly traditional dishes. Goat meat is mild and lean, with a high protein content. It fits into a modern diet, while coast goat keeping preserves old Norwegian culture.



Slaughter scales

Kids

6 - 8 months



From 13 to 16 kg

Young animals

1 1/2 - 2 years



From 18 to 25 kg

Adult wethers

3 - 4 years



From 28 to 33 kg

Adult does

Over 2 years



From 18 to 25 kg



8

Movement of goats and small livestock



Both the Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre and other coast goat enthusiasts want the breed to grow both in number of animals and herds, and for this to happen in more places in the country. At the same time, it is important to remember that current restrictions on the movement of sheep and goats also apply to conservation-worthy breeds. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority must approve applications for the establishment of coast goats in new herds and areas.



There are many regulations to comply with, whether you have coast goats as a hobby or the animals are part of the production on an active agricultural property.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority is responsible for supervising that goats are kept in accordance with the regulations on animal welfare and health, including traceability and identification. This prevents animal suffering and outbreaks of infectious diseases.





Norway is divided into four small livestock regions, where region 1 consists of Troms og Finnmark, Nordland, Trøndelag and Møre og Romsdal.

Livestock herds are divided into five different classes depending on how long they have been monitored for scrapie (TSE). Most of them are in TSE Class 3, and this is a prerequisite for being able to move sheep and goats.



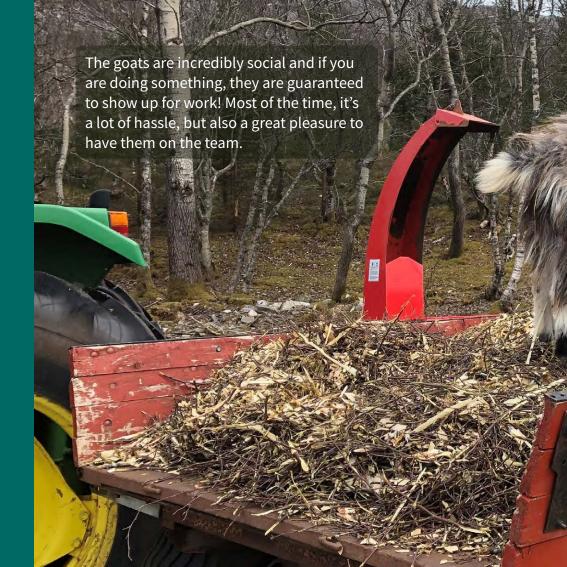
The Norwegian Food Safety Authority's «Guide for the movement of sheep and goats» contains the necessary information on how to proceed in order to apply for a move of coast goat in connection with purchases and sales. The reason why the regulations for moving sheep and goats are complicated is that they want to fight infectious diseases that tend to have a long incubation period.

The regulations are designed according to a precautionary principle. In principle, it is forbidden to move female animals from one herd to another and it is forbidden to move sheep and goats between the regions and out of areas that have had scrapie. The latter applies, among other things, to Nordland, where classical scrapie has previously been detected in sheep.



Slightly different rules apply to for male and female animals. Bucks can be sold and moved within their own region, but must be accompanied by a self-declaration and, in some cases, a veterinary certificate confirming that there is no suspicion of infectious diseases in the sender's herd.

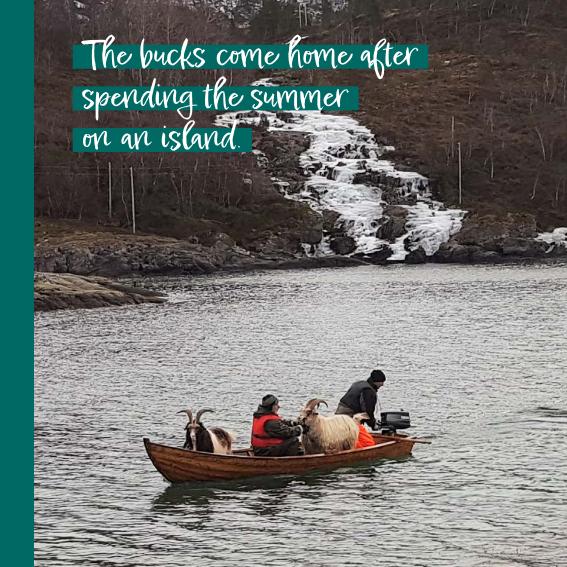
Due to the ban on bringing female sheep and goats into livestock herds, you must apply to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for permission to buy coast goats if you already have goats or sheep. If you do not already have sheep and goats, the ban on female animals does not apply. However, you must report to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority that you are starting with keeping livestock.







