

GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND SURVIVAL RATES OF TURKISH HAIR GOAT UP TO WEANING AGE*

**OZKAN ELMAZ¹, MUSTAFA SAATCI¹, ÖZGECAN KORKMAZ AĞAOĞLU¹,
AYKUT ASIM AKBAŞ¹, MAHIYE ÖZÇELİK METİN¹, GÜRKAN GEZER²,
YILMAZ GÖKÇAY²**

¹Mehmet Akif Ersoy University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Department of Animal Science,
Istiklal Campus, Burdur, Turkey

²Antalya Sheep and Goat Breeders Association, Turkey

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elmaz@mehmetakif.edu.tr

Nationwide small ruminant project under the breeder’s condition has been conducted for Turkish Hair goat in Antalya district between the years of 2011 and 2016. Growth performance and survival rates of kids have been investigated.

The study was carried out in 5 different villages of Antalya province in Turkey from 2012 to 2016. The kids suckled their mothers up to the weaning (day 90). According to project instructions the project, all kids born from 2012 to 2016 were ear tagged. Birth weights of the kids were recorded according to ear tag number. Kids were weighed with digital scale and live weights (LWs) of the kids were determined at 90th day. The flock was pastured on open range fields and in-forests grassland from early in the morning until noon. In general, this district is poor in terms of amount and quality of grass. To calculate the survival rates of the kids, the numbers of all the born kids number and the number of kids reach the weaning age were determined.

Birth weights of 22817 kids and 90-day weight of 21643 kids have been evaluated in the project during five years. Birth weights of the kids in years of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 were determined as 3.38 kg; 3.41 kg; 3.26 kg; 3.32 kg and 3.26 kg respectively. According to years (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016) 90-day live weights of the Hair kids were found as 16.96 kg; 18.33 kg; 17.43 kg; 17.47 kg and 17.53 kg respectively. According to dam age (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016) 90-day live weights of the Hair kids were found as 17.29 kg; 17.31 kg; 17.58 kg; 17.72 kg and 17.82 kg respectively. Effect of dam age was statistically significant on 90-day live weights of the

Hair kids ($P < 0.05$). Survival rates of Hair kids at the age of 90-day were found 96.44%; 92.70%; 94.06%; 94.31% and 97.02% for the years of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Turkish Hair goat is a gift to the Anatolian peninsula with extremely developed adaptation traits and the resistance to every harsh environment. It also produces invaluable meat and milk in every condition. Definition of the characteristics of this animal is important to provide it a more optimum environment. Therefore, every determined trait is important and useful for the future of this breed.