



Barbados Blackbelly Sheep

Ovis aries



Cece, Sky and Whisper

Whisper's birthday is on **March 20th, 2013**. Sky and Cece share a birthday on **March 2nd, 2013**.

We are a **close knit** group who likes to stick together. We are **timid** of others, but we can be **adventurous**. We are called **blackbelly** sheep because of **black markings** on our bellies, legs, and face

You can find us in the **Backyard Safari** with other goats, sheep, and pigs!

SHEEP AT A GLANCE



- Unlike other sheep, we are covered in **hair** not wool.
- We are thought to be a cross between **African hair** and **European wool** sheep.
- Our hair allows us to thrive in **humid, hot** places, but can do well in **colder** environments.



- We have **hooves** and walk on our **toes**.
- They allow us to walk on **uneven surfaces**.
- We are **Artiodactyls**; we bear weight on **two toes** that make the hoof.



- Our **eyes** are on each the side of our head to give us **excellent peripheral vision** to look out for danger.
- Our **large, rectangular pupils** allow us to see almost **360 degrees**.

Both male and females have horns



Male size:
100-130 pounds
24-32 inches tall

Female size:
85- 100 pounds
24- 32 inches tall

Avg. life expectancy in human care:
6.5-11 years

WHERE ARE BARBADOS BLACKBELLY SHEEP HABITATS LOCATED?



These domesticated sheep were thought to originate from Africa, but evolved to their current species when they were brought over to Barbados. Currently, they can be found world-wide on any farmland or pasture!

Sheep Behavior

GRAZING

We like to continuously eat throughout the day. We prefer plants that are close to the ground

Our favorite foods are hay, vegetables, and legumes.



STAYING TOGETHER

We are herd animals and stick together as a group for protection. We move from one pasture to another without any organized direction.

We feel most comfortable when we are close to each other.



BEING ALERT

In addition to our excellent peripheral vision, we are always listening for danger. Our ears move independently from each other.

We are always listening for danger. Please don't try to startle us!



BLEATING

We communicate with a "baaa" sound to each other. We do when we don't feel safe and telling others. If we are separated, we bleat to location other sheep.

We might be stressed. Please do not try to repeat the sound back to us!



- Male sheep are called **rams** and female sheep are called **ewes**.
- We are excellent farm animals because we are **resistant** to disease and **excellent forager**.
- **Rams** will compete with each other for **access to resources or mates**. They will ram their horns together until one yields.

Sheep Conservation

Due to climate change and rising temperatures, it is becoming more difficult for herds to use pastures to graze. Farmers will then expand their range putting pressure between domesticated and wild animals

They are **not listed** and **not evaluated**.

However, according to the Livestock Conservancy Conservation Priority List, they are listed as **recovering**. There are more than 10,000 on farms around the world but still need to be monitored.



How can we help?

We can help alleviate the grazing pressures between domesticated and wild animals by reducing our consumption of meat or doing meatless days.

We can also give the same respect to farm animals to wild animals. Showing empathy shouldn't just end with the wild animals around the world but should include animals that are in our backyards or on our farms. We can help make sure their habitat are intact and leave them alone.