CANADIAN GOAT SOCIETY

New Members Guide

Contact the Canadian Goat Society
Box 726
Roblin, Manitoba
R0L 1P0
tel: 639 921-7788 email: info@goats.ca website: https://www.goats.ca

Welcome to the Canadian Goat Society

We appreciate your interest in becoming a member of the Canadian Goat Society and entering the wonderful world of goats.

You have discovered that goats have many assets that can be utilized including milk, mohair, and meat, as well as being used for breeding stock.

This booklet was designed to introduce you to some of the goat breeds and acquaint you with the purposes of the Canadian Goat Society.

The Society is governed by a Board of Directors who are elected by the membership.

The objectives of the Canadian Goat Society are the encouragement, development and regulation of the breeding of registered goats in Canada.

This is done by establishing breed standards and carrying out a system of registration under the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. We keep a record of breeding and origin of all registered goats and by using the data collected from our various programs. We also act as a vehicle for the promotion of goats and goat products in Canada.

On becoming a member you have the opportunity to take advantage of the many programs that the Canadian Goat Society offers. These programs will teach and provide you with some of the best goat management tools to evaluate your herd.

Through milk test and classification you will learn the true value of your animals and how to improve through genetic evaluation. These tools are for your own information so that you can make informative decisions within your herd by selecting a breeding program that is for you.

Through showing your animals in Canadian Goat Society sanctioned shows you will be able to compare your animals with others of the same breed; meet other breeders and make friends for life. Once you have participated in the programs you might want to become a judge and the Society offers an opportunity to do so by providing judges training.

As a member you are entitled to special membership rates on registrations, transfers and other services. You will also have access to the goatgenetics.ca website which is an information resource dedicated to the improvement and promotion of Canadian Goat Genetics. The Members Services area offers secure access to genetic improvement tools to find detailed information on individual goats, for selection of the best goats, and to plan specific matings

You will receive a quarterly Newsletter as well as an annual publication that highlights all of the classification scores, official milk production records, show Grand Champions, special breeder awards, among other pertinent information.

Once again, thank you for becoming Canadian Goat Society member and please take the opportunity to participate in what your membership has to offer.

Types and Breeds of Goats

DAIRY

Alpine The Alpine goat is descended from animals origianally imported from the French Alps. They are a medium to large size breed. Alpines may be any colour or combination of colours, however it is their characteristic colour pattern that makes them easily recognizable - (although Toggenburg colour and markings or all white is discriminated against). They are hardy and thrive in any climate while maintaining excellent production.

LaMancha The LaMancha has unique short ears (elf or gopher), the result of a natural and dominant factor inherited from its Spanish ancestors, Any colour or combination of colour is acceptable. They have excellent production and milk solids

Nubian The Nubian is a large breed with long drooping (pendulous) ears and a very characteristic Roman nose. This breed may be any colour or combination of colours, often spotted. Nubians are known for their rich milk, generally having the highest butterfat content of the standard dairy breeds.

Oberhasli The Nubian is a large breed with ling drooping (pendulous) ears and a very characteristic Roman nose. This breed may be any colour or combination of colours, often spotted. Nubians are known for their rich milk, generally having the highest butterfat content of the dairy breeds.

Saanen One of the largest of the dairy breeds originated in the Saanen Valley of Switzerland. Saanens are all white or cream in colour. They are well known for their high milk production. Their docile temperament makes them an ideal choice for commercial dairies

Toggenburg This animal originates from the Toggenburg Valley in Switzerland. Toggenburgs tend to be overall the smallest of the standard dairy breeds. They are recognized by their colour of light to dark chocolate brown with white facial stripes and lower legs and a white triangle under the tail. Their smaller size does not preclude these animals from being heavy milkers.

FIBRE

Angora These makers of mohair came from and were named after Ankara, the Turkish province where they have thrived for centuries. Angoras are shorn twice a year and produce a very soft fibre known as mohair. They are white in colour. They are very adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions.

MINIATURE

Nigerian Dwarf The Nigerian is a miniature dairy goat. They have erect ears and a straight face and can be any colour combination. A very productive goat in relation to their miniature size, known for multiple births.

