CANADIAN GOAT SOCIETY

JUDGE'S LICENSING MANUAL

2026

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CGS Judge's Licensing Manual

Judge Licensing Conference Information

The following information is provided to improve the learning experience and to increase the success of candidates at Judge Licensing Conferences (JLC). This information provides direction to what information is essential in becoming a CGS licensed judge. It is expected that each participant studies all material within the JLC Manual, Show Rules, and JLC Policies and Procedures Manual prior to the JLC. You will be expected to be well-versed in all these topics.

Preparation and Scheduling
You will be expected to be present for the full two days of the face to face conference. The sessions last until about 5 PM each day. Please make your travel arrangements accordingly. The required prerequisite online learning package must be completed within 30 days prior to the JLC and may be completed up to 6 months in advance of the JLC.

Questions
The panel and Coordinator are there to help you. Please contact the JLC Coordinator or the office for assistance.

Written Exam
The written test is open book and all full candidates must complete the exam within 30 days prior to the event. Auditors attending the JLC who want to pursue a Judge's License will be permitted to write the exam after the event, (once the full candidate fee has been paid). In order to proceed to the next steps; you must attain at least an average of 75%, and will be permitted to pass if only one of the six sections (Score Card, Parts of the Goats, General Disqualifications, Defects, Show Rules and General Categories) scored between 70-74%. The exam is a way to determine whether you have the necessary knowledge to be able to judge classes.

Judging at the JLC
You will be asked to place classes of animals and give reasons both in front of other conference participants and in front of the panel, who will score your reasons. Microphones will not be used to project your voice, so you should be prepared to speak loudly enough to be clearly heard and understood.

Class placings will be scored using the Hormel System. Hormel scoring is a system to score classes developed by George Hormel Company, as per "*How to Score Livestock Judging Cards*": "*Official Placing and Cuts: Each placing class will have an official placing, to which all placing cards will be compared. Included in the official placing are "cuts" or deductions of points for placings not in agreement with the official placing. Cuts are assigned to each of the three pairs and the deduction is based on the difficulty of the placing as determined by the officials (see below). A cut represents the number of points that will be lost by the contestant if that particular pair is switched in comparison to the official placing. The smaller the cut value assigned by officials, the more difficult the placing. The sum value of the three cuts may not exceed 15 points, and no individual cut may exceed eight points.*

Values Cut Type of Decision
1-2 points - Difficult
3-4 points - Challenging, but sortable 5-6
points - Relatively easy
7-8 points - Extremely easy." [1]

[1] Bryan A. Reiling, Extension Youth Livestock Specialist, University of Nebraska, *How to Score Livestock Judging Cards*

Giving oral reasons
Reasons are a critical component of the licensing process and judging shows. The majority of candidates who are unsuccessful at passing a JLC struggle to give adequate reasons that are correctly organized and presented. Please pay particular attention to the parts of the manual that address reasons and proper terminology, which you will be expected to use. You must **compare** the animals and not simply describe them. Practice, practice, practice!

Appropriate Attire
If you are a candidate for a JLC, you are asked to dress professionally throughout the conference (environment and weather conditions permitting). It is recommended that, when you will be giving oral reasons to the panel, you dress as you would to judge a show. Khakis, business casual, or similar is acceptable attire. Please avoid wearing jeans, shorts, sandals, flip flops, tank tops, spaghetti straps, baseball caps, etc. When in doubt, dress up instead of dressing down!

The Canadian Goat Society expects judges to maintain a high level of professionalism at all times.

Study Tips

To succeed at passing the JLC, there is no substitute for the experience of working with animals. The scorecards should be "second nature" to you and you should be able to apply them accurately when selecting animals for placement. In addition, a strong mental image of the characteristics of the ideal animal should be well in mind. The Classification Manual has additional diagrams of ideal traits and you may wish to review this as well. However, diagrams and information from the classification manual will not be on the exam.

Before you begin assessing and comparing animals, you must learn all the body parts shown on the official diagram. You will be given a diagram without the names of the parts shown on the exam. These will be numbered and you will be asked to fill in the right names beside the corresponding number.

