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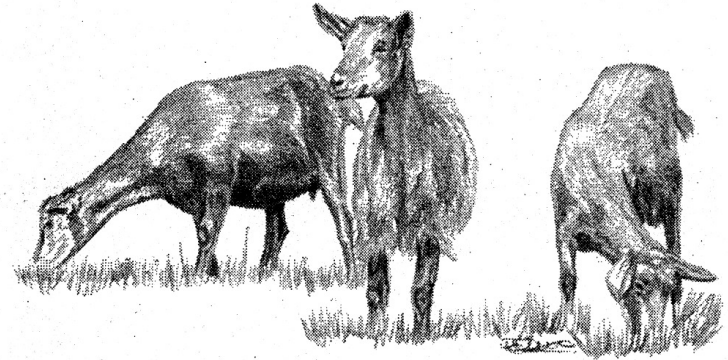
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## *Royal Golden Guernsey Goat Society*



**The Royal Golden Guernsey Goat**

The origin of the Royal Golden Guernsey goat is uncertain, though research on DNA by the University of Cordoba has concluded that the goat is indigenous to Guernsey. They may have come to Guernsey with mariners or monks.

There were a few golden goats amongst the scrub herds on Guernsey, and these were seen by Miss Milbourne in 1924. It is largely thanks to her efforts that the golden goat has survived. She started keeping goats in 1937 and, in the early 1950's began a breeding programme for the Royal Golden Guernseys at the suggestion of a BGS judge, Dr Tracey.

With great determination, she increased her herd to about 30 goats, and in 1965 a separate Golden Guernsey register was opened in the Guernsey Goat Society's Herd Book. The first successful imports were in 1967 and the inaugural newsletter of the mainland club was in 1968. The BGS Golden Guernsey Register was opened in 1971.

It is a small goat with a moderate milk yield (averaging 3½ pints daily), which although less than other breeds, is comparable when the lower food intake is considered.

It is adaptable to free range or stall feeding, and can be kept by those without much land, needing only a house and a fenced yard. With an affectionate and docile nature, these points all emphasize its suitability as a house goat.



Why not visit our website  
and join on line or by post.

[www.royalgoldenguernseygoat.org.uk](http://www.royalgoldenguernseygoat.org.uk)

Information on the welfare, housing and  
feeding of goats can be found on the  
British Goat Society website:

[www.britishgoatsociety.com](http://www.britishgoatsociety.com)

## ***Royal Golden Guernsey Goat Society***

Many people are drawn to the Royal Golden Guernsey goat through its attractive appearance. The colour of the coat ranges through all shades of gold with variable coat lengths. Long hair and fringes look particularly elegant on a well groomed goat.

Goats were first registered on Guernsey in 1922 when the Guernsey Goat Society records began. The first registration of a golden goat was in 1923. They were imported into this country in the mid sixties.

After increasing efforts by breeders, a register for Golden Guernseys was opened in 1971, for stock imported from Guernsey and their progeny. Eligible animals which had previously been registered as goats of unknown breeding (IR), were transferred into the Golden Guernsey Register. A number of breeders, unable to obtain a pure bred Guernsey and hoping to increase the milk yield, cross-bred with a Golden Guernsey and in 1975 an English Guernsey Register was opened by the British Goat Society (re-named British Guernsey in 1996).

The RBST assisted the breed in the mid-70s by putting on classes at their shows and also provided money for milk recording in 1980 and 1981 for a small number of herds.

Although this breed has limited bloodlines, with the help of the RBST and Geneped, the Royal Golden Guernsey Goat Society has semen collected and stored to ensure the preservation of the breed. However, the Society is mindful of the care needed to prevent the breed becoming too inbred. It is hoped that more detail can be obtained of the breeding of 'founder goats'.

The Royal Golden Guernsey goat continues to grow in popularity, with one of the largest breed societies. It has found itself a niche, which it fills admirably, not only in size but also in temperament and milk production, and appears to have a 'golden future'.

### **The Ideal Household Goat**

The Royal Golden Guernsey goat is smaller than other dairy breeds. It is a fine boned animal, has a quiet and docile nature and is friendly and affectionate. In many respects it is an ideal 'household' goat. It requires less feed than larger breeds, and is a good converter of fodder, producing between 3 and 6 pints of milk a day. The milk has a fat and protein content suitable for making yoghurt and cheese.

The British Guernsey is slightly larger than the Royal Golden Guernsey and is not easily distinguishable from the parent breed.

The Royal Golden Guernsey Goat Society is the mainland Breed Society (it was re-named Royal Golden Guernsey Goat Society in 2024) for the Royal Golden Guernsey goat, is affiliated to the British Goat Society and is a member of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Members are encouraged to register all eligible goats in the BGS Herd Book and this can be done either through the RGGGS or the BGS. The Society also encourages breeders to improve conformation and milk production with careful breeding.

Full Members are entitled to:

1. Receive the Society's quarterly Journal
2. Receive the Stud Register
3. Attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting
4. Attend the Breed Show, held annually under the rules of the BGS
5. Attend Regional Shows and get-togethers
6. Obtain pedigrees of RGG and BG goats
7. Join the RGGGS Members line on the internet
8. Request a disc or stick loaded with all the previous issues of the Journal (a pre-paid envelope is required)

The object of the Society is to promote the Royal Golden Guernsey goat and provide a means of communication between those interested in the breed.

### **Advice for new goatkeepers**

When buying a Royal Golden Guernsey it is important to ensure it is pure bred and comes from healthy stock. You must ask to see the registration card which will show its GG registration number, earmark and the sire and dam which will also have GG numbers.

Only the breeder can register an RGG, and this must be done within two years for it to be a Royal Golden Guernsey. The seller should register the transfer of ownership through the BGS. Do not buy if proof of breeding cannot be supplied. It is a herd animal and more than one goat must be kept.

The Society has stock enquiry officers who will help you to find stock