

DEFINITION OF TERMS FOR BREED STANDARDS

Correct Bite - the bottom jaw aligns up with the top dental pad.

Parrot Mouth - the bottom jaw is shorter than the top jaw, so that the top jaw overlaps the bottom jaw which causes an incorrect bite.

Monkey Mouth or Mouth is Out – the front teeth do not align up with the bottom teeth. This can also be called an over shot mouth with means the bottom jaw extend out beyond the top jaw.

Ear – is folded vertically from the top of the ear where it attaches to the head to the bottom, and all the way into the ear canal, in effect, nearly closing the ear.

Neck - The juncture of the neck and shoulder should be free of excess tissue. It should gently slope to indicate muscling. Smoothness and quality are important in this area. A long clean neck with enough muscling to be in balance to the remainder of the animal is desired. A long thin neck without adequate muscling that is not in proportion to the rest of the body is not desirable. The standard changes between bucks and does, with the desirable neck in a buck having heavier muscling than the neck in a doe.

Smooth over the Shoulder and through the Front End - being wide and flat at the rack. The shoulder should tie in nicely to the neck, ribs, and brisket.

Shoulders - The goat's muscling should increase from the withers to the point of the shoulder with the thickest muscle occurring immediately above the chest floor. The circumference of the forearm is the second most important indicator of meatiness, so the forearm muscle should exhibit a prominent bulge and should tie in deep into the knee.

Broad through the chest floor and wide spring or sprung - this kind of goat will have the desirable barrel with the proper shape through the ribs. The front legs will be set wide apart and not be flat at the breastbone. The rack should be wide and smooth with the ribs being round and the width should carry all the way back through the hips so that the Chest Floor is not broader than the hips.

Lacks Volume/Depth/Capacity – is narrow and shallow bodied. Front legs are set close together, and the hips are usually short and steep. This animal lacks room to have a large functioning rumen system, or lungs.

Smooth over the Rack – feels smooth over the withers and ribs.

Slab Sided or Lacks Spring of Rib – flat ribbed or narrow bodied – these animals lack volume/depth/capacity.

Tracks wide from the Front/Rear – walks straight and wide in the front and the rear.

Short through the Hip or Rump – lacking adequate distance between the hooks and pins. This is the overall length of the rump.

Steep Rumped – too much angle between the hook and pin bones. Looks like a ski slope down from the top of the hips to the tail.

Short through the Loin – loin (between the 12th rib & hook bones) is too short for the size length of the goat. Generally the back “half” of the goat (last rib to tail head) should be longer than the front half (front of chest to last rib).

Weak/Down in the pasterns – pasterns are weak and give when the goat walks or stands. A goat that may walk on his/her dewclaws is considered severe.

Splays out in the front – front feet turn out when the goat stands or walks.

Hocks In – Cow Hocked - hocks closer together than feet, hocks bend in as viewed from the rear. Hocks turn in when the goat stands or walks.

Posty Leg – The leg is straight up and down and not bent at all in the hock when the goat is standing naturally. Either knock knees or posty hocks may make it difficult for goats to walk long distances.

Split Teat – where two teats are so close together that they actually come out of the body on one base, and split at the end of the teat. The length of the split and presence or absence of the milk channel are determining factors whether the teats meet breed standards.

Fish Teat – A teat that has a small split at the tip and resembles a fish tail.

ABGA FULL BLOOD BREED STANDARDS

I. CONFORMATION

Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait is a disqualification.

- **HEAD**

- A prominent, strong head with brown eyes and a gentle appearance. Nose with a gentle curve, wide nostrils, and well formed mouth with well-opposed jaws. The jaws must have no over or under bite from birth to 24 months of age. After 24 months no more than a ¼ of an inch under bite is allowed. Correct fit is preferred. Teeth should erupt in the proper sequential positions. 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. Ears should be smooth of medium length and hang downward.
- Faults: Concave forehead, straight horns, jaw too pointed, overshot or undershot jaws
- Disqualifications: Blue eyes, ears folded lengthwise, short ears, parrot mouth or more than ¼ of an inch under bite.

- **NECK AND FOREQUARTERS**

- Neck of moderate length and in proportion with body length. Forequarters full, well-fleshed, and limbs well jointed and smoothly blended. The chest should be broad. Shoulders should be fleshy, well-proportioned with the rest of the body and smoothly blended and fitted into the withers. Withers should be broad and well-rounded and not sharp. Legs should be strong, well placed and in proportion with the depth of the body. Pastern joints should be strong and hooves well-formed and as dark as possible.
- Faults: Neck too short or too thin; shoulders too loose, and any structural foreleg, and muscle, bone, joint, or hoof deformities or abnormalities to include but not limited to knock knees, bandy legs, hooves pointing outward or inward, splay toes, buck knees, hollow legs, straight or weak pasterns.

