on the natural disposition, is not essentially different from that of the sheep. These two animals, whose internal organisation is almost entirely similar, are nourished, grow, and multiply in the same manner; and their diseases are the same, excepting a few to which the goat is subject.

The goat is not, like the sheep, too great a degree of heat. It cheerfully exposes itself to the sun, and sleeps under its most ardent rays without being affected with the vertigo or any other morbid sensation. It is not afraid of rain or storms; but it appears to feel the effect of severe cold. The insensitivity of its disposition is marked by the frequency of its actions. It walks, stops short, runs, leaps, approaches or retreats, shows or conceals himself, or flies off, as if actuated by mere caprice, and without any other cause than what arises from an instinctive curiosity of temper. The stupidity of his organs, and the strength and swiftness of his frame, are hardly sufficient to support the persistence and rapidity of his natural movements. It is difficult to give any idea of the animal except by the figure of the domestic goat, the Angora goat, the Cashmere goat, all remarkable for the greater length and fineness of their hair; a beautiful dwarf variety from the West Indies, called the Goats; and many others.

Some of these, as the Lyritis goat, (fig. 1100), have large pendulous ears. In making a description it is more readily to result from the influence of climate and other circumstances, than in the quantity and quality of the hair, and in the relative abundance of the two kinds of it, both of which are well exhibited in the domestic goat, the long, soft hair, and the softer woolly hair below it. But in many other respects, also, the domestic goat is subject to variation, more than perhaps any other domestic quadruped except the dog. The use of the goat is unisonous. The flesh is good; that of the kid, or young goat, is in most countries esteemed a delicacy. The milk is very rich and nutritious. Some goats yield as much as four quarts of milk daily, although the average quantity is more nearly two. Both cheese and butter are made of goat's milk; they have a peculiar but not disagreeable flavor. Goat's milk is still very much used in Persia and other parts of the East, as it was in days of the patriarchs. The skin of the goat was early used for clothing, and is now dressed as leather for many uses, particularly for making gloves and the finer kinds of shoes. The hair, which may be advantageously clipped annually, is used for making ropes, which are indestructible in water, and for making wigs for judges, barristers, and ecclesiastical dignitaries.

For the latter purpose, the hair of white goats is used. The use of the hair or wool of certain varieties of goat, for making valuable fabrics, is noticed in the article Angora. The horns are used for making knife-handles, &c., and the fat is said to be superior to that of the ox for candles. The Cashmere goat (q.v.) ranks as a par with the Cashmere goat for the excellence of its fleece; but as it is now considered an abode, it results that the genus Capra is not represented in America. The origin of the domestic goat is with greatest probability traced to the Bactrian (C. aegagrus), the Persian Pasian. See ANIMAL.