



Cashmere Goat Breed Standards

Breed Definition

A Cashmere goat is a dual-purpose, full-bodied goat that produces an under down fibre which has a minimum length of 1.25 inches, measures 19 or less microns in diameter and has a Coefficient of Variation (CV) no greater than 24% on its second or subsequent fleece.

Breed Standards

General Characteristics

The ideal Cashmere goat is a hardy, dual-purpose fibre and meat goat which produces a high quantity and quality of cashmere fibre on a medium to large frame. Does should be well built, but more refined than bucks. Does are capable of conceiving, carrying, giving birth to and rearing multiple offspring with minimal intervention. Bucks should be stockier, obviously masculine, rugged animals capable of aggressive foraging with the ability to achieve and maintain good body size and weight with minimal or no supplementary input. They should exhibit a good libido and be able to successfully cover a large group of females. Young are able to achieve substantial weight gains when run under as natural a condition as possible with no or minimal supplementary feeding.

PART A FIBRE

Skin and Coat

Ideals:

- Smooth, supple skin which is neither too smooth nor too loose
- Some dewlap may be evident in mature males and should not be penalized
- The coat may vary according to climate with a marked variation between summer and winter
- Wattles are permissible

Guard Hair

Ideals:

- Guard hair can be short or long, should be coarse and well differentiated in diameter from the cashmere down. Otherwise, no judgment is made on the guard hair.
- Any colour is equally permissible and desirable. Contrasting colours on legs, feet, face and belly are permissible.

Faults:

- Fine guard hair that is not well differentiated in diameter from the cashmere down.
- Intermediate fibres which are coarser than the cashmere but finer than the guard hair.

Cashmere (Down)

Ideals:

- The goat should show good coverage of cashmere fibre over the side, back, neck, chest and rump.
- The minimum amount a cashmere goat should yield as an adult is two ounces cleaned and dehaired cashmere.
- The diameter of cashmere should be as fine as possible and must be 19 microns or less.
- The length of cashmere fibre must be a minimum of 1.25 inches.
- Cashmere fibre is non-medullated.
- The cashmere fibre has good crimp or style.
- The cashmere has little or no luster.
- The cashmere fleece should show consistent style and fineness throughout.
- There should be good differentiation between the guard hair and the cashmere, with no intermediate fibres.

Faults:

- Down that is thicker than 19 microns in diameter.
- Down that is shorter than 1.25 inches in length.
- Down fibre that has no crimp.
- Down fibre that is shiny or lustrous in appearance (cashgora).
- Down fibre that is coarser than the cashmere on the goat, but finer than the guard hair - intermediate fibre.

PART B BODY and CONFORMATION

Head

Ideals:

- A refined head, well balanced, and in good proportion to the body.
- Neither overly convex nor concave nose.
- A strong jaw with permanent teeth fitting correctly as to allow for natural foraging.
- Well-formed mouth with tight lips.
- Horns are considered a natural part of the breed.
- Horns are positioned well apart at base, strong and solid and reasonably symmetrical.
- Horns should curve back gently with an outward sweep so as to be wider at the tip than at the base. As such, the horn shape can be of variable "style" as long as they fit the guidelines above.
- Mature males display a distinctive shallow spiral in horn conformation.
- Ears are well balanced and proportioned to the body.

Faults:

- Too narrow or small a head as to be disproportionate to the body.
- Excessively dished or Roman nosed.
- Parrot mouth or undershot jaw as to impede natural foraging.
- Loosely-fitted lips as to impede natural foraging.
- Polled animals.
- Feminine bucks or extremely masculine does.

Neck and Forequarter

Ideals:

- Medium in length, well proportioned to body size, full and well muscled.
- Chest broad with a deep brisket, strong but in proportion to the body size.
- Shoulders should show good angulation so as to allow fluid, effortless movement. The withers should be broad and rounded indicating width throughout the body.

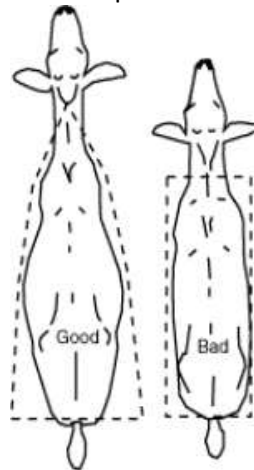
Faults:

- Neck too long, too thin or bull neck.
- Loose shoulder or elbows.
- Incorrect shoulder angulation as to impede smooth fluid motion and proper gait.
- Sharp or pointed withers indicating a lack of width throughout the body.