- **BODY**

- Body should be boldly three-dimensional: long, deep and wide. Ribs should be well sprung. Loin should be well muscled, wide and long. The top line should be reasonably straight and strong and the shoulder well rounded with an abundance of muscle from shoulder through hip.
- Faults: Concave or swayback; chest too narrow or shallow or flat; shoulders weakly attached; inadequate muscle through the back and loin, pinched heart girth.

- **HINDQUARTERS**

- Rump should be broad and long with a gentle slope. Britch and thighs well-muscled and rounded. Base of the tail must be centered and straight. The

remainder of the tail can curve upward or to one side. Legs should be strong and the leg should have a straight axis from the hip (pin bones) through the hock, fetlock, and pastern. Hoofs should be well-formed and as dark as possible.

- Faults: Weak pasterns, straight pasterns, rump too steep, sickle-hocked, cow-hocked, post legs.
- Disqualifications: Wry tail

II. SKIN AND COVERING

- Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait is a disqualification. Skin loose and supple. Eyelids and other hairless areas must be pigmented. Hairless areas under the tail should be at least 75% pigmented: 100% is preferred. Short glossy hair is desirable. A limited amount of winter down or under-coat will be accepted during winter, especially in colder environments.
- Faults: Hair too long or too coarse.
- Disqualifications: Not enough skin pigmentation.

III. REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait is a disqualification.

- **DOES**
 - Does should have well-formed udders with good attachment with the number of functional teats not to exceed two per side. A split teat with two distinctly separated teats and openings with at least 50% of the body of teat separated is permissible but teats without a split are preferred. It is most important that the udder is constructed so that the offspring are able to nurse unassisted.
 - A. Kidding or Pregnancy Does must have kidded or exhibited pregnancy by 24 months of age.
 - Faults: Udder and teat abnormalities or defects to include but not limited to oversized or bulbous teats, pendulous udder.
 - Disqualifications: Cluster teats, fishtail teats or a doe that has not kidded or exhibited signs of pregnancy by 24 months of age.
- **BUCKS**
 - Bucks must have two large well-formed, functional, equal sized testes in a single scrotum with no more than a 2" split in the apex of the scrotum.
 - Disqualifications: Single Testicle. Testicles too small. Abnormal or diseased testes; excessive split in 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.

BREED STANDARDS FAULTS & DQ CHARTS – FULLBLOOD BOER GOATS

A disqualifying trait (DQ) means that the goat is not eligible for judging in the show ring and should either be dismissed or removed to the bottom of the line-up. This is supposed to be a black and white, either/or area. There are no gray areas and no room for individual opinions from the judge.

A fault is an undesirable trait. A fault is not reason to dismiss or remove a goat from the show line up, unless it is extreme. Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault) is a disqualification. This is where a judge's opinion comes into play. There is no black and white when it comes to evaluating faults in the show ring. The more faults an individual goat has, the less worthy it is of being placed high in the show line up. The worse an individual fault is, the more likely it will be considered a disqualification by the judge and reason for removal from the line up. One judge may be more severe on head faults, while another judge may be more severe on body faults. What this means is that when a judge is evaluating animals for placement he/she will take into consideration each goat's faults. Since there are no perfect goats, the final line up will depend upon which faults the judge believes are of less detriment to the breed and the overall quality of each goat.

FULLBLOOD & AMERICAN PUREBRED BOER GOAT **FAULTS**

Head	Concave head, straight horns, jaw too pointed, overshot or undershot jaw
Neck and Forequarters	Neck too short or too thin, shoulders too loose, and any structural foreleg, and muscle, bone, joint or hoof deformities or abnormalities to include but not limited to knock knees, bandy legs, hooves pointing outward or inward, splay toes, buck knees, hollow legs, straight or weak pasterns
Body	Concave or swayback, chest too narrow or shallow or flat, shoulders weakly attached, inadequate muscle through the back and loin, pinched heart girth.
Hindquarters	Weak pasterns, straight pasterns, rump too steep, sickle-hocked, cow-hocked, post legs.
Skin and Covering	Hair too long or too coarse
Reproductive Organs - Does	Udder and teat abnormalities & defects to include but not limited to oversized or bulbous teats, pendulous udder
Reproductive Organs - Bucks	
Coloration	The typical boer goat is white bodied with a red head, but no preference is given to any hair coloration or color pattern.

Chart Courtesy of Darlene Baker

FULLBLOODS & AMERICAN PUREBRED BOER GOAT DISQUALIFICATIONS

Head	Blue eyes, ears folded lengthwise, short ears, parrot mouth or more than ¼ of an inch under bite. Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault)
Neck & Forequarters	Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault)
Body	Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault)
Hindquarters	Wry tail, Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault)
Skin & Covering	Not enough skin pigmentation (less than 75% under the tail) Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault)
Reproductive Organs - Doe	Cluster teats, fishtail teats or a doe that has not kidded or exhibited signs of pregnancy by 24 months of age. Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault)
Reproductive Organs - Buck	Single testicle, testicles too small, abnormal or diseased testes, excessive split in scrotum (more than 2 inches). Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault)

Chart Courtesy of Darlene Baker