Pygmy Pygmies are originally from Africa. They are hardy, good natured and responsive animals. On average they stand about 20” tall when they are full grown. Their size makes them an easy maintenance animal and they make excellent pets. For a small family one or two could provide enough milk for the table. Their well-muscled carcass provides excellent quality meat.

Classification

Type classification is an appraisal of the conformation of an animal by a Canadian Goat Society trained classifier who classifies animals across Canada for the Canadian Goat Society.

Animals who classify Good Plus, Very Good and Excellent are above the average for the breed and should be the seed stock of the future. Those classified Good, are useful animals that can be bred to top sires to raise improved daughters. Those classified as Fair may be good milkers but are not recommended as herd builders.

Classification	Designation	Score Range
Excellent	EX	90 - 100
Very Good	VG	85 - 89
Good Plus	GP	80 - 84
Good	G	75 - 79
Fair	F	68 - 74
Poor	P	below 65

The Canadian Goat Society Classification program is designed to help breeders identify both strengths and weaknesses in individual animals for the purpose of overall herd improvement.

Unlike attending a show where individual animals are compared to one another, Classification is the comparison of the individual animal and its parts to the ideal for that breed.

Improving the overall conformation of an animal has economic benefits, as good conformation has a direct relationship with productivity, longevity, and disease resistance. Three of the most frequent reasons animals are removed from the herd include; reproductive problems, feet and leg problems, and mastitis/high somatic cell counts. Appraising animals in their first lactation offers herd owners an early indication of where an animal has structural weaknesses that may translate into diminished functionality later in life.

Data from the Classification program is uploaded to the goatgenetics.ca website. CGS members have free access to this website and can access it to view genetic evaluations on animals that have participated in this program.

Benefits to Classifying Your Animals

- Early culling tool that identifies problem animals
- Insight into possible management changes
- Consultation with an objective/unbiased trained expert who sees several farms and animals across Canada
- Opportunity to select the best does in the herd to work towards overall herd improvement
- Provides information to help select the optimal sire to mate to each doe
- Classification allows herd owners to benchmark their goats in comparison to the national population and trends.

Milk Recording Programs

If you are interested in knowing any of the following:

- How much milk your favorite doe milked in a year (officially)
- What was her butterfat?
- What was her protein?
- How does her production compare to the rest of the does in your herd?
- How well do her daughters milk in comparison to her?
- How much butterfat and protein did they produce in comparison to her?
- How much milk your favorite doe milked in a year (officially)
- How much milk your herd sire contributed to the amounts of milk, butterfat, and protein.
- What would be the lifetime amount of milk she would produce?
- What was her lactation curve over 305 days in milk?

Well, here is how you get the answer to these questions and more....

• The Canadian Goat Society offers two options for members wanting to take advantage of an official milk test program

CGS One-Day Milk Test Program

The One-Day (*M) CGS Official Milk Test Program is designed to allow the herd-owner to obtain information regarding the production and component qualities of their herd based on a single one-day milk test.

The volume of milk produced over the 24 hour test period, along with the lab analysis for butterfat and protein are measured for each female on test. Points are awarded based on the age of the doe, the number of days in milk, volume of milk, and butterfat content in the milk sample. Two different scales are used to determine if a doe will qualify for a *M certificate - one for the standard breeds and another for the Nigerian Dwarf breed. Animals qualifying for the required points based on the *M scale will be awarded a *M certificate and are published in a CGS publication that is circulated to all members.

CGS 305-Day Milk Test Program

The 305-Day Milk Test Program offers a more comprehensive and in depth picture of a does production as it is a measurement over a period of time, rather than a single 24 hour time period.

Herds on the 305-Day Milk Test are required to milk twice a day every day for a minimum of 240 days. During that time, the herd owner has the option to do either 6 or 8 test days (which are done at specific intervals). Similiar to the One-Day Milk test, the volume of milk produced for each doe is measured, and samples are sent from each animal to a specified lab for analysis of butterfat and protein. In this program points are awarded for the total volume of milk produced and the kg of butterfat. Does meeting the requirements (based on their age) for either volume of milk +/or kg of butterfat qualify for a *P award and are published in a CGS publication that is circulated to all members.