Some of the other drawings will be handled similarly on the written exam, so **be sure to study all of the diagrams in this booklet carefully.**

To learn the defects and be able to write down their degree of seriousness quickly, without getting yourself confused, consider practicing this way:

- Take a package of 3" x 5" index cards. On one side of a card, write a defect such as "close in the hocks". On the reverse side of the card, write SS or Slight to Serious.
- Make a "Flashcard" for every single defect. Once you've done this, shuffle the deck and read each defect and see if you can say which section it falls into. After you've decided the answer, turn the card over to see if you are right. If you are wrong, put that card aside for further study. Keep practicing with your deck of flashcards until you can correctly identify the degree of every defect. When you can do that, you'll be ready for that section of the exam.

If you practice your defects in this manner, you'll be able to quickly evaluate the seriousness of defects, making your job as a judge much easier.

Show Rules

Read and study the 2026 CGS Show Rules, Doe, Buck and Showmanship score cards. These are essential information for candidates at the JLC and judges at shows. You should know this information in detail and from memory. Please remember to bring your JLC Package to the JLC.

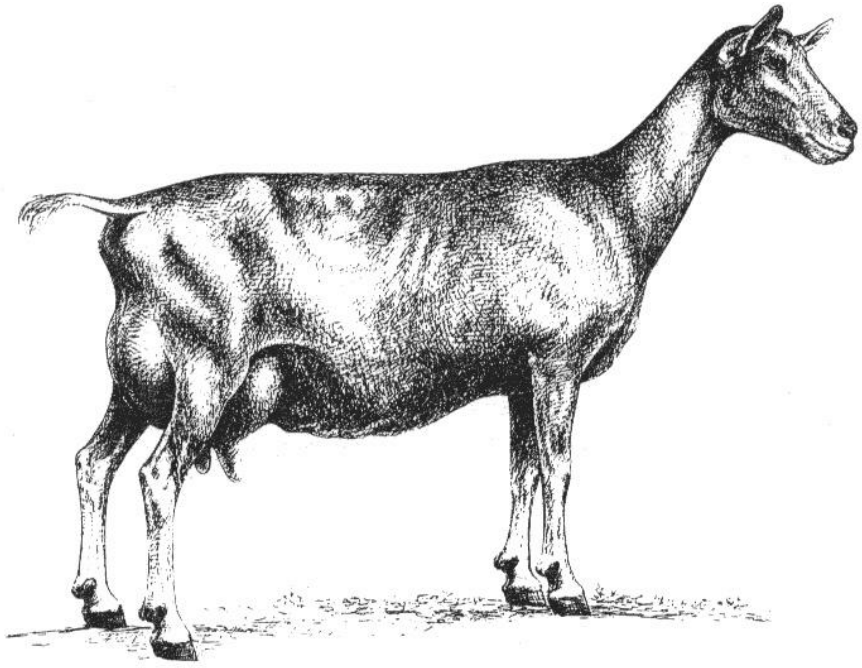
Report of Awards (ROA)

You will be required to know how to complete a Report of Awards. The Show Rules contains directions for completion of the ROA. If you do not have experience completing a Report of Awards and would like a blank copy to practice, you can contact the office.

