

Abb. 2. In dieser Haltung „schlendern“ Hyänenhunde von einem Liegeplatz zum anderen

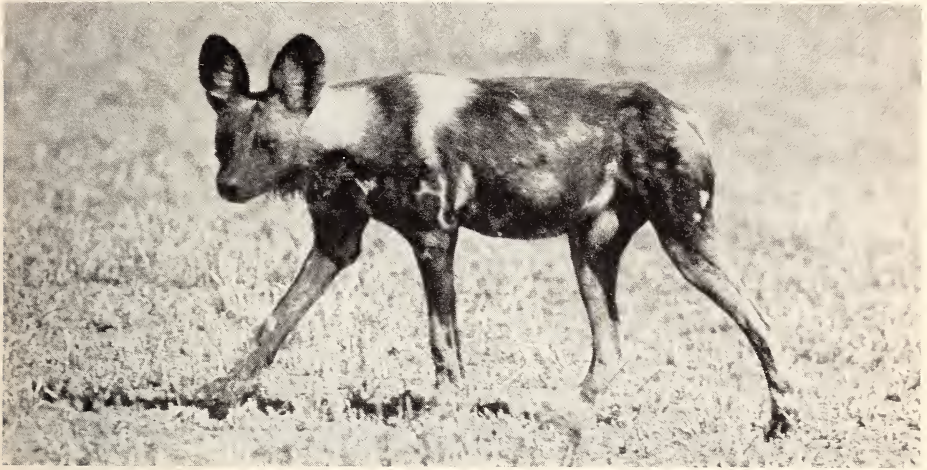


Abb. 3. Hyänenhunde lassen Menschen recht nahe herankommen. Deswegen sind sie in vielen Gegenden Afrikas ausgerottet worden. (Alle Photos GRZIMEK)

The wild Goats of the British Isles

By HENRY TEGNER

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There are in existence today in Britain many herds of wild goats although few people are aware of this fact. The mountainous regions of Wales have a number of herds, there are wild goats in the Pennine Hills, the Western Islands, the Lake District, the West Country and in many parts of Scotland. Wild goats, as one might expect, seem to prefer rugged, hilly country where few other creatures can find sufficient sustenance to survive. They are nimble, active animals able to climb almost vertical precipices and in this respect they resemble their near relatives the ibex (*Capra ibex*) of the alpine regions of the European Continent.

