

GOAT UNIT

Nucleus herd of Salem Black goat breed has been maintained at this station to implement genetic improvement programmes and to supply superior germplasm to the farmers.

SALEM BLACK

ORIGIN HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Salem Black goats are distributed in north-western agro climatic zone of Tamil Nadu and are reared mainly for meat. The name “Salem Black” has been derived from its place of origin and coat colour. The name *Salem* has been derived from the place called Salem (i.e., Salem districts of Tamil Nadu), where this breed has been actually originated. Since, this breed is completely black in colour; called as Salem Black goats. It has synonym viz., *Karuppuadu*. They are mainly distributed in Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and adjoining areas of Erode and Namakkal districts. Salem Black goats with true-to-type are present in Mettur and Omalur taluks of Salem district as well as Pennagaram, Palakkodu and Harur taluks of Dharmapuri district.

BREED CHARCATERS

Salem Black goats are tall animals with lean body and the coat colour is completely black in colour. The head is medium in length with medium to broad forehead. The ears are medium in size, leaf like and semi-pendulous. In adults, both males and females have horns and they are ash grey to grey in colour with no typical horn pattern. They have long, lean and straight legs squarely set under the body. The hooves and dewclaws are grey in colour. The tail is thin, medium in length and curled upwards. Males have fairly long, straight and rough hairs on the neck and withers and all other parts have short and soft hairs. Udder is not well developed. It is small and round and tightly attached to the belly with small conical teats placed laterally.



SALEM BLACK BUCK**SALEM BLACK DOE**

Salem Black goats have considerable production potential under semi-arid, tropical conditions of north-western agro-climatic zone of Tamil Nadu. The distinguishing features of this breed are early sexual maturity, better adaptability to harsh climatic condition and higher prolificacy.

PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS

Sex	Chest girth (cm)	Body Length (cm)	Height at withers (cm)
Buck	73.7 ± 0.61 (50)	70.2 ± 0.58 (50)	80.1 ± 0.57 (50)
Doe	69.2 ± 0.48 (168)	67.1 ± 0.64 (168)	73.6 ± 0.69 (168)
Pooled	70.2 ± 0.53	67.8 ± 0.60	75.1 ± 0.55

BODY WEIGHT

Age group	Male	Female	Pooled
Birth	2.6 ± 0.3 (22)	2.4 ± 0.1 (23)	2.5 ± 0.1
3 months	8.6 ± 0.2 (58)	8.5 ± 0.2 (75)	8.6 ± 0.2
6 months	12.1 ± 0.4 (14)	12.1 ± 0.3 (50)	12.1 ± 0.3
9 months	14.4 ± 0.5 (14)	13.9 ± 0.3 (50)	14.0 ± 0.2
12 months	22.6 ± 1.5 (14)	18.6 ± 0.3 (46)	19.6 ± 0.5
Two tooth	25.8 ± 0.8 (30)	22.5 ± 0.5 (54)	23.7 ± 0.5
Four tooth	28.5 ± 0.8 (8)	24.7 ± 0.6 (65)	25.1 ± 0.5
Six tooth	36.4 ± 1.4 (12)	26.4 ± 0.5 (45)	28.5 ± 0.7
Full mouth	38.5 ± 1.0 (15)	29.5 ± 0.6 (53)	31.5 ± 0.7

REPRODUCTION PERFORMANCE

Character	Number of observations	Mean (± S.E.)
Male		
Age at first mating (months)	36	9.5 ± 0.4
Female		
Age at first mating (months)	96	9.7 ± 0.2
Age at first kidding (months)	82	14.8 ± 0.2
Kidding intervals (months)	62	7.1 ± 0.8
Mean litter size	440	1.6 ± 0.03
Singles	440	51.4
Twins	440	40.0

Triplets	440	8.2
Quadruplets	440	0.4