Dairy Goat Appearance

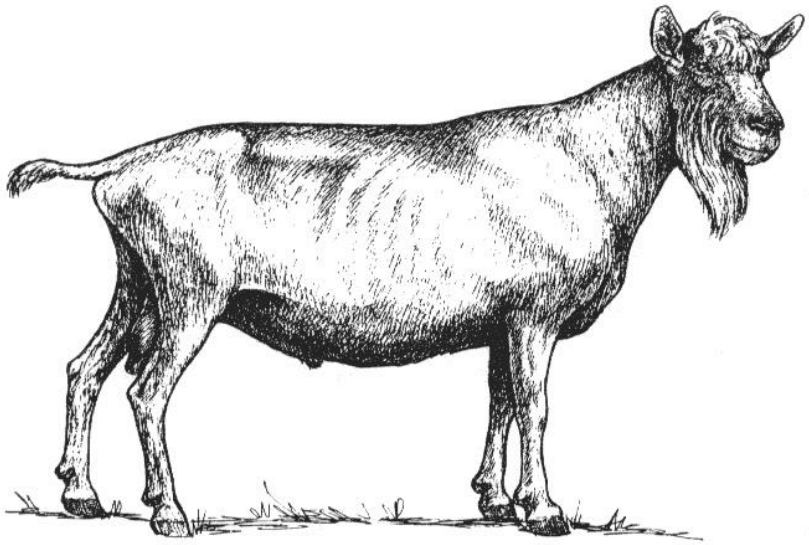
DOE

Figure 1



BUCK

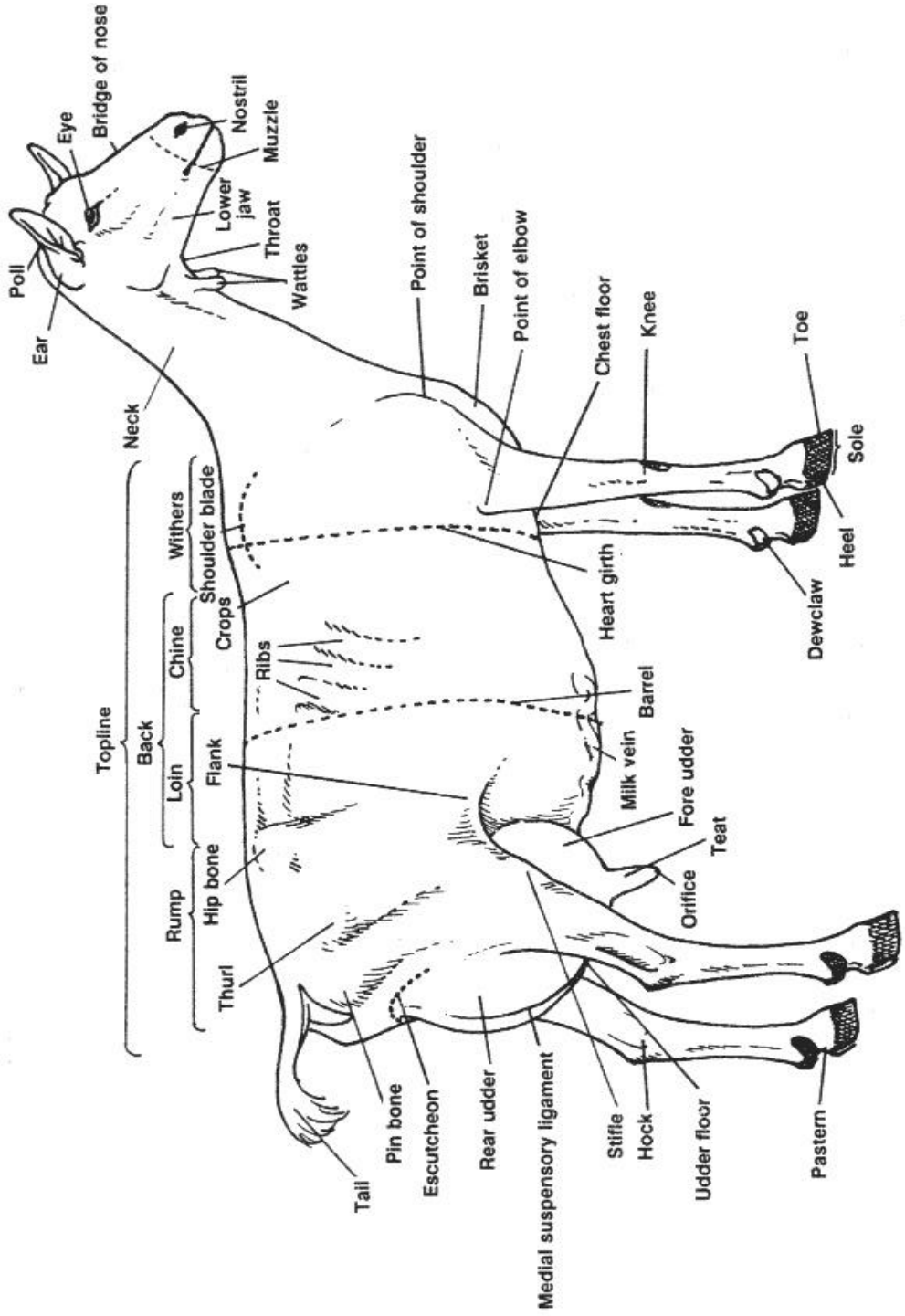
Figure 2



Parts of the Goat

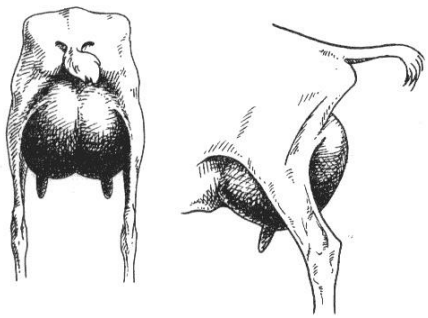
EXTERIOR ANATOMY OF A DAIRY GOAT

Figure 3



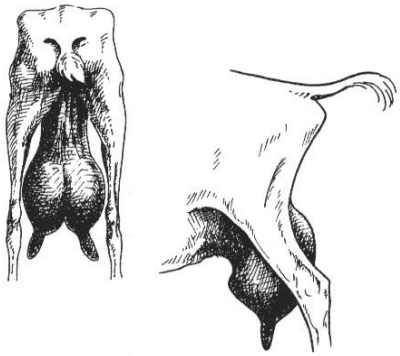
UDDERS

Figure 4



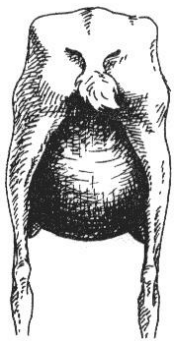
A desirable udder is tightly attached on the sides and high and wide at the rear, suspended from a wide escutcheon. Note the smooth blending of the fore-udder with the body.

Figure 5