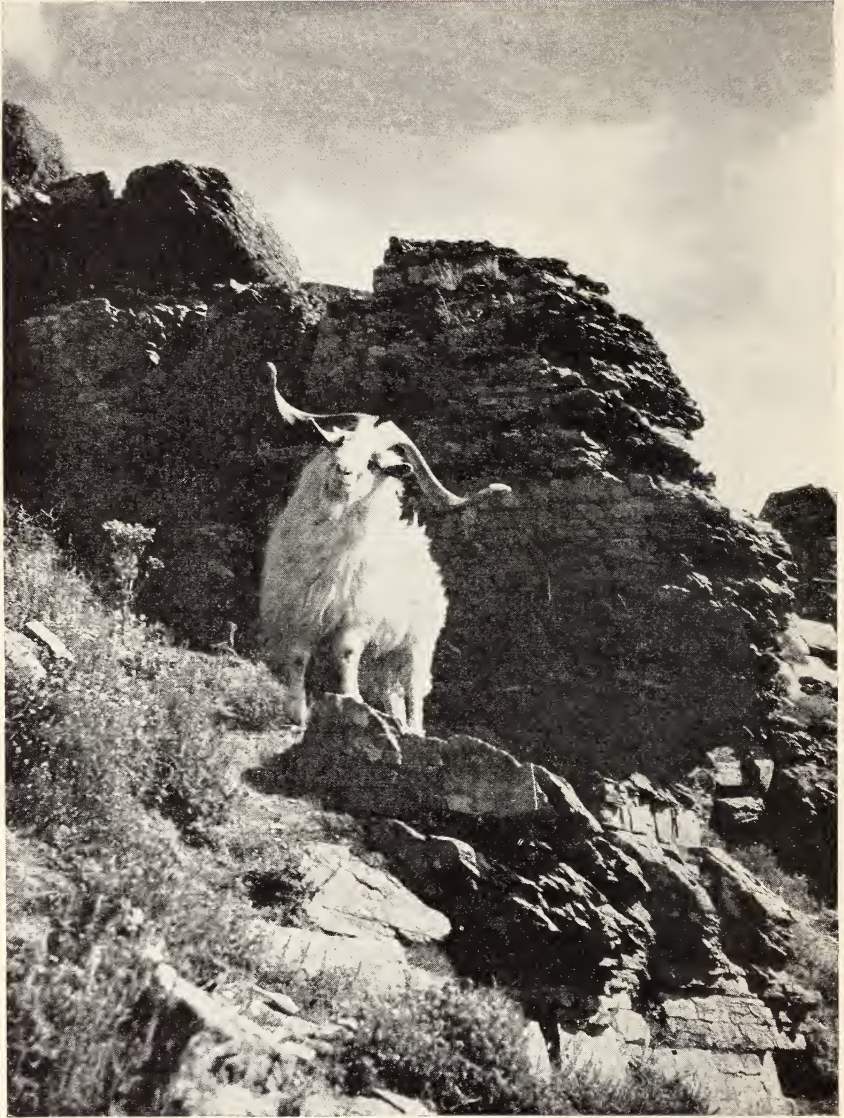


Fig. 1. Semi-feral wild-goat (H. TEGNER: Beasts of the North Country, London, 1961)

The British wild goat (*Capra hircus*) is descended from domestic stock which was imported hundreds of years ago into this country. The goat is not an indigenous British mammal and no fossils have ever been discovered in these islands of the bones or horns of *Capra hircus*. There are no records extant of the first introduction to these islands of domesticated goats but, at various times, both the Phoenicians and the Romans have been credited with their importation. It is highly probable that the Phoenicians did, in fact, bring goats to Britain for they were great traders and they brought many things to these savage islands in exchange for



Fig. 2. Wild Goats, Cheviot Hills, College Valley

such articles as British pearls, tin, gold and the skins of wild animals. The Romans are said to have brought the rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, the pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and the fallow deer *Cervus dama* to the British Isles, during the period of their occupation of this country, but there is no certain evidence of this and it may just as well have been the Poenicians who were really responsible.

In the past goats were a valuable animal to the farmer, they were easy to maintain, they provided flesh, meat, milk and excellent skins but gradually sheep and cattle came to oust the goat from its once dominant position in husbandry. During the period of its decline goats of the domestic breed in various parts of the country were allowed to roam free and many of them escaped to take up a full feral life. This gradual emancipation of domestic stock was the foundation of the present herds of British wild goats. It is quite impossible, at the present time, to ascertain, with any accuracy, how most of these herds came into existence for there are no written records and where wild goats now exist they have done so long before anyone living today knew of their coming. In the county of Northumberland, where I live, there are several herds of wild goats but I have been quite unsuccessful in tracing their origins.

The wild goat is a hardy animal, he has to be in order to survive. Surprisingly wild goats do not multiply to any great extent and this may be due to the fact that nature in her severity controls their numbers. The wild goats mate in October and the females kid in February, a month of the year which is usually the most



Fig. 3. Wild Goats; Kielder, Hawkhope, Northumberland, Plashetts Herd, 1948



Fig. 4. Head of Wild Goat found in College Burn after Winter 1946/47



Fig. 5. Wild Goat, College Valley, Northumberland, found as a kid by W. MITCHELL of Whitehall

severe in the British Isles, any kids that survive, therefore, must be strong animals. In their behaviour wild goats are much like the Scottish red deer (*Cervus elaphus scoticus*) who have been forced through circumstances to take up a highland existence unlike that of the woodland red deer of the Continental mainland. Wild goats usually live in small herds, seldom more than twenty in number, although I once saw a gathering of over eighty goats on the Pennine Chain. A female normally appears to be in charge of these herds and a male, or "king", goat will serve the females during the time of the rut in October when he will fight fiercely against all comers for his harem of she-goats.

The wild goat is not regarded as a beast of the chase in Britain today although there are records of his hunting in these islands in the past. One NICHOLAS COX wrote in "*The Gentleman's Recreation*" in 1674, nearly three hundred years ago, that at: "Alhallontide is the chieftest Season for Hunting these Wild-Goats, observing very well befor you Hunt,

the advantages of the Coasts, the Rocks and Places where Goats do lie."

