

Pygmy Vs. Nigerian Dwarf

Nigerians and Pygmy's have similar genetic origins. They were both imported to the US from West Africa around the 1950's but distinct differences became apparent and farms selectively bred them for specific traits thus creating two very different goats.

Pygmy goats have rounder, thicker bones. Bred to be meaty and stocky. Breed standards calls for animals that are muscular, cobby and compact. Wide body with proportionally short limbs and neck. Typically agouti colored, black or caramel, may have waddles. Max height for bucks 23 $\frac{5}{8}$ " does 22 $\frac{3}{8}$ " shorter height being preferred.



Nigerians are bred to have the same proportions as standard dairy goats. Long, smooth, angular and open. Emphasis is placed on high milk capacity and production. A variety of color or colors is acceptable with standard pygmy markings being less desirable. Max height for bucks 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and does 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the top of withers.



Pygmy



Nigerian

Nigerians may seem taller because of their long graceful necks, but it is an optical illusion, they are often the same height at the withers as Pygmy goats. When determining breeds you have to look at the basic body types and shapes. Quality pure-breeds will have outstanding differences. Blue eyes is a trait unique to Nigerian's. No other large breed has it and it is considered a disqualification in the show ring for Pygmy's.

