

May 31, 2011

ABGA Members,

As many of you are aware, the ABGA Board of Directors and the ABGA Breed Standards Committee have been working on modifying the ABGA Breed Standards. Suggested changes have been discussed, initially voted on, discussed, surveyed, discussed, re-written, discussed some more, and finally have been voted on and approved by the ABGA Board of Directors on May 31, 2011. The revised ABGA Breed Standard will go into effect on January 1, 2013.

This has been a long process that has generated a great deal of member feedback. I want to thank the Breed Standards Committee for all of their efforts during this time. Committee members were: Vicki Stich, Chairperson; Anita Dahnke; Chuck Whitey; Lacie Dean; Lauren Green; Mark Berry, ABGA judge; Nan Walker; Robert Washington, ABGA judge; Rosalinda Vizina; Sherri Stephens, ABGA judge, and Tracy Hyslope. Vicki and her team put a tremendous amount of work into this issue and deserve a great deal of appreciation. I also appreciate the Board's suggestions and efforts put forth to create this final document. If you see any one of these individuals, please thank them for serving in this important role.

My hope is that each of you, as breeders/members, will be satisfied with the revised ABGA Breed Standards as a whole document. I recognize there will be differing opinions on specific details of the revised Breed Standards, but there is no possible way to make every detail match everyone's opinion. I think a great deal of healthy debate went into the development of the revised Breed Standards. I would encourage you to initially review the revised Breed Standards in its entirety and not a line-by-line comparison to the current Breed Standards. I am confident you have a document that will help improve our breed and the Boer and Meat Goat industries as a whole.

Goats will continue to be evaluated for ennoblement and in the show ring under the current Breed Standards until December 31, 2012. However if you as a breeder choose to immediately adopt the revised Breed Standard for your individual breeding program, rest assure that you will still be in compliance with the current Breed Standard. I look forward to seeing everyone at the ABGA National Show in West Monroe, LA next week. Good luck in your current and future breeding programs.

Sincerely,



Brian R. Faris
ABGA President

ABGA - Breed Standards
Fullblood – Purebred – Percentage

Effective Date – January 1, 2013

Any extreme occurrence of an undesirable trait (fault) in any category listed below is a disqualification.

I. CONFORMATION

HEAD

The head should be prominent and strong with brown eyes and a gentle appearance. The nose should have a gentle curve and wide nostrils. The mouth should be well formed. The goat should have no incidence of parrot or monkey mouth. 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. *Note: Animals without horns, either natural polled or disbudded, will not be discriminated against in the show ring, but are ineligible to pass inspection for ennoblement.*

Ears should be smooth, of medium length and hang downward.

FAULTS: concave forehead, straight horns, jaw too pointed

DISQUALIFICATIONS: blue eyes, ears folded lengthwise, short ears, parrot mouth (short lower jaw) or monkey mouth (long lower jaw) at any age.

NECK AND FOREQUARTERS

The neck should be of moderate length and in proportion with body length.

The forequarters should be full, well-fleshed, and the limbs well jointed and smoothly blended. Shoulders should be well rounded with an abundance of muscle, 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.

The hooves should be well-formed and as dark as possible.

FAULTS: neck too short or too thin; shoulders too loose; shoulders weakly attached or too straight; inadequate muscle through the rack; any structural foreleg, muscle, bone, joint, or hoof deformities or abnormalities which include but are not limited to knock knees, buck knees, hollow knees, bow legged, hooves pointing outward or inward, splay toes, straight or weak pasterns.

BARREL

The barrel should be boldly three-dimensional: long, deep, wide. The chest should be broad. Ribs should be well sprung. The top line should be strong and reasonably straight.

FAULTS: concave or swayback; chest too narrow; shallow barrel; flat ribbed; pinched heart girth

HINDQUARTERS

The loin should be long and well muscled. The rump should be broad and long with a gentle slope. Rump and leg/thigh should have an abundance of muscle.

Legs should be strong. When viewed from the rear, legs should have a straight axis from the hip through the hock and pastern. When viewed from the profile, legs should have a straight axis from the pin through the hock and dewclaw.

The hooves should be well-formed and as dark as possible.

The base of the tail must be centered and straight. The remainder of the tail can curve upward or to one side.

FAULTS: inadequate muscle through the loin, rump, and/or leg/thigh; straight or weak pasterns; rump too steep; cow-hocked; bow legged; sickle-hocked; post legged

DISQUALIFICATIONS: wry tail

II. SKIN AND COVERING

Skin should be loose and supple.

