

The “Glemming”?

By Nancy Mann

Lemmings, living mostly in Siberia and on the Tundra, do not hibernate, and they are hardy, furry, and sociable. They can grow to be a half-foot long. Legend has it that they “mass suicide,” and actual masses have been seen hurling themselves off of cliffs of Finland’s fiords.

The world’s nine hundred million goats are also of a herd mentality, though there are reports of few “migrations.” They are hardy. They have few diseases. They reproduce quickly and can live in many climates. They are commonly known as *cabrito*, in Spanish-speaking regions, and *ndafu* in Africa. They eat dry or fresh grass and leaves. Their milk doesn’t require homogenization. Their skins carry wine and yogurt. They can produce up to fifteen pounds of hair (cashmere) annually. They are pack animals, with a distinct pecking order. Many a country’s military uses goats in training combat medics, as goats are similar to human anatomy.

Back to lemmings. Lemmings have few diseases, and the females are fertile right after birth. Long claws grow on front limbs, for digging and tunneling under snow; the claws are shed in spring. Lemmings migrate up to fifteen kilometers per day. Migration occurs in a straight line, and all individuals are included.

Crossing a goat with a lemming is ethical (sub-species crosses are ethical) according to Stephen Jay Gould, renowned biologist, author of “Eight Little Piggies” and dozens of books; Gould is also a scientist *par excellence*. Pope Francis has recently released an encyclical which speaks of humans needing to care for the planet; and it implies drastic and creative solutions to be created and enacted regarding food and energy resources, and pollution; humans may have to move to other regions of the globe, including to Siberia (Siberia has warmed due to global warming).

Perhaps humans will live in the Arctic regions and set up ranches of “glemmings,” the new hybrid. The glemmings will spread more manure over the tundra, resulting in the growth of more berries from shrubs. The shrubs will hold the eroding soil together (global warming and snow melt).

Every four years or so, these animals will throw themselves over a cliff-into a barbeque pit ... a human-animal combined event similar to the slaughter of buffalo by Native Americans. In the barbeque pit, meat can be dried under the long days of sunshine. A small goat’s dried meat can feed twenty, so a glemming hybrid might provide ten pounds per animal. (Goat, before hybridization into a glemming, accounts for seventy percent of all red meat consumed worldwide.)

Before the butchering, the glemming’s energy would be trapped in battery cells, from continuous running on large wheels. Their hides could be used in manufacturing. A portion of the meat could be used in pet food ... protein is superior to grain for domesticated pets – cats and dogs.

Perhaps there is a future in developing a hybrid between goats and lemmings!