

# **American Boer Goat Association Breed Standards**

*Effective 1/1/2018*

## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

These standards have been put forth to assist you as a breeder to improve your herd. Please take time to review the breed standards and look at the pictures also located on the ABGA website so that you will have a better understanding of how these standards can help you improve your breeding program and goals.

## **I. CONFORMATION**

Any extreme occurrence of a fault is a disqualification.

### **BODY**

Body should be boldly three-dimensional: long, deep and wide. Does should possess a wedge shape that is deeper at the rear flank than the heart girth, indicating the body capacity to carry multiple kids while also maintaining adequate rumen function. The heart girth should provide ample respiratory capacity and should not appear pinched when viewed from the side or top. Ribs should be well-sprung. The loin should be well muscled, wide and long. The top line should be level throughout with an abundance of muscle from the shoulder through the hip. Animals should exhibit adequate body conditioning relative to stage of production, but not be extremely thin or show accumulation of excessive fat deposits.

Faults: Swayback; a break or excessive dip in the topline behind the shoulders; inadequate muscle through the back and loin; pinched heart girth; poor body condition; chest too narrow, too shallow or too wide such that it causes the point of the elbow to be separated from the body; excessive fat deposits.

### **NECK AND FOREQUARTERS**

The neck should be of moderate length and in proportion to body length. Does should exhibit a feminine neck while bucks should have a heavily muscled neck displaying masculinity. The neck should blend smoothly into the shoulder, withers and brisket. Shoulders should be fleshy, proportional to the body and smoothly blended and fitted into the withers without excessive looseness or protrusion of the shoulder blades above the withers. Withers should be broad, well-rounded, and not sharp. Forequarters should be well fleshed with muscling extending into the forearm and without excessive fat accumulation at the brisket or behind the shoulder. Bucks should display masculinity and heavier muscling through the

forequarters than does. The chest should be deep and broad with chest floor that is proportional to the size of the animal.

Faults: Neck too short or too thin; excessive movement or looseness in the shoulder blades resulting in shoulders that are weakly attached;; excessive fat deposits at the brisket or behind the shoulder; lack of muscling.

## **HEAD**

A Boer goat should have a prominent strong head with brown eyes and a gentle appearance. Nose should have a gentle curve, wide nostrils, and a well-formed mouth with well-opposed jaws. Bucks should possess a strong, masculine head while does should maintain a feminine appearance about the head.

The forehead should be prominent and form an even curve linking the nose and horns. Horns should be dark, round, strong, of moderate length, positioned well apart and have a gradual backward curve before turning outward symmetrically. The horns should be well spaced from the back of the neck to allow full range of motion without rubbing the neck at maturity. Ears should be smooth and pendulous with no folds at the base of the ear, and with sufficient length to lay smoothly against the head without interfering with the eye. Ears that are curled or folded upward at the tip are not discriminated against.

Incisor teeth must touch the front of the upper dental pad until the goat is 24 months of age. After 24 months, incisor teeth may not protrude more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch beyond the upper dental pad. A bite and jaw that fits correctly is preferred. Teeth should erupt in the proper sequential position. Deciduous (baby) teeth that have been shed prior to the eruption of permanent teeth, or those that have not yet been shed before the corresponding permanent tooth is fully in place, are not to be discriminated against.

Faults: Dished or concave forehead/face; bulging or wild eyes; entropic (inverted) eyelid; flat, straight or wild type horns; horns positioned too close together; horns that grow too closely to the head or neck; erect or airplane ears in Fullblood animals; jaw too pointed; shallow lower jaw; twisted, crooked, or overlapping permanent teeth.

Disqualifications: Wry or twisted face; cleft palate; blue eyes; ear folded lengthwise; ear crimped or narrowed at the base; shortened lower jaw (parrot mouth); incisor teeth not touching the front of the upper dental pad before 24 months; incisor teeth protruding more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch beyond the upper dental pad after 24 months; teeth not erupted in proper sequence or position; more than 8 incisors, when additional teeth are not the result of the normal shedding process of the deciduous teeth; hornless or disbudded goats.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

The rump should be broad and long with a gentle slope between the hip and pin bones and clearly defined muscling. The base of the tail must be centered and straight. The remainder of the tail may curve upward or to one side. The area of the rear legs between the pin bones and down through the inner thighs should be well muscled, deep, full and firm, with the rear udder attachment area in does as high and wide as possible. Both inner and outer thighs should be deep, wide and muscular, with ample muscling extending beyond the stifle and toward the hock.

Faults: Rump too steep; rump too level, so as to contribute to difficult delivery of kids in the doe; lack of muscling; excessive fat deposits.

Disqualification: Wry tail.

## **FEET AND LEGS**

The legs should be strong, well placed and in proportion with the depth of the body. The limbs should be well jointed and smoothly blended, allowing for ease of movement and soundness over a long productive life. The front legs should be straight, with the point of the shoulder, knee, fetlock joint, pastern and hoof forming a plumb line when viewed from the front. The rear leg should form a plumb line from hip bone through the hock, cannon bone, fetlock and dew claw when viewed from the side or the rear. Pasterns should be strong and of medium length. Hooves should be well formed, as dark as possible, and point directly forward when viewed from the front of the animal.

Faults: Any structural leg, muscle, bone, joint, or hoof deformities or abnormalities, including: knock knees; buck knees; calf knees; bandy legs; sickle hocks; cow hocks; post legs; pasterns too short, too long, too straight or too weak; hooves pointing outward or inward; splayed toes.

Disqualifications: Any foot or leg fault that adversely affects an animal's gait or causes lameness; pasterns so weak as to cause the dew claws to touch the ground at any time at rest or in motion.