Let's Go to the Show

How Shows are Organized

Shows are organized 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, Nubian, Oberhasli, Saanen, Toggenburg and Nigerian Dwarf. The Pygmy breed is a miniature breed which has its own score card. The Angora breed also has its own scorecard and is judged on body and fleece.

Not all breeds may be present at every show. When lower entries are expected in a certain breeds, shows combine two or more breeds into a division called All Other Purebred. Another division found at many shows is Recorded Grade. This division allows does less than 87.5% pure to show. At 87.5%, these does are not allowed to compete in the Purebred classes. Within each breed, does and bucks are shown separately and are divided into age classes. This allows each animal to compete against others of its own breed and approximate age.

What is the Judge looking for?

The Judge is looking for the animal that most closely conforms to the Scorecard for that breed. All Judges at a CGS Sanctioned show have participated in a CGS Judge's Licensing Conference and have met the requirements to be awarded a CGS Licensed Judges status. Judges have been educated and trained to know the breed standards for the breeds they are licensed for and follow a standardized scorecard that has been approved by CGS. CGS sanctioned Judges require separate licenses to judge Dairy, Pygmy, and Angora goats.

Before you go to the show . . .

There are a few very important things you need to do and have in order before you head off to the show.

Make sure that the animal you want to show is registered and that you have their registration paper on hand at the show or, in the case of an animal registered online, have a paper copy or a screen shot of the application.

Animals under the age of six months of age who's registration certifcates have been applied for but not yet received, require a copy of the application for registration to be presented at the show.

Make sure that the tattoo in the ear of the animal you wish to show matches their registration papers exactly.

What are the benefits of showing . . .

Shows are a great opportunity to meet fellow goat breeders, to listen and learn from the Judge as they place the classes and hear their reasons for doing so, and to see other animals and broaden your perspectives. Judges are often willing to speak with you after the show has concluded if you have questions and this can be a valuable learning experince.

Networking with fellow breeders, making new friendships, and stepping back and observing experienced show persons are other benefits.

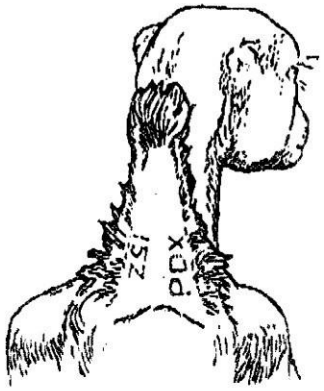
Goat Weight Chart

Below is a weight chart put out by Purina to estimate with a reasonable degree of accuracy the weight of your goat. If you have no large animal scales, here is one method of getting the weight of your animal for such things as administering medications, selling meat kids by weight, and tracking rate of gain. Use an ordinary cloth measuring tape, or even a flexible metal one around the body just in back of the front legs.

