



Barbados Blackbelly Ram

BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP

ARTIODACTYLA

Family: Bovidae

Genus: Ovis

Species: aries



Barbados Blackbelly Ewe

Range: worldwide in association with people

Habitat: adaptable to widespread environments

Niche: Terrestrial,

Wild diet: pastured: grasses, leaves, shoots and twigs

Zoo diet: alfalfa, oats and omelene

Life Span: (Wild)
(Captivity)

Sexual dimorphism: Rams have a neckpiece of thick hair that extends down the neck

Location in SF Zoo: Children's Zoo Barnyard



APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep is a domestic sheep that is indigenous breed to Barbados. The main body of these sheep varies from light tan to a dark mahogany red, contrasted with a black band that runs laterally down the ventral side of the body extending down the inside of the legs. Two black bars go down the center of the face and the chin and the insides of the ears are black and point forward from the side. Despite being goat-like in appearance, they are true sheep. Both ewes and rams are polled (not horned) or have only small scurs or diminutive horns. Rams have a neckpiece of thick hair, which extends down the neck to the brisket, some may cover to the shoulder. They are fleet of foot and in many ways resemble antelope.

Weight: M 105 lbs F 100 lbs
HBL:
TL:

Blackbelly sheep are able to tolerate hot and humid climates and exhibit more stamina than most breeds of sheep. They are very disease resistant and parasite tolerant.

STATUS & CONSERVATION

There are over 1,000 sheep registered with the BBSAI.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

Mature Barbados Blackbelly ewes have a high reproductive efficiency. They will breed all year round unlike most domestic sheep. The average lambing rate is two lambs per litter with an average lambing interval of eight to nine months.

Estrous: polyestrous

Gestation:

of Mammae: 2 pair

of Young: 1 - 3

Sexual Maturity:

Weaning Age:

Weight at birth:

MISCELLANEOUS

The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep is a unique breed that was developed in the Caribbean. Although it is likely the Barbados Blackbelly has African ancestry, there seems to be clear evidence that the breed was developed by the people on the Island from sheep brought to port by ships fairly early in the period after Europeans first colonized the island. In 1904, the USDA imported a small flock and transported them for study to Bethesda, Maryland.

Barbados Blackbelly rams and ewes are polled (they have no horns). In contrast, American Blackbelly rams are horned and the ewes may or may not have horns.

Sources:

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/>

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

<http://www.critterhaven.biz/>

Created 8/2011