JOHN COLQUHOUN of Luss has left an interesting account of shooting wild goats in his book "*The Moor and the Loch*", published in 1878. This he did on the island of Crap na Gower, or island of goats, in Loch Lomond. COLQUHOUN suggested that as a sporting beast goats might well be established where there were no deer!

H. FRANK WALLACE, the famous British author and big-game hunter, has left a splendid record of the hunting of a big male wild goat in his book "*A Highland Gathering*", published in 1932. This chase took WALLACE three days before he laid low his quarry — some indication surely of the merits of this game.

The existing wild goats of Britain have as their main enemy today the Forestry Commission who are inclined to tend towards a policy of extermination when their arboricultural interests are threatened by the presence of a herd of wild goats.

The British Islands are dotted with place names associated with these caprines. Goat Crag is common, Goatstones, Goatlings, and the Gaelic Crap na Gower are a few examples.

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Os penis und Os clitoridis der Pinnipedia

VON ERNA MOHR

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Bei mehreren Säugetierordnungen findet sich im männlichen Geschlecht ein Penis-knochen oder Baculum (Os penis, Os priapi). Noch SCHIMKEWITSCH (1921) sagt darüber: „Bei den Marsupialia, Cetacea, Carnivora, Pinnipedia, Rodentia, Chiroptera und Prosimii und manchmal auch bei den Affen unter den Primates ist eine unpaare Verknöcherung zwischen den beiden Corpora cavernosa (Os penis, Os priapi) und manchmal auch Knorpelstückchen vorhanden.“ Selbst heute noch kann man lesen, der Penis-knochen sei am ausgeprägtesten bei Raubtieren und Bartenwalen (PIECHOCKI, 1961).

Anscheinend ist die Behauptung, die Wale verfügten über ein Baculum, unausrottbar, obwohl u. a. bereits GERHARDT (1904) und POHL (1911) diesen Irrtum ausdrücklich festnageln und zurückweisen. Was man auch heute noch in den letzten Raritäten-Cabinetten als „Wal-fisch-Penis-knochen“ zu sehen bekommt, ist nur der ausgeschachtete, im Laufe der Jahrzehnte oder z. T. Jahrhunderte knochenhart eingetrocknete Penis selbst, der bei den großen Walen eine beträchtliche Länge erreicht. Wie andere durch Atemnot eingehende männliche Säugetiere schachten auch gestrandete erstickte und ertrunkene männliche Wale nicht selten aus. Die Länge des Gliedes mag die Walfänger in gleicher Weise gereizt haben, es abzutrennen und als Kuriosum mitzubringen wie die sehr großen, oft mehr als halbmeterlangen Bacula von Elefanten-Robbe und Walroß.

Bei den Marsupialia handelt es sich bei der Einlage in die Glans nicht um einen Knochen, sondern um fibro-kartilaginöses Gewebe. Entsprechend der Körpergröße von Robben und Raubtieren ist bei diesen Ordnungen auch das Baculum absolut groß und auffallend — mit wenigen Ausnahmen, wie z. B. den Feliden.

Bei aller Variabilität besteht eine gewisse einheitliche Ausbildung des Baculums innerhalb der einzelnen Familien. Doch wechseln Biegung und Feinausführung namentlich des freien, distalen Endes auch innerartlich sehr stark und nicht nur altersmäßig bedingt. Die Biegung kann dorsal- oder ventralwärts gerichtet sein, in seltenen Fällen abnormerweise auch seitlich abweichen.

Das Baculum ist bereits beim Embryo angelegt. Es entwickelt sich im Laufe der Jahre entsprechend dem allgemeinen Körperwachstum und nimmt so im höheren Lebensalter nur noch wenig zu. Gemäß dem nie völlig abgeschlossenen Wachstum der Robben nimmt es bei den Pinnipedia bis zum Tode des Tieres an Länge und Gewicht zu. Das Alter spielt nur insofern eine Rolle, als bei vorwüchsigen jungen Tieren die Ausbildung des Baculums noch nicht der Größe und Stärke, sondern dem Alter seines Trägers entspricht.

In der Ordnung der Pinnipedia unterscheiden wir die Familien der Walrosse (Odoboenidae), Ohrenrobber (Otariidae) und Hundsrobber (Phocidae). Jede der drei Robber-Familien zeigt einen bestimmten unverwechselbaren Penis-knochen-Typ,

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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