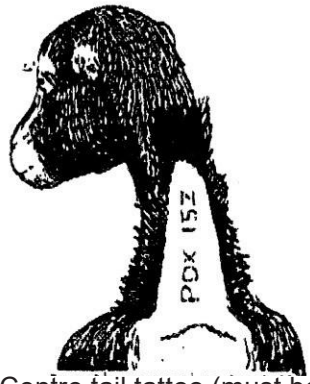
Inches	Cm	Pounds	Kilograms	Inches	Cm	Pound	Kilograms
10 ¾	27.3	5	2.27	26 ¾	67.9	66	29.93
11 ¼	28.6	5 ½	2.49	27 ¼	69.2	69	31.29
11 ¾	29.9	6	2.73	27 ¾	70.5	72	32.65
12 ¼	31.1	6 ½	2.95	28 ¼	71.7	75	34.01
12 ¾	32.4	7	3.17	28 ¾	73.0	78	35.37
13 ¼	33.7	8	3.63	29 ¼	74.3	81	36.73
13 ¾	34.9	9	4.08	29 ¾	75.6	84	38.10
14 ¼	36.2	10	4.54	30 ¼	76.8	87	39.46
14 ¾	37.5	11	4.99	30 ¾	78.0	90	40.82
15 ¼	38.7	12	5.44	31 ¼	79.4	93	42.18
15 ¾	40.0	13	5.90	31 ¾	80.7	97	44.00
16 ¼	41.3	15	6.80	32 ¼	81.9	101	45.80
16 ¾	42.7	17	7.71	32 ¾	83.2	105	47.62
17 ¼	43.8	19	8.62	33 ¼	84.5	110	49.89
17 ¾	45.1	21	9.52	33 ¾	85.7	115	52.15
18 ¼	46.4	23	10.43	34 ¼	87.0	120	54.52
18 ¾	47.6	25	11.34	34 ¾	88.3	125	56.69
19 ¼	48.9	27	12.24	35 ¼	89.5	130	58.96
19 ¾	50.2	29	13.15	35 ¾	90.8	135	61.22
20 ¼	51.4	31	14.06	36 ¼	92.1	140	63.49
20 ¾	52.7	33	14.97	36 ¾	93.4	145	65.76
21 ¼	53.9	35	15.87	37 ¼	94.6	150	68.08
21 ¾	55.3	37	16.78	37 ¾	95.9	155	70.29
22 ¼	56.5	39	17.69	38 ¼	97.2	160	72.56
22 ¾	57.8	42	19.5	38 ¾	98.4	165	74.83
23 ¼	89.1	45	20.41	39 ¼	99.7	170	77.10
23 ¾	60.3	48	21.77	39 ¾	101.0	175	79.37
24 ¼	61.6	51	23.13	40 ¼	102.2	180	81.63
24 ¾	62.9	54	24.49	40 ¾	103.5	185	83.90
25 ¼	64.1	57	25.85	41 ¼	104.8	190	86.17
25 ¾	65.4	60	27.21	41 ¾	106.1	195	88.44
26 ¼	66.7	63	28.57				

CGS Recommended Way to Tattoo

Tattoo.... The Right Way!

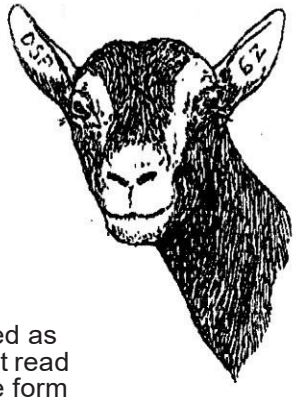


Traditional LaMancha tail web tattoo R-PDX L-15Z



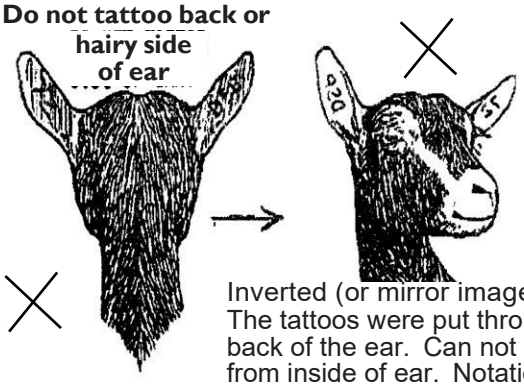
Centre tail tattoo (must be noted as CT on registration paper & must read left to right as it appears on the form ie. PDX 15Z is not the same as 15z PDX. (CT PDX 15Z)

Preferred correct tattoo. Herd letters right ear, number and year left ear

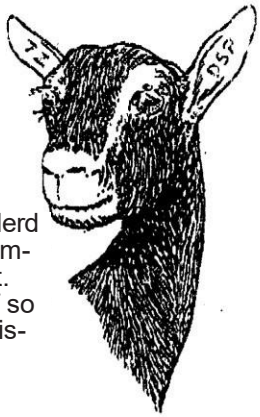


NOTE that tattoos must appear in the ears or tail <u>exactly</u> as they appear on the registration certificate

Do not tattoo back or hairy side of ear

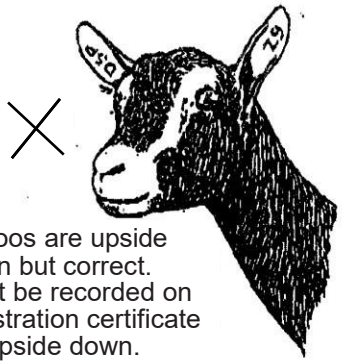


Inverted (or mirror image) tattoos. The tattoos were put through the back of the ear. Can not be read from inside of ear. Notation required on registration certificate.