This pendulous udder is lacking in overall area of attachment. The narrow rear attachment combined with the pocketed fore- udder leaves this mammary at risk for injury and infection.

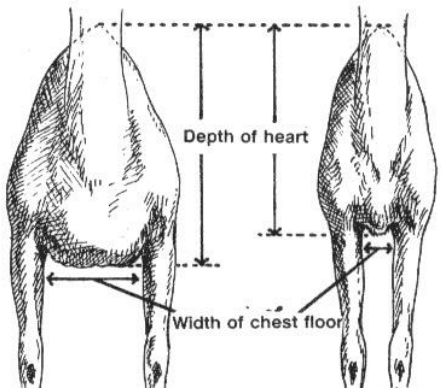
Figure 6



A weak medial ligament lets the whole udder fall down at the center, leaving no division between the halves; the teats point up and sideways and the rear attachment is giving way under the strain.

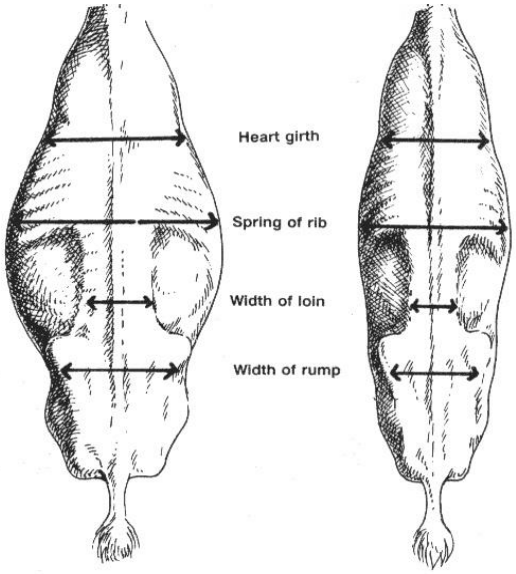
BODY

Figure 7



Care should be taken to note the width of the floor rather than the distance between the front legs. A wide chest floor is preferred.

