



Golden Guernsey Goat Society

Location	Name	Sex	Registration No.	Date of Birth	Weight	Classification	Sex
intown	Spangle	F	GG007728H	29/04/2007	622	1.7	GG F
intown	Jackie	M	GG005673H	09/05/1996	3899	10.7	GG M
ssca	Maximus	F	GG007536H	12/06/2006	943	2.6	GG F
	Aimee	F	GG007157D	25/04/2005	1356	3.7	GG F
	Doti	F	GG007828D	04/04/2008	281	0.8	GG F
	Crocus	F	GG007062D	28/02/2005	1412	3.9	GG F
	Tess	F	GG007393D	25/03/2006	281	2.8	GG F
	Bayleaf	F	GG007001D	13/03/2004	1022	4.8	GG F
	Moonbeam	F	GG007002D	22/03/2004	1764	4.8	GG F
	Laurel	F	GG007384D	15/03/2006	1755	2.8	GG F
	Larch	F	GG007384D	08/04/2006	1032	2.8	GG F
	Russet	F	GG007383D	02/05/2007	1008	1.7	GG F
	Fudge	F	GG007824D	04/05/2007	619	1.7	GG F
	Caramel	F	GG007621D	04/05/2007	617	1.7	GG F
	Bramley	F	GG007622D	02/05/2007	619	1.7	GG F
	Mario	M	GG007623D	05/04/2007	646	1.8	GG M
	Gabriel	F	GG007623D	24/04/2000	3183	8.7	GG M
	Edward	F	GG006094D	29/04/2000	3178	8.7	GG F
	Bathsheba	F	GG006095D	24/04/2000	3183	8.7	GG F
	Trilogy	F	GG004764D	29/04/2000	4712	12.9	GG F
	Telyn	F	GG007392D	16/02/1996	1037	2.8	GG F
	Bethan	F	GG007227D	28/03/2005	1384	3.8	GG F

2009 Census Report

Introduction

The Society conducted a census of Golden and British Guernsey goats in January 2009.

Census forms were sent to 160 members of the Society and to 67 non-members who were identified as possible keepers from the BGS Herd Books.

Respondents were asked to list the Prefix, Name, Registration Number, Sex and Date of Birth of each GG or BG goat in their keeping on 10th January 2009 and were also asked to flag those goats which had been retired from breeding.

A copy of the census form is to be found at the end of this document.

Response

There was a very good response rate to the census and we should like to thank all those who took the time and trouble to return their completed census forms.

117 Members (73%) replied of whom 7 kept no GG or BG goats. 40 Non-members (60%) replied of whom 10 kept no GG or BG goats. The returns listed a total of 679 GG and 50 BG goats.

Of the goats listed there were:

- 563 GG Females of which 66 were retired
- 116 GG Males of which 5 were retired
- 47 BG Females of which 2 were retired
- 3 BG Males of which 0 were retired

Quality of the census data

The details of each goat were checked against the BGS Herd Books up to and including HB 134 and any discrepancies noted were checked back with the respondent.

Very few discrepancies were found, the most bizarre was a female GG listed as a male in the Herd Book. On checking with the owner we found that the goat had kidded in the past and was in kid again so we decided it was probably female and asked the BGS to correct their data!

Some kids were listed as RAF and, while most of these have now been checked against HB134, a few remain unverified.

How representative is the data?

To estimate how representative of the entire GG/BG population our census was we looked at the kids registered in HB134.

154 of the 227 GGs and all 26 of the BGs listed in HB134 were registered by people who responded to our census. We therefore estimate that the census probably covers about 70% of the entire population and thus presents a representative sample of the population.

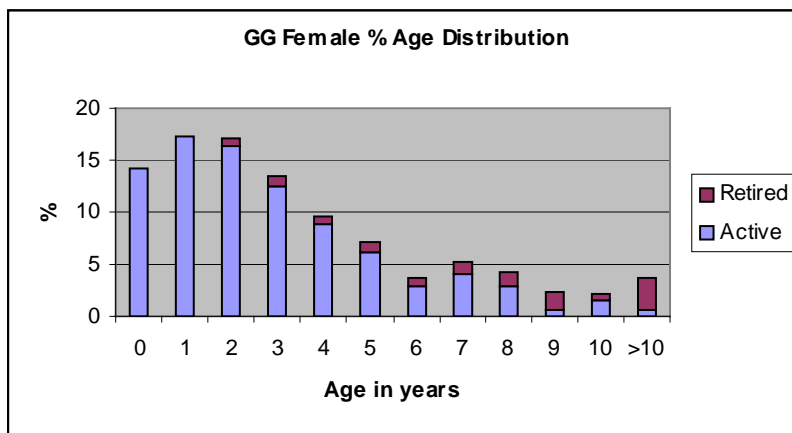
Analysis of the data

Age distributions

Of the 563 GG females listed, the oldest was 15 years while the average age was 4.2 years. 50% were 2 years old or less and 96% were 10 years old or less. The percentage age distribution is given in the table below.

