

# American Boer Goat Association Breed Standards

Effective Date: 9/2/2019

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

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. All animals presented for registration with the ABGA are recommended to meet these standards.

## *I. CONFORMATION*

Any extreme occurrence of a fault is a disqualification.

### **BODY**

Body should be boldly three-dimensional: long in length of loin, deep in depth of body and wide over the top line and from hooks pins. 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.

### **HEAD**

A Boer goat should have a prominent strong head with brown eyes that gives a soft gentle look to the face. The brown eyes should not have an untamed or wild look. A roman nose should have a gentle curve, wide nostrils, and well-formed mouth with well-opposed jaws. A Doe should have a feminine appearance about her head. A Buck should possess a strong masculine 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 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. Percentage Does may be polled (hornless) or disbudded horns. Ears should be smooth and pendulous with no folds or pinches at the base of the ear canal, and with enough length to lay smoothly against the head without interfering with the eye.

The front of the upper dental pad must touch all incisors 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 must 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 discriminated against. No more than 8 incisors, unless there is a deciduous baby) tooth in place from not shedding and the bite is correct. First two incisors should be erupted by no later than 24 months of age.

**Faults:** Dished or concave forehead/face; bulging or wild eyes; flat; straight or wild type horns; horns positioned too close together; horns that grow too close to the head or neck; jaw too pointed; shallow lower jaw; twisted, crooked, or overlapping permanent teeth. Fullbloods that displays erect or airplane ears. Bucks lacking masculinity.

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

## **NECK AND FOREQUARTERS**

The neck should be of moderate length and in proportion to body length. Does should exhibit a feminine neck that should blend smoothly into the shoulders, withers and briskets. Bucks should have a heavily muscled neck displaying masculinity. Bucks should display heavier muscling through the neck and forequarters than does. Shoulders should be fleshly, proportional to the body and smoothly blend and fit into the withers without excessive looseness or protrusion of the shoulder blades above the withers. Withers should be broad, well rounded, and not sharp. The forequarters should be well muscled and smoothly blended into the knee.

**Faults:** Neck too short, long or too thin; excessive movement of looseness in the shoulder blades resulting in shoulders that are weakly attached.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Does rump should be broad and long with a gentle slope to the hip and pin bones and clearly defining adequate width for kidding. Bucks should be broad and long with a gentle slope to the hip and pin bones and clearly defining adequate width.

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 thigh should be well muscled, deep, full, and firm. Both inner and outer thighs should be deep, wide and muscular, with ample muscling extending beyond the stifle towards the hock.

**Faults:** Rump too steep; short through the hip; short through the rump; rump too level, lack of muscling.

**Disqualification:** Wry tail.

## **FEET AND LEGS**

The legs should be strong, well placed and in proportion with the depth of the body. The legs 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, pastern, and hoof forming a straight imaginary line from the point of the shoulder to the toe of the foot while viewing from the front of the animal. The rear leg should form an imaginary line from the hipbone down to the hock, dropping down to the dewclaw when viewed from the side or rear. Pasterns should be strong and medium length with at least a 45-degree angulation from the top of the rear hoof line to the declaw, when viewed from the side, while on the move or standing. Hooves should be well-formed, as dark as possible, and point directly forward when viewed.

**Faults:** Any deformities in structure to the legs or feet, hoof deformities or abnormalities; including: knock knees; buck knees; calf knees; bandy legs; pastern too short, too long. Too straight or too weak; hooves pointing outward or inward; splayed toes.

**Disqualifications:** Any foot or leg fault that adversely affect an animal's gait or causes lameness; pasterns so weak as to cause the dewclaws to drop below a 45-degree angulation from the top of the rear hoof line to dewclaws while on the move or standing.

## **II. SKIN AND COVERINGS**

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 undercoat will be acceptable during the winter months, especially in colder environments.

Fullbloods and Percentages less than 6 months of age must have 50% pigmentation on the hairless area under the tail. 100% pigment is preferred on the hairless area under the tail on animals less than six months of age. Fullbloods and percentages 6 months of age and older must have 75% pigmentation on the hairless area under the tail. 100% pigment is preferred on the hairless area under the tail on animals 6 months and older.

**Faults:** Hair too long or too coarse.

**Disqualification:** Fullbloods and Percentages under 6 months of age with less than 50% pigmentation on hairless areas under tail. Fullbloods and Percentages 6 month of age and older having less than 75% pigmentation on hairless areas under the tail area.

### **III. REPROUCTIVE ORGANS**

#### **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 a split in the apex (split) of the scrotum that is no greater than 1 inch. The scrotum should be well attached not overly pendulous, and the apex of the scrotum should hang straight from the attached area of the body without having any twisting from one or both testicles. A deep twist in Bucks is desirable showing length between the bottom of the anus and where the leg split defines the muscling of the inner thigh.

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

**Disqualifications:** Undescended or missing testicle(s); underdevelopment testicles(s); abnormal or diseased testicle(s); greater than 1-inch split in the apex of scrotum; twisted scrotum twisting of one or both testicles originating where the scrotum meets the body.

#### **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 can nurse unassisted.

IDEAL teat structures consisting of either one or two, well separated, functional teat(s) on each half of the udder.

ACCEPTABLE teat structures have no more than two functional teats per side and may include:

- one or more non-functional teats with 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
- a split teat with two distinctly separate teats and orifices, when at least 50% of the body of the teat is separated counts as two functional teats per side allowed
- only one of the two functional teats per side can contain two milk channels with a smooth or rounded end and with no sign of a dimple or division between the orifices

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 underdevelopment 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; a doe that has not kidded and is not showing evidence of visible udder formation consistent with late-term pregnancy by 24 months of age.

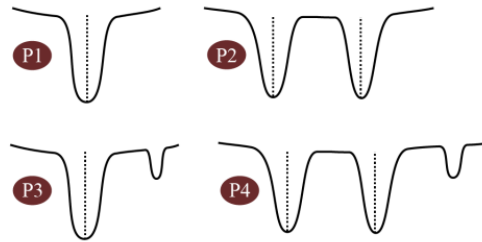
## IV. Coloration

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

### 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).

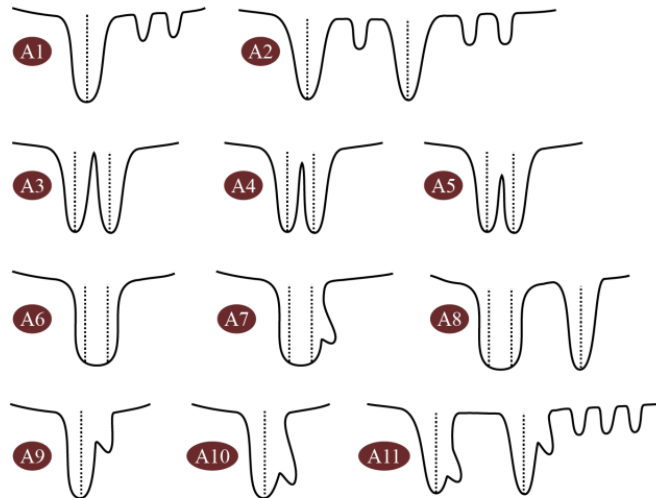


### ACCEPTABLE TEAT STRUCTURES

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