Body/Barrel/Back

Ideals:

- Long broad and deep
- Ribs well sprung with good length
- Good girth as appropriate for the gender
- Loins long and well muscled
- A broad strong back with a level top line.



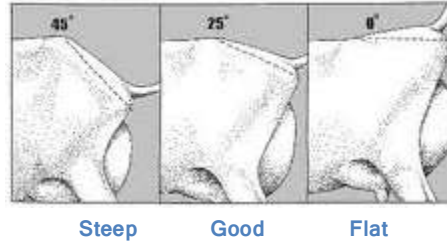
Faults:

- Concave or roach back, slab-sided, cylindrical or pinched behind the shoulder.
- Excessively short back.

Hindquarters

Ideals:

- Broad well-muscled rump, slightly sloped from the hip bone to the pin bone.
- Thighs well fleshed to the hock.
- Tail should be straight at the dock and able to move freely.
- Hocks well angulated.



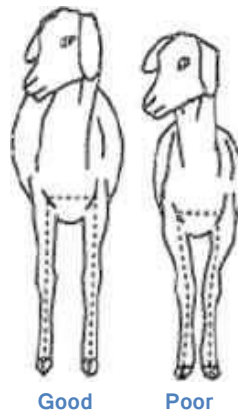
Faults:

- Narrow hips.
- Too steep or short a rump.
- Poor muscling over rump and thighs.
- Poor thigh development.

Legs and Feet

Ideals:

- Legs should be of medium length and in proportion to the depth of the body.
- Legs should be strong, parallel and straight, widely set and set slightly back to support a large frame. An imaginary line drawn from the point of the wither straight to the ground should meet the leg at the elbow and follow this line straight to the ground, with the pastern being the only point of deviation on this path.
- Upper leg should be long and in proportion to the cannon bone and well muscled.
- Legs should have strong pastern and hocks.
- Hooves should be strong and well formed with a pronounced inter-digital divide.



Faults:

- Forelegs turning in or out.
- Cow hocks or sickle hocks.
- Poor angulations.
- Exceptionally thin legs so as to be out of proportion with the bulk of the body.
- Any condition of the hoof which affects the animals ability to move freely.
- Dropped pasterns.
- Any abnormality of the hoof.

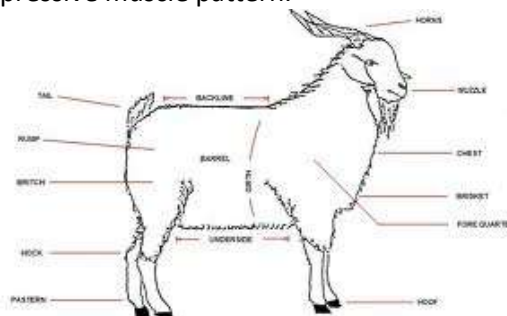
Gait

- Balance, coupled with correct structure, produces an effortless gait. This can be thought of as the appearance of "moving on wheels." The topline appears to stand still with no movement either up or down or side-to-side when the animal is in motion.

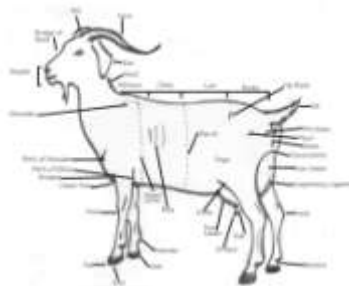
Size

Ideals:

- Medium to large, heavy goat with maximum meat production
- A desirable relationship between length of leg and depth of body should be achieved so that the animal's chest/body is roughly half its height with the forechest reaching the elbow of the foreleg.
- Bucks are distinctively larger than females and each sex displays the characteristics of its gender. Does should be well built, but somewhat more refined than the bucks. Bucks should be stockier and masculine.
- A doe should appear feminine with a long thin neck, smooth shoulders and more refined bone structure than a male. A buck should be rugged and masculine with a heavy bone structure and expressive muscle pattern.



Masculine Buck



Feminine Doe

Faults:

- Insufficient size
- Excessive leg length in an adult goat
- Masculine females, feminine males. Feminine - A characteristic or trait traditionally held to be female. Masculine – A characteristic or trait traditionally held to be male.

Reproductive Organs

Ideals:

Does

- Well-formed udder, firmly attached, with good production capacity.
- Two well-placed, functional teats with adequate orifices, sized to be easily nursed by a newborn kid. Non-functional, supernumerary teats are allowable providing they are significantly smaller than and well separated from the functional teat so as not to interfere with nursing.
- Well formed genitalia so as not to interfere with natural breeding or kidding.