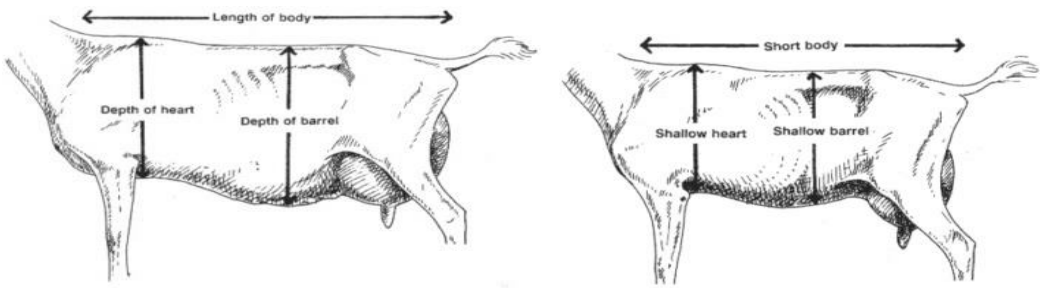
Figure 8



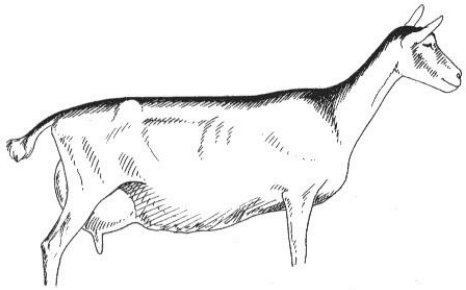
The figure on the left is preferable. An animal should be wide throughout

TOPLINES

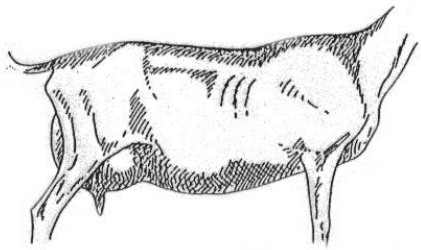
Figures 9 & 10



Figures 11 & 12



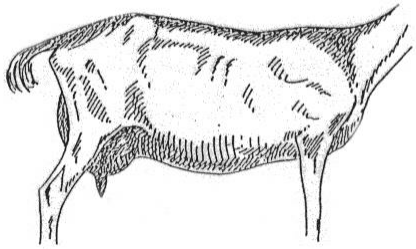
Strong Topline A



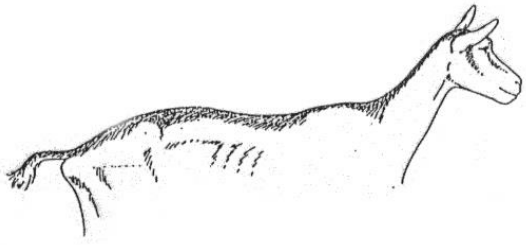
Weak Chine

strong topline is preferred.

Figures 13 & 14 (Defects)



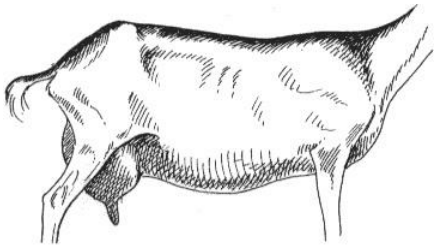
High in the Hips



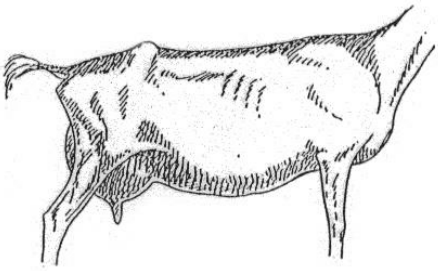
Roached Loin

Both high in the hips and a roached loin are undesirable.