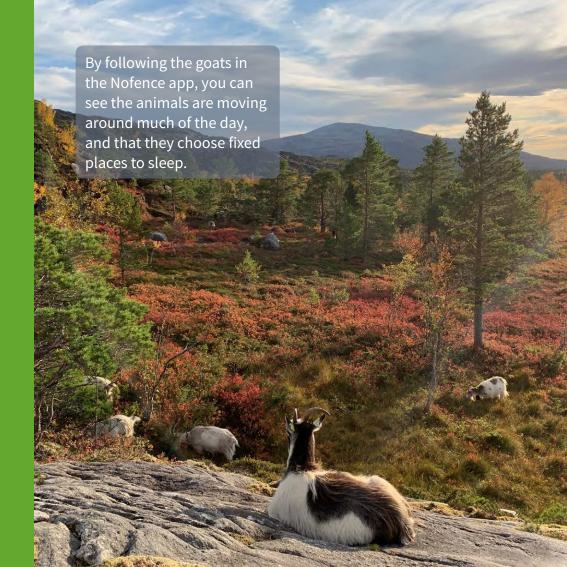








Noferice



Nofence

Norwegian pasture technology

Nofence is a system for virtual fencing of grazing animals that makes it easy to give the animals access to good and varied pastures.

The system consists of an app and a solar powered collar that communicates with the web portal and the app over the mobile network. The collar contains GPS technology that provides position data. The fence function only requires GNSS positioning (GPS and GLONASS) to work, but for you to make changes to the Nofence boundary when needed, as well as receive alerts from the collars when something happens, there should be mobile coverage in all or large parts of the pasture.

Movements throughout a day Movements throughout a week 11:02 -매우 11:02 -× Spring grazing - Analysis Spring grazing - Analysis Today Today Yesterday Last week Yesterday Last week **Positions Positions** Power surge Escapes Power surge Escapes

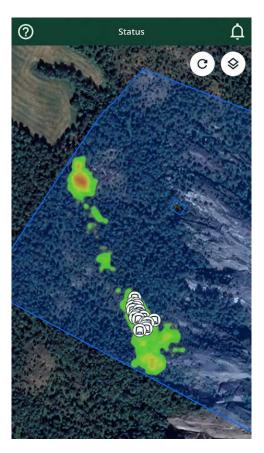
The Nofence app provides information about which areas are grazed at different times of the year.

In the app you can draw the virtual fence around where the pasture can lie within. You can create your pasture areas the way you want, but of course with respect to terrain and surroundings. For example, you can give the animals access to water by placing the border a little bit out into the water or the lake. This allows you to use land in previously inaccessible areas, and the animals get access to good and more varied pastures.

Via the Nofence app you can always keep track of the herd or flock. This gives you a complete overview and ensures that the animals are happy.

Want to know more about Nofence? Visit Nofence.no





Using Nofence collars provides insight into the animals' migration and preferred resting places.

The screen on this page shows the coast goats in Skredderviken.

The screenshots on the next page show the activity level of Pjokken.

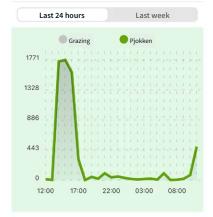
0% 0

-52 % 🛰

Activity in the last 24 hours



Remember that weather changes can also affect how active the animals are. This is up to you as the pet owner to interpret.



