

Mission, Vision, and Purpose of the Spanish Goat Conservation Society

The Spanish Goat Conservation Society (SGCS) is dedicated to safeguarding and preserving the traditional, range-based Spanish Goat developed in the United States as a sustainable and genetically diverse breed. The SGCS accomplishes this through partnership with the wide array of Spanish Goat breeders, including foundation bloodline herds, commercial meat goat producers, conservation herds, and hobbyists. Spanish Goat breeders who choose to partner with SGCS agree to the “Procedures and Reasons” by submitting the annual membership fee.

Breed Standards

Foundation goats and bloodlines have been established through investigation and evaluation of herd history and external type. Each foundation bloodline has provided a basic description of their bloodline’s most common characteristics. Many factors influence the genetic diversity and adaptability of the Spanish Goat including the foundation bloodlines and their specific characteristics, the management practices of the breeders, the climate regions the goats are raised in, and the variations that result from blending the foundation bloodlines. As a result it is not feasible to establish a prescriptive breed standard for the Spanish Goat, so the SGCS relies on a descriptive approach. Useful descriptors include size and set of ears, horns, facial profile, weight, height, color, and degree of cashmere development in winter. Important traits also include adaptability, range utility, fertility, longevity, and temperament, although these are more difficult to measure and describe.

Show Goats

SGCS does not endorse or support any show of breeding stock Spanish Goats because this cannot reward the distinct adaptations and characteristics of the breed. SGCS does allow showing of market goats. The SGCS does not discriminate against those that show their market/wether Spanish Goats from joining SGCS and registering their Spanish goats.

AI & Embryo Transfers

SGCS breeders may choose to collect semen and/or produce embryo transfers. These are powerful tools, and can be used for effective breed conservation but can also be detrimental to the breed’s genetic diversity. Restrictions and guidelines for these techniques are outlined in the “Procedures and Reasons” information.

Validation of Spanish Goats with Herd-based and Individual Goat Registration:

Purebred breeding of Spanish Goats is essential to the breed’s future. The Spanish Goat developed over centuries under extensive range conditions, resulting in an adaptable and sustainable goat. Newer herds are often managed on smaller tracts of land but still under forage/pasture based systems, which continues to select goats for adaptation to range conditions, and ensures sustainability and adaptability. These conditions are important to the character and ability of Spanish Goats, and breeders operating under these conditions are vital to the breed’s future. Traditional breeders operating under the original conditions are especially vital to the future of the breed, especially those long-term herds recognized as foundation herds. SGCS expects the traditional forage/pasture based breeders to continue in that management style. These breeders do not need to register individual goats because the herd as a whole validates the identity of the goats. Breeders with smaller herds are more likely to pursue registration and validation of individual goats, and this is also desirable for the future of the breed. Both herd-based and individual-based approaches serve the breed well. Please see “Procedures and Reasons” for details on herd and individual goat applications.

SGCS Breeder Membership

SGCS breeders gain recognition as caretakers for their work in conserving this traditional breed. Their goats are recognized as part of this important and historic breed resource. Breeders gain from the programs and promotions of the SGCS, which are unavailable to breeders not participating in the SGCS.