

## THE AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE GOAT

The Australian Miniature Goat is a unique little breed with \*females measuring up to 57cm and \*males measuring up to 60cm in height. They are genetically small and compact and their body must be in proportion. Adult height is taken at maturity (3 years of age) and is measured at the highest point of the withers. Miniature Goats are highly intelligent, alert and very friendly and are very appealing to most people. These little goats are surprisingly good milkers and generally bear one or two young each season. Does are usually bred for the first time at about 12 to 15 months of age but also depends on size. They carry their kids for approximately 5 months and normally deliver them easily. Kids are usually weaned at 12 to 16 weeks of age. They come in all colours and patterns.

*\*animals up to 63.5cm are accepted in the lower Grades.*



Animals are recognised as miniature when they reach three years of age and upon meeting the height requirements. Young animals are only recognised as being Miniature Bred, provided they have at least one registered miniature parent. There are four different breed types of Australian Miniature goats, the **Nuwby** with ears equal to or longer than the muzzle, the **Munchkin** with shorter flat, folding ears, the **Pixie** with medium sized tubular, rigid upright ears, the **Elf** with elf or gopher ears.

## BUYING A MINIATURE GOAT

Goats are very affectionate animals and do not like being alone so it is recommended that two or more be kept.

**(Check your Local Council Requirements).**



It is important that you tell the Breeder/ Seller how you intend to keep your goat, as animals need to be matched to their owners and to their living conditions. The general appearance and health of the animal should be good, they should appear friendly and alert and have kind and docile temperaments. Teeth are only found on the bottom jaw and should be in good condition. Animals will need their feet trimmed regularly and it is important to check with your Local Vet about worm control and vaccinations. Wethers (desexed males) and little Does (females) make the best pets. If you would like to breed your pets, keep two females or one female and a companion wether and take them to a Registered Breeder for servicing. Bucks do not make good pets.

## HOUSING

A simple draft free 2.4m x 3m (8ft by 10ft) shed with sleeping benches and feed places will accommodate four adults comfortably. A large dog kennel will house one. These tiny goats love to run on open pasture but also live very happily in smaller areas as long as they have access to fresh water, hay and adequate shelter.



## TEMPERAMENT

Australian Miniature Goats are very intelligent animals with gentle and affectionate natures. Caring for these adorable little animals can be performed easily and safely by a person of any age.

Feeding and daily care are tasks easily learned and performed by children helping them to learn the importance of responsibility, discipline and respect. Working with these little animals also helps children to build self-esteem and confidence.

Owning a miniature goat (or two) is something that the whole family can become involved in. Miniature goats make great little companions and are always very popular when they visit schools, hospitals, retirement homes or when they are met while going for a walk down to the local park or corner store.



## TRAINING

Miniature goats are very smart and with a gentle, patient hand (and lots of little treats) they can be trained to do many things. Training is easier when started at a young age, many owners try to get their new companions as bottle babies when they are only a few weeks old.

They can be taught to lead and can be taken on regular walks, they can be taught to hop up into the car and go for a ride with the family. They are sometimes kept in the house and can be taught to toilet outside.

They are very friendly, playful little creatures. They should not be encouraged to play head-butting or pushing games, teach them to be groomed or cuddled instead.

## USING YOUR MINIATURE GOAT

The Australian Miniature goat is predominantly kept as a pet, however, these little animals have many other valuable uses.

Miniature goats are great little companion animals and are often used to keep horses company. They have a very friendly disposition and often live very happily with the family dog and cat. They are sometimes kept with cattle and horses to keep the weeds down in the paddock.

Miniature goats can be run on land that is often steep or not accessible to larger animals and they are often used to control weeds and over grown bushland.

Miniature goats with Cashmere or Mohair coats can be shaved and the fleece can be spun and used to make small garments or used in art and craft. Goat manure is very high in nitrogen, it is easy to handle and has little if any smell. When mixed with water, it makes a very useful liquid fertilizer.

Well-bred miniature females can produce enough milk for the family each day some of which can be used to make cheese, yoghurt and even soap.



Interest in this universal little goat breed is growing rapidly in all states and small quality breeding stock is always in demand.

A **List of Registered Breeders** is available from the MGBA website Inc website.

The site can be accessed at:  
[www.miniaturegoatbreedersassociation.com.au](http://www.miniaturegoatbreedersassociation.com.au)



## THE REGISTRY

The MGBA Registry has been established to record information such as heights, parentage, color and ear type. The Registry's objectives are to ensure proper management and to encourage the breeding of good quality true breeding animals as well as honesty, integrity and co-operation from all Breeders in the production and growth of the breed.

The MGBA Inc produces a Newsletter and has an interactive Forum in the endeavour to unite all mini goat enthusiasts and runs fun days and .mini. shows throughout the year.

## INTERESTED?

Any person interested in Miniature Goats may join the MGBA Inc, for more information contact the

### MINIATURE GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA Inc

YOUR LOCAL CONTACT

Enquiries to: (07) 5543 4625  
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VISIT OUR WEB SITE:  
[www.miniaturegoatbreedersassociation.com.au](http://www.miniaturegoatbreedersassociation.com.au)

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INFORMATION BROCHURE