

# Conservation of two native Bulgarian goat breeds



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**Bulgaria, XIX century  
goat breeding is integral part of  
traditional shepherding**



XX century.

## **Native goat breeds - negative public image-**

- **Native goat breeds are neglected by agricultural science**
- **Goat is proclaimed as a biggest enemy of the forests**
- **Goat keeping = Sign for poverty. “Cow of poor people”.**
- **Governmentally ruled improvement of local goats with Saanen & Saanen crosses**

# Results for Bulgarian native goat diversity

- Lack of investigations. Just few exceptions
- Complete lack of conservation measures
- Extinction of local breeds and types

# XXI century. Time for action

In last 9 years SEMPERVIVA works for popularization and conservation of two native Bulgarian goat breeds:

- Kalofer longhair goat
- Bulgarian screw-horn longhair goat

# Kalofer longhair goat



# Kalofer longhair goat

- In 2002 SEMPERVIVA team discovered impressive native goat breed in the middle of Bulgaria and started to create a nucleus herd in Rare Breeds Center in Vlahi.
- Kalofer longhair goats are very high-prized by locals for their very long and good quality hair.
- The breed is used also for milk and meat



**The skin is used for making of attractive costumes for traditional N mummer masquerade rituals.**





# Mummers



# Project for conservation of Kalofer longhair goat 2005-2007



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# Main goals

- Collecting of nucleus herd
- Development of goat farm infrastructure in Rare Breeds center
- Investigation on aboriginal population
- Popularization of the breed
- Improvement of legal status of the breed



**The specific type of Kalofer longhair goat clearly designates it from other Bulgarian and foreign breeds.**











# Kalofer longhair goat

Males:

- Height at withers 78-90cm

Females

- Height at withers 66-81 cm



# Kalofer longhair goat -males





# Kalofer longhair goat -females



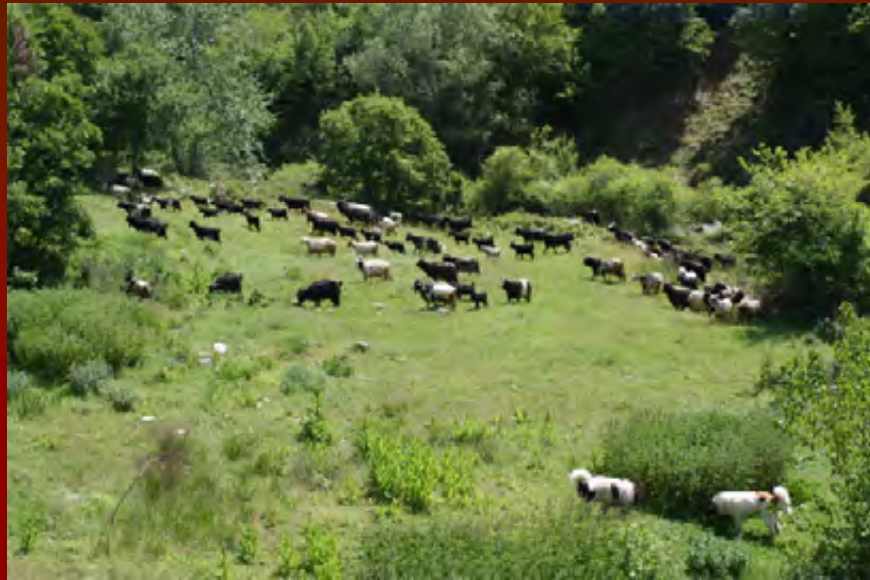
# Kalofer longhair goat -youngings













Since 2004, the breed has been regularly presented on national animal exhibitions and conferences.



# Popularization

- Kalofer buck “Charlie” from RBC in Vlahi was a main actor in the movie “Kozelat” /The Goat/, 2008





# Rediscovered breed

- In South-west Bulgaria SEMPERVIVA team rediscovered a small population of **Bulgarian screw-horn longhair goat.**





In 1968, Prof. Altmann exported from Bulgaria to former DDR (East Germany) a small group of longhair goats.



Bulgarische schraubenhörnige Langhaarziegen

40 years Bulgarian screw-horn longhair goats are bred in purity in German zoos, farms and collections.



**In spring of 2009, with collaboration between Thuringia Zoo (Erfurt) and SEMPERVIVA society, a new export of small group of goats was implemented**



# Bulgarian screw-horn longhair goat.

Males:

- Height at withers 70-80cm

Females

- Height at withers 65-75cm



# Males











# Comparison of female goats





# Comparition of kids



# In Bulgaria, both breeds have small populations and belong to FAO category “Endangered breeds”.

Approximate population(2011):

- Kalofer longhair goat – 850
- Bulgarian screw-horn longhair goat - 650



# Subsides

- From 2008 the two breeds are subsidized as a “Local longhair goat” in the frames of RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, Measure 214 “Agri-environment”
  - 24 EUR per goat



# Risks and limitations

- Hi taxes for grazing of goat – 3,6 EUR per goat.  
/grazing tax for a sheep – 0,2 EUR/
- Crossbreeding
- Prohibition of grazing of goats in alpine pastures

# Breeding association

- In 2009, owners of Kalofer longhair goats and Bulgarian screw-horn longhair goats founded **Association for Autochthonous Goat Breeds in Bulgaria (AAGBB)**



# AAGBB

- In 2010, AAGBB receive certificate from Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture, for an official breeding organization.
- AAGBB maintains official native goat registries
- AAGBB makes investigations and monitoring on local goat populations.



# AAGBB goals

- Conservation of local goat breeds in natural conditions *in situ*
- Preservation of breed type
- Preservation of sturdiness and vitality
- Prevention from selection focused on single trait (one-sided)

# AAGBB goals

- Development of productive traits only with pure-breed selection
- Development and popularization of niche for native goat products from milk, hair, meat.
- Changing of legalization environment





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