Eyelids and other hairless areas must be pigmented.

The entire hairless area under the tail must be at least 75% pigmented by 6 months of age. 100% is preferred. An indication of pigment must be present under 6 months of age. Any shade of pigment is acceptable.

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: Total absence of pigmentation on the hairless area under the tail, less than 75% pigmentation on the hairless area under the tail at 6 months of age or older.

III. REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

DOES

Does should have well formed udders with good attachment. The number of completely separated functional teats should not exceed two per side. It is most important that the udder be constructed so that the offspring are able to nurse unassisted.

Kidding or Pregnancy: Does must have kidded or have proof of pregnancy by 24 months of age.

FAULTS: udder and teat abnormalities or defects to include but not be limited to oversized or bulbous teats or a pendulous udder.

DISQUALIFICATIONS: more than 2 functional teats per side, fishtail teats, split teats, cluster teats, does that have not kidded or shown proof of pregnancy by 24 months of age

BUCKS

Bucks should have two large well-formed, functional, equal sized testes in a single scrotum with no more than a 1 inch split in the apex of the scrotum.

FAULTS: twist at the apex of the scrotum

DISQUALIFICATIONS: absence of one or both testicles from the scrotum, testicles with a small scrotal circumference, abnormal or diseased testes, scrotum with more than 1 inch split in the apex of the 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.



American Boer Goat Association

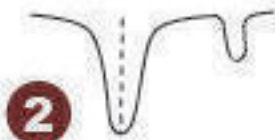
Teat Structure Outline

Side View of Animal

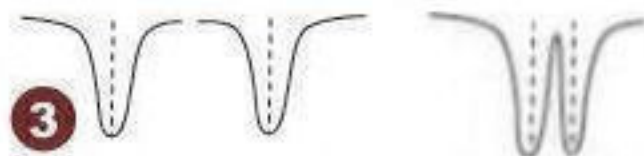
Acceptable



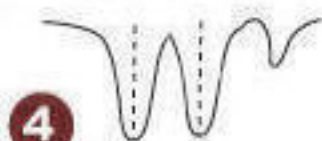
1
1 functional teat
1 milk channel



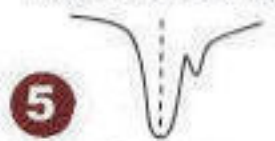
2
1 functional teat
1 milk channel
1 non-functional teat



3
2 functional teats
2 milk channels



4
2 functional teats
2 milk channels
1 non-functional teat

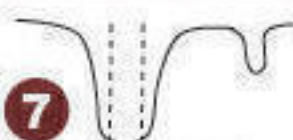


5
1 functional teat
1 milk channel
1 non-functional spur

Questionable



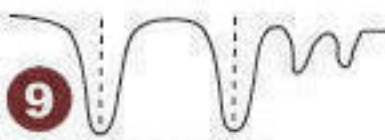
6
1 functional teat
2 milk channels



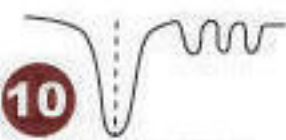
7
1 functional teat
2 milk channels
1 non-functional teat



8
1 functional teat
1 milk channel
1 non-functional spur



9
2 functional teats
2 milk channels
2 non functional



10
1 functional teat
1 milk channel
3 non functionals

ABGA Breed Standards

III. REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

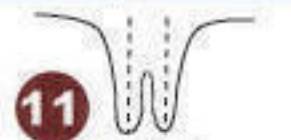
Does should have well formed udders with good attachment. The number of completely separated functional teats should not exceed two per side. It is most important that the udder be constructed so that the offspring are able to nurse unassisted.

Kidding or Pregnancy: does must have kidded or have proof of pregnancy by 24 months of age.

FAULTS: udder and teat abnormalities or defects to include but not be limited to [oversized teats - bulbous teats - pendulous udder]

DISQUALIFICATIONS: more than 2 functional teats per side - fishtail teats - split teats - cluster teats - does that have not kidded or shown proof of pregnancy by 24 months of age

Disqualification



11
Split teat
2 milk channels



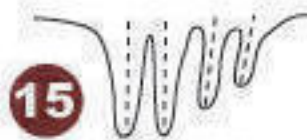
12
Fishtail teat
2 milk channels



13
Fishtail teat
2 milk channels
1 non functional



14
cluster teats
3 milk channels
2 non functionals



15
cluster teats
4 milk channels

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Effective: 1/1/2013
Revised: 5/31/2011