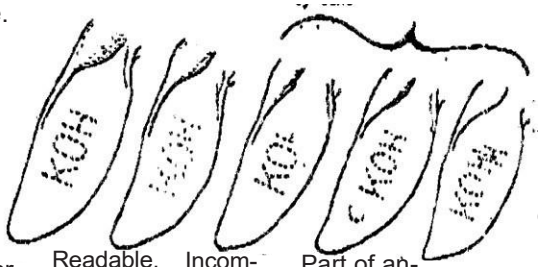


Tattoos switched. Herd letters in left ear, number and year in right. This is acceptable if so recorded on the registration certificate. (R- 72 L-DSP)

These tattoos would invalidate a show win unless problem was noted in the registration certificate



Tattoos are upside down but correct. Must be recorded on registration certificate as upside down.



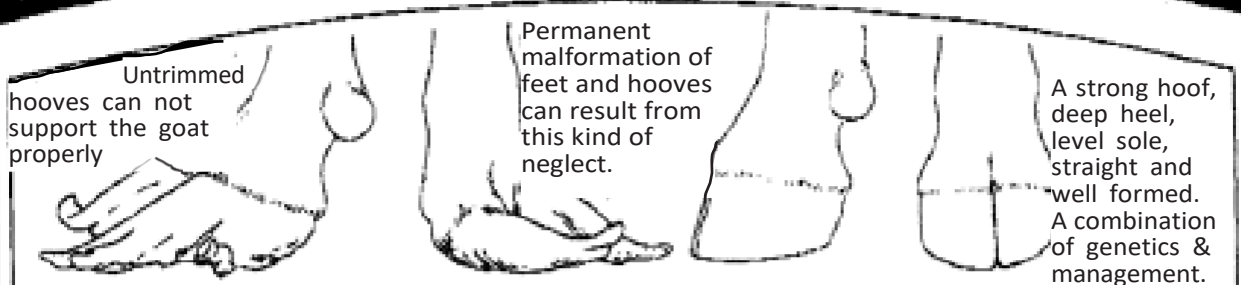
Double tattoo mjust be noted on registration certificate

Clear	Readable, but fading. Consider apply for permission to re-tattoo	Incomplete due to fading. Apply to CLRC to re-tattoo	Part of another tattoo visible. This must be noted on the registration certificate

ILLUSTRATIONS BY C. Dillon ©1996 (CLINTON MURRAY)

HOOF TRIMMING

BY LINDA DYDE, ©1996



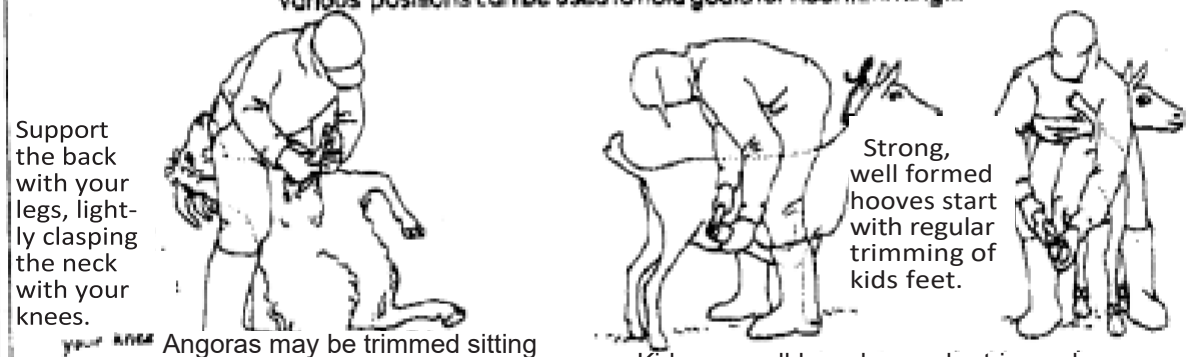
Untrimmed hooves can not support the goat properly

Permanent malformation of feet and hooves can result from this kind of neglect.

