

G O A

should be attended to. The male should have a large body, with long hair, and straight stiff legs, the neck should be plain and short, the head small and slender, the horns large, the eyes prominent, and the beard long.

The female ought to have a large udder with well sized teats, and with none or very small horns.

Goats are best kept in flocks, in order that they may have the less disposition to straggle; and they should have good shelter both for summer and winter, great heat and cold being equally injurious to them.

The period of coupling them is about December.

They are mostly kept without litter in the winter season, in clean paved yards or other places.

The kids may be prepared for the table in a manner similar in some degree to that of the lamb.

They have been vulgarly supposed useful in stables from the disagreeable odour that issues from the males at particular seasons; but there are probably no real grounds for such a conclusion.

GOAT, in *Zoology*. See CAPRA.

GOAT, in *Rural Economy*, is an animal, that in particular situations may be kept with advantage by the farmer, as where the country is rocky and barren, and there is but little keep for any other sort of animal. The goat is capable of climbing the steepest rocks, and of browsing upon the briers, heath, and shrubs of several different kinds, which are rejected by other sorts of animals. When turned into pasture grounds they should consequently be prevented from nipping the young shoots of trees and other woods, as they prefer them to the grass.

They are beneficial in several different points of view, as in their milk, which they afford plentifully, and which is of a very excellent quality. In some cases, this and cow's milk are mixed together, and a highly valuable cheese prepared from them.

The young kids are likewise very excellent food, and two or three are frequently brought forth at a time, often twice in the course of the year.

The hair of the goat is also very valuable for different purposes, as the making of ropes to be used in the water, which are extremely durable. A sort of stuff is also formed from it in some places. It may be sheared in the same manner as wool from the sheep.

The suet of the goat is excellent, the animals being in some places, as in Caernarvonshire, killed merely for the object of their suet; which is capable of being made into candles of a superior quality to those of the common kind.

Their horns constitute valuable handles for tucks and pen-knives. The skin of the young kid is well suited to the glove-manufacture, from its taking on a dye better than any other sort of skin. The old skin is highly useful also, being in many cases preferred to that of the sheep; besides, the flesh affords a cheap and abundant food for the winter months, especially when the kids have been sent early to market. The haunches of the goat are often salted and dried, and supply all the uses of bacon; and are known by the Welch under the name *coch yr awden*, or hung venison.

In choosing goats for keeping, the following directions should