

Let's go to the Show



Canadian Goat Society

449 Laird Rd. Unit 12
Guelph, ON, N1G 4W1
Ph: 519-824-2942
Fax: 519-824-2534
Email: info@goats.ca
Web site: www.goats.ca

How it's Organized

Shows are divided by breeds, Dairy, Pygmy, and Angora. There are seven dairy breeds, one Pygmy breed and one Angora breed that are recognized by the Canadian Goat Society. The dairy breeds are Alpine, LaMancha, Nubians, Oberhasli, Saanen, Toggenburg and Nigerian Dwarf. The Pygmy breed is a miniature breed which has its own score card. The Angora breed has its own scorecard is judged on body and fleece.

Not all breeds may be present at all shows. When few entries are expected in some breeds, dairy shows combine two or more breeds into a division called All Other Purebred.

Another division found at many shows is Recorded Grade, for does less than 87 1/2% pure. This makes them ineligible to compete in the purebred classes.

Within each breed, does and bucks are shown separately, and are divided into age classes. Thus, each animal competes against others of its own breed and approximate age.

First and second place winners from each class compete for champion, reserve champion, and honorable mention. There may be junior champions, which then compete for grand champion. The Grand Champion is chosen from the first place row of animals. A Reserve Champion and an Honorable Mention are chosen from the remaining first place row, plus the animal which placed second in its class behind the animal chosen champion.

Besides age classes, shows may have group classes in which animals are sorted by criteria other than age. Group classes commonly seen are "get of sire" (all sired by the same buck), "produce of dam" (all having the same dam), "dam and daughter", "dairy herd" (all owned by the same person), "breeders herd" (all bred by the same person) and "best udder". The final class of the day is usually "Best in show",

in which the judge selects a winner from the grand champions of each breed.

Some shows have showmanship competition in which the judge considers the appearance of the animal, the exhibitor as well as the actual showing, looking for the exhibitor who shows his or her animal to the best advantage without undue fussing and maneuvering.

What is the Judge looking for?

CGS provides all of its judges with a scorecard to evaluate Dairy, Pygmy and Angora goats. The scorecard for Dairy Does includes General Appearance, Dairy Character, Body Capacity and Mammary System. For Dairy Bucks and Junior animals (kids) the scorecard is made up of General Appearance, Dairy Character, and Body Capacity. For Pygmies, the scorecard is made up of General Appearance, Breed Characteristics, Feet & Legs, Body Capacity and Mammary System. For Angora goats the scorecard is made up of Body 50 points and Fleece 50 points. In addition, the judge must see that each animal meets the breed standard for its breed. A Judge needs a separate license to judge the Dairy breeds, the Pygmy and the Angora goats.

On the CGS scorecard

For Dairy Goats

General appearance is defined as "Attractive individuality indicating femininity/masculinity, vigor and strength with a harmonious blending and correlation of parts; impressive style and attractive carriage; graceful and powerful walk."

Dairy character is "Animation, angularity, general openness and freedom from excess fleshing, giving due regard to the period of lactation.

Body capacity is "Relatively large in proportion to the size of the animal, providing ample digestive

capacity, strength and vigor and showing desirable length of body".

Mammary system, is "Strongly attached, well-balanced udder of good quality, indicating ample production and a long period of usefulness".

For Pygmy Goats

General Appearance is "Attractive individuality indicating femininity /masculinity, vigor, strength and healthy condition, with a harmonious blending and correlation of parts; impressive style and attractive carriage, graceful and powerful walk.

Breed Characteristics

Feet and Legs are "Legs strong and well-muscled; wide-apart; squarely set. Forelegs straight, Cannon bone short; hindlegs well-angulated; hooks short; pasterns short, strong and resilient; feet well-shaped, deep heel, level sole; knees and hocks clean. Wide in the escutcheon with legs well apart when viewed from the rear.

Body Capacity

Mammary System in Bucks must have two single, normal, non-functional teats, each with one orifice; and normal testicles; both descended fully and equal in size. Does - Teats symmetrical, cylindrical, functional; each with one orifice, free of obstructions. Udder balanced, firm, rounded and well attached with high wide rear udder and well extended fore udder.

For Angora Goats

Body points are "Size and Weight for Age, Constitution and Vigor, Conformation, Amount of Bone and Angora breed type.

Fleece Points are "Length of Fleece, Uniformity, Character and Completeness of Covering, Luster and

Softness of Fleece, Density of Fleece, and Fineness of Fleece.

Disqualifications

For Dairy

There are a number of defects that may cause the judge to disqualify an animal, such as blindness, serious emaciation, permanent lameness, double teats or other permanent physical defects.

For Angora-Physical

All blue or black horns or hooves, deformed mouth, broken down pasterns, deformed feet, crooked legged (including cow hocks), abnormalities of testicles, close set distorted horns, sway back.

Characteristics of Fleece -Excessive Kemp, colored hair, sheepy fleece, straight beard type hair in fore-top or on back.

How are Classes Judged?

Each class follows a set pattern. As the clerk calls the class, the exhibitors enter the ring leading their animals in a wide circle around the ring. The judge observes the animals as they move by.

Once the clerk announces that all entries are present, the judge begins the mental process of sorting out the animals according to merit. The judge then stops the animals, has them line up, and then proceeds down the line, checking each animal individually for smoothness, skin texture and other qualities that can be detected only by feel. If an animal has defects, this hands-on examination may reveal those as well.

With placings in mind, the judge may ask exhibitors to move into first place, second, third, etc. After the animals are lined up, the judge may still change a placing.

Having completed the process of placing the animals, the judge takes the microphone and gives

reasons for each placing, telling why the animal ahead is superior to the animal behind. While the judge is giving reasons, winning exhibitors receive ribbons and/or trophies.

When grand and reserve champions and Honorable Mention are announced, the exhibitors of the winning animals bring them and their registration papers to the clerk's desk. The judge reads the animal's tattoos (in the ear or tail web) and the show secretary checks to see that they are the same as those on the registration certificate.

What is the Benefit of Showing?

Showing can be a valuable experience. You will have the opportunity to listen to the judge as she or he gives reasons for the placing. Often the judge will be willing to talk with you after the show if you don't understand the placings. You can also talk with the exhibitors and see the animals in their pens.

Besides the memories of the beautiful goats you have seen, we hope you will carry away with you a greater understanding of what makes a truly good goat.

Show Rules?

Visit the Canadian Goat Society's website, www.goats.ca, for the most up to date CGS Show Rules.

Hope we see you in the ring!