All GG Females

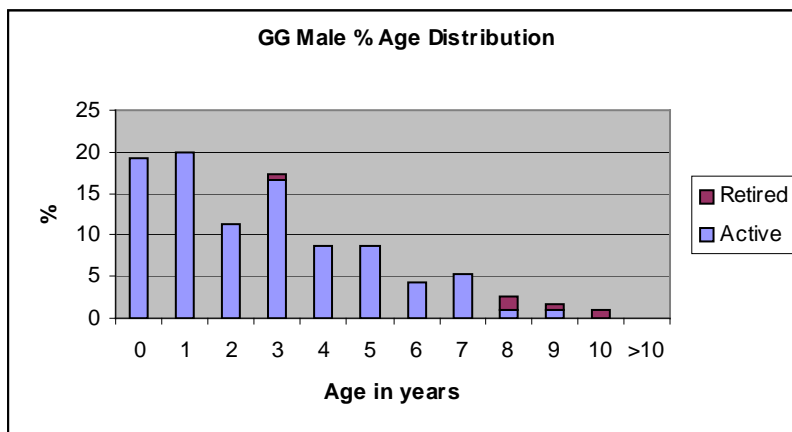
Totals	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	>10	
88	14	17	16	13	9	6	3	4	3	1	2	1	Active
12	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	Retired
100	14	17	17	13	10	7	4	5	4	2	2	4	Totals



Of the 116 GG males listed, the oldest was 10 years while the average age was 3.5 years. 50% were 2 years old or less and 99% were 9 years old or less.

All GG Males

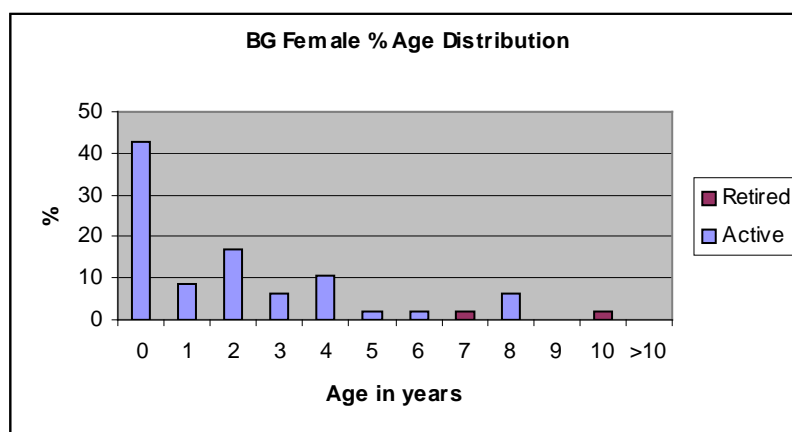
Totals	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	>10	
96	19	20	11	17	9	9	4	5	1	1	0	0	Active
4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	Retired
100	19	20	11	17	9	9	4	5	3	2	1	0	Totals



Of the 47 BG females listed, the oldest was almost 11 years while the average age was 2.9. 50% were 1 year old or less and 98% were 8 years old or less.

All BG Females

Totals	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	>10	
96	43	9	17	6	11	2	2	0	6	0	0	0	Active
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	Retired
100	43	9	17	6	11	2	2	2	6	0	2	0	Totals



The 3 BG males were 0.6, 1.7 and 3.8 years old.

Estimating Mortality Rates (Life Tables) from the census data

The census data was used to calculate estimates of mortality rates i.e. what percentage of goats could be expected to still be alive at each age.

The Herd Book data was used to find the number of goats registered who would be at a given age at the time of the census and that number compared with the number of goats of that age alive at the time of the census. The herd book data and the census data were assumed to be exact but two “adjustments” were required to calculate the estimates.

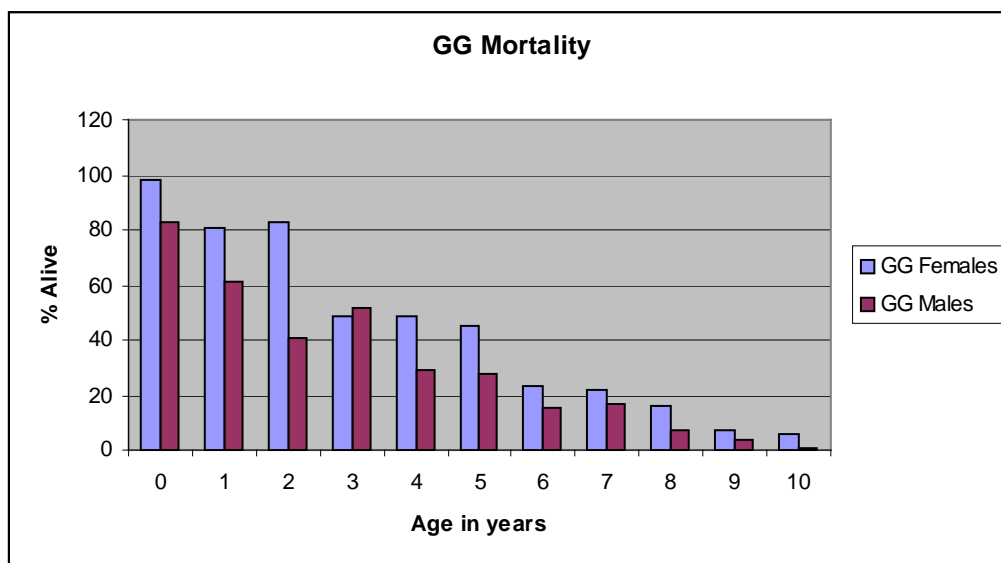
Under the BGS rules, kids can be registered at any time up to the age of 2. Registrations are published in the next, annual Herd Book and so a kid could be theoretically almost 3 before its registration details are published. Looking through the past 10 years herd books showed that:

- 78% appear in the calendar year after birth
- 19% appear 2 calendar years after birth
- 3% appear 3 calendar years after birth

To cater for this “registration drag” the number of 0 year old kids from the herd books were adjusted upwards by 25%.

As stated at the beginning of this report, we assume that the goats reported in the census form 70% of the total population so the census data was adjusted up to reflect this.

With these the adjustments the estimated mortality rates for GG males and females is as illustrated below:



The approximations used and variations over the sample years mean that the mortality rates shown are only an indication but it is fair to conclude that:

- Around 80% of females reach at least their second year and about 50% are alive at age 5
- Only around 50% of GG males reach their second year and about 25% are alive at age 5

Although the figures are coarse, when used to estimate population size they show a very close correlation to the population estimates produced by the RBST.

Herds

The largest herd consisted of 50 goats and the second largest 25, the average herd size was 5. Almost half of all herds consisted of 1 or 2 goats. The breakdown of herd sizes was as follows:

Herd size	1-2	3-4	4-6	7-8	9-10	11-20	21-50
Number of herds	59	24	19	15	8	12	2

Of the 142 herds, 3 kept only HB or IR goats. Of the remaining 139, 57 kept one or more GG males, 2 kept both GG and BG males and 3 kept a BG male.

118 herds kept only GGs, 6 kept only BGs, 16 kept both GGs and BGs (the remaining 2 were breeding up with HB goats).

There was no significant difference between the make up of members' and non-member's herds. Tables of herd make ups for members and non-members are given on the following pages for those who wish to do their own further analysis.

Make up of member's herds

GG Females		GG Males		BG Females		BG Males		Total
Active	Retired	Active	Retired	Active	Retired	Active	Retired	
45	2	3						50
12	2	11						25
8	4	6	1					19
13	3	2						18
8		4		4				16
9	1	3		3				16
9		6						15
11		4						15
11		2						13
10		3						13
10		2						12
4		3		4				11
6	1	3		1				11
9		1						10
8	1	1						10
6	1	3						10
5	3	2						10
8		1						9
8		1						9
9								9
4		4						8
6		2						8
7		1						8
6	1	1						8
5		2						7
6		1						7
		1		4	1	1		7
5		1		1				7
5		2						7
2	1			4				7
5		2						7
3	2		2					7
6		1						7
4		3						7
6								6
4		2						6
2		2		1		1		6
	6							6
5		1						6
4	1	1						6
6								6
4	1	1						6
6								6
5		1						6
4	1	1						6
4	1							5
4		1						5
	5							5
		1		3				4
4								4
4								4
3		1						4
4								4
	3							3
1				2				3

(table continued on next page)

Make up of non-member's herds

GG Females		GG Males		BG Females		BG Males		Total
Active	Retired	Active	Retired	Active	Retired	Active	Retired	
19		1						20
9								9
6		2						8
5		1						6
4	1							5
4	1							5
4		1						5
					4			4
1	2							3
3								3
	3							3
		2			1			3
3								3
					2			2
2								2
2								2
2								2
					2			2
	2							2
2								2
					2			2
					2			2
1								1
	1							1
1								1
1								1
		1						1
						1		1

UK Census of Golden Guernseys and British Guernseys – January 2009

Please note that only **registered** Golden Guernsey and British Guernsey goats should be entered on this form

If a goat has not been registered with the BGS within two years of its birth, it is too late (BGS legislation) and cannot ever be registered as a 'Golden Guernsey' or a 'British Guernsey'. The accompanying sheet gives you more information about the census.

<u>1. Name of owner</u>				
<u>2. Address of owner</u>				
<u>3. CPH number</u> _ _ / _ _ _ / _ _ _ _			<u>4. Herd number</u> UK _ _ _ _ _	
5. In the event of a query, we can save time if you will give us a contact email address – and/or a telephone number.			<u>Email or Tel. no.</u>	
6. Please fill in details for <u>each</u> male and female, Golden and British Guernsey you keep (not castrated males). If you have more than 10 goats, please tick the box and continue your list on the back. 				
<u>Full name of goat</u> If all the same prefix, an initial letter for the prefix after the first mention will do!	<u>Sex</u> (M/F)	<u>BGS Registration number</u> (GG or BG number)	<u>Date of birth</u> (month/year)	If goat is an adult female, please fill in Tick box if you don't intend to kid this goat in future (i.e. retired)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

Please return the completed form to Phyllis Clayton, The Old Vicarage, St. Weonards, Herefordshire, HR2 8NT.
We really need to have forms back by the end of January 2009 at the very latest, so please don't delay!