Bucks

- Well formed genitalia so as not to interfere with natural breeding or urinating.
- Two reasonably-large, evenly-sized, well-formed testicles in one scrotum.
- A scrotum with no larger than a 5 cm split.
- The scrotum must be reasonably large at 2 years.

Faults:

Does

- Pendulous or split udder.
- Fishtail teats, split teats, cluster teats, oversized bulbous teats. supernumerary teats.
- Poor udder attachment.
- Poor production capacity.

Bucks

- Small, uneven or poorly-formed testicles.
- Un-descended or single testes.
- Scrotum with greater-than-5 cm split.
- Small scrotal sack.
- More than one teat per side.
- Pendulous scrotal attachment.

Either sex:

- Hermaphroditis

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

PART A FIBRE

Differentiation between Down and Guard Hair

Poor differentiation is often seen on kid fleeces where they have very fine, long guard hair. It may also be noted in older animals with very coarse cashmere. It is often made evident by difficulty in combing out the cashmere. These fleeces are difficult to de-hair.

Intermediate Fibres

Intermediate fibres are sometimes referred to as “cashgora”. On visual evaluation these fibres will appear in the down. They will be noticeably finer than the guard hair, but coarser than the down. They will have very little or no crimp.

Diameter of Down

Diameter can be visually assessed by someone experienced in classing cashmere, however with less precision than by laboratory analysis. Visually the cashmere may be classified as:

Fine fiber - up to 16.5 microns
Medium - 16.5 to 18 microns
Coarse - 18 to 19 microns

For more precise measurement of the fibre diameter a measurement of the Mean Fibre Diameter (MFD) or “Histogram” is performed by a qualified lab.

Style

Cashmere should show good style or lots of crimp along the length of the fibre. In cashmere, the crimp should be three dimensional along the fibre. Crimp can be evaluated visually by someone experienced in classing cashmere.

Cashgora

Fibre that shows little or no crimp is also sometimes referred to as “cashgora” and is not acceptable as cashmere. This fibre may be shiny or lustrous in appearance. It may not necessarily be coarser than the rest of the down, so may not show up on a histogram measuring the MFD.

The cashmere industry uses a Mean Fibre Curvature measurement as an objective measurement of crimp or “style” in cashmere. Some labs are capable of doing this test while measuring the MFD. As a guideline, an MFD of 45 deg/mm or higher is considered acceptable crimp. Fibre with less than 45 deg/mm is considered cashgora.

Consistency of Fibre

Consistency of the fibre can be assessed both visually and through interpretation of the MFD histogram. Fibre can be classed on the animal and assessed for fineness, length, and crimp from multiple sites: the shoulder, side and rump. The more consistent it is across the animal, the better.

Consistency in fineness will also be measurable from the histogram and expressed as the Standard Deviation (SD) and the Coefficient of Variation (CV)

PART B BODY and CONFORMATION

Neck & Forequarters

Angulation can be determined by drawing an imaginary line from the point of the wither forward to the point of the shoulder at the chest and then back to the elbow. The angle produced at the intersection at the shoulder should ideally equal roughly 90 degrees.

Body, Barrel, Back

A normal back is broad and strong with a slight curvature to carry weight and have some spring action. The top line should appear straight between the shoulder and the rise of the rump.

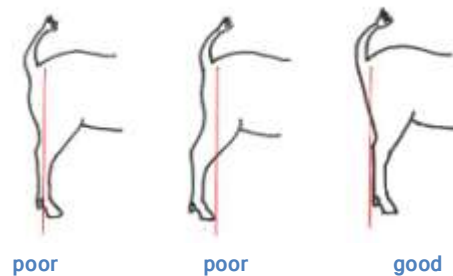
Kids will continue to grow until two years of age and their top lines may be frequently out of line due to the natural tendency for the back end to grow faster than the front end.

Front & Hind Quarters

The rump should be viewed as two steps. The first has a slight rise from the spine indicating the musculature overlying the bone structure. The second step represents the croup and is seen as a slight drop to the tail. Three-step rumps, up, across and then dropping so as to create the appearance of a shelf, should be avoided. There should be proper angulations of the front quarter so as to allow for fluid, efficient movement.

Legs & Feet

In a properly angulated hock, an imaginary line drawn from the point of the rump straight down should meet and follow the back line of the hock to the ground. A hock that is not straight and in line with the rump is either over or under angulated and will be evidenced by a rough or choppy gait.



The angle created when an imaginary line is drawn from the pelvis attachment on the spine through the pin bone intersected by an imaginary line drawn from the point of the hip up the femur should ideally be roughly 90 degrees. A slight variation from 90 degrees either way is permissible as long as the angle on front and back is equal to each and as such, fluid gait is maintained.