## **II. SKIN AND COVERING**

The skin should be loose and supple, with short glossy hair preferred. Mature bucks should have a pleated appearance to the skin on the front of the neck. A limited amount of winter down or under-coat will be acceptable during the winter months, especially in colder environments. Hairless areas, such as the eyelids and under the tail must have at least 75% pigmentation, with 100% pigmentation

preferred in both Fullblood and Percentage animals to prevent sunburn and skin cancer. Any color of pigmentation is acceptable other than pink or white, including rose-color or light tan.

Faults: Hair too long or too coarse.

Disqualification: Less than 75% pigmentation on hairless areas.

### **III. REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS**

Any extreme occurrence of a fault is a disqualification.

#### **DOES**

Does should have a well formed udder with good fore and rear attachment, such that the udder is well supported throughout the productive life of the doe, with the floor of the udder at or above the level of the hocks. It is most important that the udder is constructed so that the offspring are able to nurse unassisted.

Preferred teat structures consist of either one or two, well-separated, functional teats on each half of the udder. One additional, smaller, non-functional teat (teat without an orifice) located further toward the doe's stomach is not desirable but is not discriminated against.

Acceptable teat structures have no more than two functional teats per side and include: one or more non-functional teats; no more than one split teat with two distinctly separate teats and orifices, when at least 50% of the body of the teat is separated; a teat containing two milk channels with a smooth or rounded end and with no sign of a dimple or division between the orifices; no more than one additional, non-functional teat or protrusion attached to the main teat, as long as it does not interfere with or prevent nursing.

Please refer to the TEAT DIAGRAM and pictures for additional information on teat structures.

By 24 months of age, does must have kidded or show evidence of visible udder formation consistent with late-term pregnancy.

Faults: Infantile or underdeveloped vulva in a doe over 24 months of age; udder and teat abnormalities or defects; poorly attached or pendulous udder.

Disqualifications: Any udder or teat structure that prevents a newborn kid from nursing unassisted; more than two functional teats on one half of the udder; split teat, when less than 50% of the body of the teat is separated; additional,

functional teat(s) attached to the main teat; more than two milk channels on one teat; bulbous teats; the complete lack of a milk channel on one half of the udder; a doe that has not kidded and is not showing evidence of visible udder formation consistent with late-term pregnancy by 24 month of age.

## **BUCKS**

Bucks must have two large, well-formed, functional testicles of equal size in a single scrotum with a distinct epididymis. It is allowable, but not preferred, to have a split in the apex of the scrotum that is no greater than 1". The scrotum should be well attached and not overly pendulous, with the apex of the scrotum ideally being at or above the level of the hocks.

Faults: Excessively pendulous scrotum that allows for potential testicular damage.

Disqualifications: Undescended or missing testicle(s); underdeveloped testicle(s); abnormal or diseased testicle(s); greater than 1" split in the apex of the scrotum; twisted scrotum.

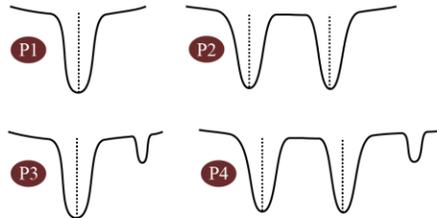
## **IV. COLORATION**

The typical Boer goat is white bodied with a red head, but no preference is given to any hair coloration or color pattern.

## PREFERRED TEAT STRUCTURES

Preferred teat structures offer the newborn kid the best opportunity to nurse unassisted.

Preferred teat structures consist of either one or two, well-separated, functional teats on each half of the udder (P1, P2). One additional, non-functional teat further toward the doe's stomach is not discriminated against (P3, P4).

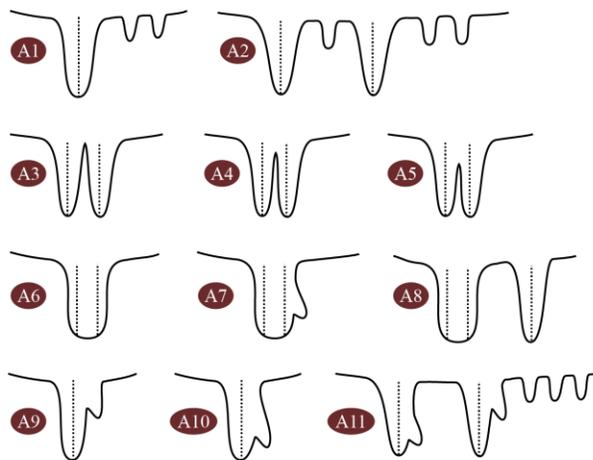


## ACCEPTABLE TEAT STRUCTURES

Acceptable teat structures should allow the newborn kid the ability to nurse unassisted and must have no more than two functional teats on each half of the udder. Some acceptable teat structures may become disqualifying over the productive life of the doe if the teat becomes difficult or impossible to nurse unassisted.

Acceptable teat structures include:

- One or more non-functional teats in addition to functional teat(s) (A1, A2, A11)
- Split teats, when at least 50% of the body of the teat is separated (A3, A4, A5)
- Teats containing two milk channels with no sign of separation between teat channels (A6, A7, A8)
- Teats with one additional, non-functional teat attached to the main teat (A7, A9, A10, A11)



## DISQUALIFYING TEAT STRUCTURES

Any teat structure that prevents a newborn kid from nursing unassisted is a disqualification.

Disqualifying structures include:

- Split teats, when less than 50% of the body of the teat is separated (D1, D2, D3, D4)
- Teats with additional, functional teat(s) attached to the main teat (D5, D6)
- Teats with more than two milk channels (D7)
- More than two functional teats on one half of the udder (D7, D8)
- Bulbous teats, or the complete lack of a milk channel on one half of the udder

