



DWARF ZEBU COW

Phylum: Chordata, **Class:** Mammalia, **Order:** Artiodactyla, **Family:** Bovidae
Bos primigenius

Breed: The Dwarf Zebu is a breed that was developed from the Zebu cattle which are the sacred cattle of India and one of the oldest breeds known.

Status: Dwarf Zebu cattle are domesticated animals, so their populations are stable.

Height: Males measure 43 to 47 inches tall while the females are 41-45 inches.

Weight: 200-300 pounds

Range: India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Caucasus, East Africa

Lifespan: 20 years

Special Feature:

- These dainty cattle have the characteristic shoulder hump, droopy ears and dewlap
- The hump is made of fat and large muscle. For short times the zebu can live off that fat. It is also thought that the hump attracts mates.
- Both males and females have horns although the males' horns are larger.
- They are inserted rather far apart on each extremity of the top of the skull, and are approximately oval in cross section.
- They can be pale fawn, reddish brown, gray or black.
- They are herd animals.
- They graze up to 8 hours each day. The rest of the time they rest and chew cud.
- It can tolerate hot climates, is disease resistant and isn't bothered by ticks.
- The milk and meat production of zebus doesn't rival that of many other cattle breeds, but zebus serve as excellent draft animals. In India, they're commonly used to pull plows and carts.
- Because it is a mortal sin to put them to death when they are old and sick, they are turned loose to wander the streets unharmed until they die.

Breeding/Care of Young

- Sexual maturity at 18 months
- Gestation 290 days.
- Single birth with twin occasionally.