Aitivity last 24 hours compared to activity on pasture:

Aitivity last 24 hours compared to last week:



Activity last week



Remember that weather changes can also affect how active the animals are. This is up to you as the pet owner to interpret.



Aitivity last 24 hours compared to activity on pasture:

-52 % 🛰

Aitivity last 24 hours compared to last week:





Tracking of Pjokken's Nofence collar



- Point marking of the position of Pjokken.
- Means that the collar has connected to a device called a beacon, which among other things ensures that the power consumption is significantly reduced.
 - Indicates that Pjokken has come too close to the virtual fence boundary, and the collar gives an audio alert so that he turns around and returns to the grazing area.



About us



Vevelstad municipality

Vevelstad municipality is located on the coast of Helgeland in the county of Nordland, and is part of Lomsdal Visten National Park/Njaarken Vaarjelimmiedajve and Trollfjell UNESCO Global Geopark.

Vevelstadlandet, which forms the centre of the municipality, is located on the old beaches between the Andalsvågen ferry berths in the south and Forvik in the north. Hamnøya, separated from the mainland by the narrow Vevelstad Sound, is located west of the municipal centre, and in the north, separated by the more than two kilometres long Vistenfjord, are the Stokkasjøen and Visthus villages. At the very end of Vistenfjord there are also settlements, and the shows *Monsen på villspor* and *Der ingen skulle tru at nokon kunne bu* have filmed in the area. The municipality's total land area is 516 km².

Nature

The entire Vevelstad district is located within the Caledonian mountain range (Caledonian orogeny), and the bedrock is characterised by the pronounced landscape of the southwest-northeast fold. The bedrock consists mainly of granite, but there is a belt of mica schist and mica slate north-south through the municipality, across Indre Visten. This type of bedrock is also found north of Stokkasjøen and on the mainland along the Vevelstad Sound.

Industry

The primary industry is most important for employment in the municipality, and of these, agriculture is the largest. Traditional fishing has existed in the municipality for a long time, and the aquaculture industry has increased in recent years, and the aquaculture fund is currently essential for the municipality's economy. The tourism industry has increased in recent years, and in total they offer a good selection for tourists who want to stay in the municipality – preferably for several days.

Most tourist companies are part of the association VisitVevelstad.

To learn more about experiences in the municipality, check out

www.visitvevelstad.no or scan the QR code













Vevelstad Kystgeitlag

Vevelstad Kystgeitlag On 18 May 2018, the team was founded and the establishment is rooted in three main purposes:

- 1. Contribute to the conservation of the coast goat population.
- 2. Re-establishment of the breed on the Helgeland coast, based in Vevelstad municipality.
- 3. The Kystgeitlaget in Vevelstad must be self-sustaining, meaning no transfer of animals from other regions, with a view to future coast goat keeping. All members of the Kystgeitlaget in Vevelstad undertake to follow the adopted breeding plan. We will and must all contribute to the continuation of the purebred coast goat.

After two years' work, the team received the go-ahead from the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, and 65 coast goats were collected from Stadlandet in February 2019. The Kystgeitlaget's initiative means that the municipality of Vevelstad will be the main seat for future sales and breeding work with the «Kystgeit» breed for Northern Norway.

We hope you enjoyed the book.

If you would like to know more about coast goats, please contact:

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Sources

Sources

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Veterinærinstituttet	www.vetinst.no
Nofence	www.nofence.no
Infovets	www.infovets.com
Felleskatalogen	www.felleskatalogen.no

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Kari Anne Bøkestad Andreassen p. 56, p. 60, p. 70, p. 80, p. 106, pp. 108 -113, p. 120, p. 122 and p. 148

Eline Dalen Andreassen p. 104

Richard Viken p. 154

Carl Norberg p. 157

The purpose of this book is to share knowledge about the Norwegian coast goat.

The book gives an overview of the appearance, rearing, eating habits of the coast goat, etc., but is by no means exhaustive. If anyone, after reading the book, is inspired to start with coast goat husbandry, we would be very happy.

Enjoy!

Published by Vevelstad Kystgeitlag