

## Arapawa Island Goats

The Arapawa Island Goat is native to New Zealand. They are of early origin in NZ history. Their exact origin is unknown. It is believed that they were introduced by early European settlers in the late 1830's. They resemble the Old English Milk Goat and the story goes that they are descended from them.

ALBC has taken hair samples from various Arapawa Island goats to compare to an old head of an Old English Milk Goat buck in a museum in the UK. If they are the descended from the Old English Milk Goat then they and the Golden Guernsey will be the only breeds alive that carry the blood of this historic goat.

The Arapawa Island goat was introduced in the US by Plimoth Plantation, a living history museum in Plymouth, MA. Eric Parkman, the herdsman then, was looking for goats that resembled goats that the early American colonists would have owned. Plimoth Plantation is still instrumental in the development of the breed today.

There are about 250 goats registered with the Arapawa Goat Breeders. This is an informal organization of conservers of Arapawa Island Goats and is headed by Al Caldwell. He is a tireless champion of the breed and is willing to help anyone find a starter flock of Arapawa Island goats.

Links:

[www.arapawagoat.org](http://www.arapawagoat.org) Arapawa Island Goat Breeders group in US.

[www.rarebreeds.co.nz/arapawagoat.org](http://www.rarebreeds.co.nz/arapawagoat.org) NZ page dedicated to the breed

[www.jenessfarm.com](http://www.jenessfarm.com) sells a wonderful goat milk soap made from Arapawa milk.

Proceeds benefit the conservation efforts of the Arapawa Island Goat