

# 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.

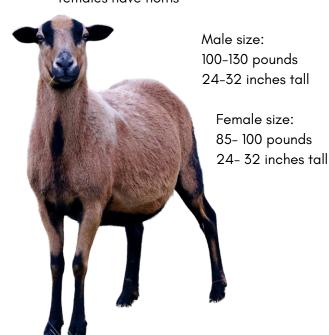


- We have **hooves** and walk on our
- They allow us to walk on **uneven** surfaces.
- We are Artiodactyls; we bear weight on two toes that make the hoof.



- 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



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.