



## Boer Goat

*Capra hircus*

**Description:** Boer goats are a stocky breed of domesticated goats that originated in South Africa as herd goats. They are usually white in body and they have a reddish brown head. Boer goats are mainly raised as either show goats or for their meat. They can weigh up to 300 pounds and are known for having inquisitive personalities.

**Range:** Boer goats originated in South Africa and now are found in herds the world over. They are numerous in the Midwest United States.



**Habitat:** They thrive best in grassy areas and the plains where there is plenty of room to graze.



**Life Span:** The average life span of a Boer goat is 12 years.

**Natural Diet:** Brush, shrubs and broadleaf plants.

**Zoo Diet:** At the Zoo our goats get alfalfa and coastal hay.

**Behavior:** Boer goats are generally docile and like human attention. They tend to live in herds and the bulls are always larger than the does. Goats typically spend the day grazing.

**Reproduction:** Does (female goats) have on average, one baby goat, called a kid, every 1-2 years. They will stay with their mothers until they are weaned and no longer have to drink their mother's milk.

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern (Common)