A strong hoof, deep heel, level sole, straight and well formed. A combination of genetics & management.

Hoof trimming is one of the most neglected of chores, yet vitaly important for the well-being of our goats. The hooves must be strong to bear the weight of the goat, its milk and kids it may be carrying. Overgrown hooves cann lead to permanent structural damage to the hooves, feet, and legs. Dirt, manure, and bacteria trapped in untrimmed hooves can develop into nasty diseases and infections. Monthly hoof trimming will prevent these disasters from occuring!

Various positions can be used to hold goats for hoof trimming...



Support the back with your legs, lightly clasping the neck with your knees.

your knee

Angoras may be trimmed sitting on their rumps, and supported by your legs, as with sheep.

your legs, as with sheep.

Strong, well formed hooves start with regular trimming of kids feet.

Kids or small breeds may be trimmed by clasping the body with your legs as you pick up their feet in turn.

Dairy and meat goats are more amenable when held or tied while standing braced against a wall or fence. Pick up each foot and hold it between your legs while trimming the hooves. Take care not to stretch the leg out too far to the back or side so as to be uncomfortable for the goat.

Take care not to stretch the leg out too far to the back or side so as to be uncomfortable for the goat.

Symbolism

As a member of CGS you will see symbols next to animals names in publications and on the goatgenetics.ca website. Please use the guide below to help explain what each of these symbols mean.

BUCKS – The *S designation is acquired by a buck of any age, provided that his sire is a *S or +S or ++S, and his dam must have earned her *P or *M award. This symbol does not necessarily mean that the buck is a superior animal. It recognizes that the parents met minimum star requirements. The +S prefix is awarded to a buck who has sired at least five daughters (out of at least three different dams) who have earned their *M or *P award, with at least 3.25% butterfat. A second “plus” is awarded when a buck has sired three sons who have earned their own +S, as described above.

DOES – A *M certificate is conferred upon a doe who successfully meets or exceeds the minimum production level for her age group at a One Day Milking Competition. At this type of test, a doe is milk out 12 hours before the first official test, and then twice twelve hours apart. The milk is weighed and samples taken for butter fat analyzed. The age at time of test and stage of lactation are taken into account in the calculating procedure.

The *P award is given to does who successfully complete a 305 day lactation under official DHI testing procedures, meeting or exceeding the minimum production standards for her age group. The entire herd must be enrolled in the official program. The herd is tested morning and evening, for the duration of the lactation. Again, butterfat samples are taken. Does may qualify for their *P on the basis of either milk production of butterfat levels or both. The 305-day testing procedure certainly provides a more accurate picture of a doe’s ability to produce. The 305-day program is the most useful method of milk testing for genetic evaluations. A number in front of a milking award is not official, but is generally accepted in Canadian advertising to indicate the number of generations I unbroken maternal line have earned their * awards. Hence, a doe who is a *P may have a daughter who may be referred to as a 2*P if she also earns a milk production award. The qualifying granddaughter may then be referred to as a 3 *P, and so on. It does not indicate any higher production, but rather pays tribute to a strong milking line of does.

The CH (Permanent Champion) designation is awarded to does and bucks who have earned three championship legs at a CGS sanctioned show, under at least two different licensed judges. The title Permanent Grand Champion (GCH) is accorded to a doe which has become a Permanent Champion and which also merits one of the milk production awards. A doe requires a *M or *P. A buck must have acquired a +S to earn the title of Permanent Grand Champion (GCH)

CLASSIFICATION scores are often appended to an animal’s name in advertising or conversation. Type Classification is an objective analysis of conformation conducted by officials retained by the Canadian Goat Society.