Figures 15 & 16 (Defects)



Steep Rump

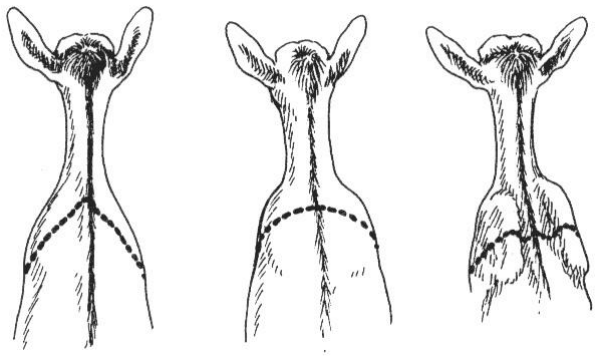


Weak Loin

A steep rump and weak loin are discriminated against.

SHOULDERS

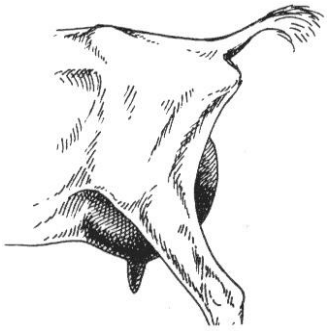
Figure 17



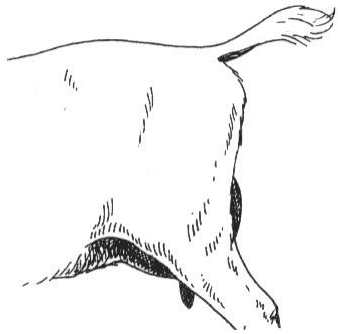
Sharp (Preferred) Meaty Loose

HIPS

Figures 18 & 19



Sharp and angular: Thigh free of excess fleshing and incurving.



Thigh is full and rounded indicating coarseness and fleshing.

Angularity contributes to dairy strength. Animals should be free from excess flesh without being emaciated.

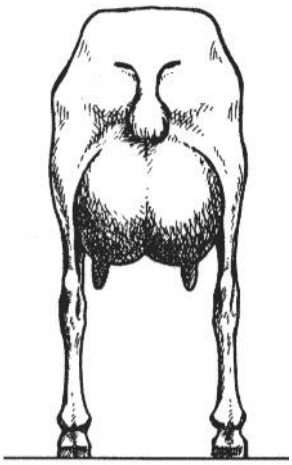
RIBS

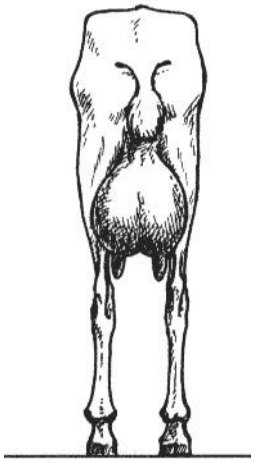
Figures 20 & 21

Ideal ribs are wide and flat, being set well apart indicating dairyness, strength and length of body.

An example of "pencil ribs". This animal lacks bone and dairyness

REAR LEGS (VIEWED FROM BEHIND)



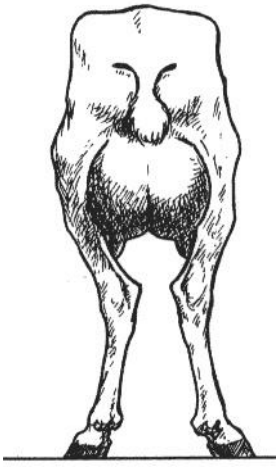


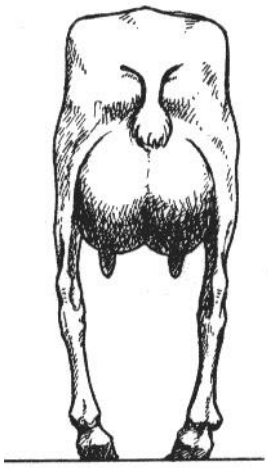
Figures 22 & 23

Ideal rear legs are straight when viewed from the rear. This allows ease of movement and ample room for the mammary system.

With a narrow leg set, there is insufficient room for the mammary system.

Figures 24 & 25



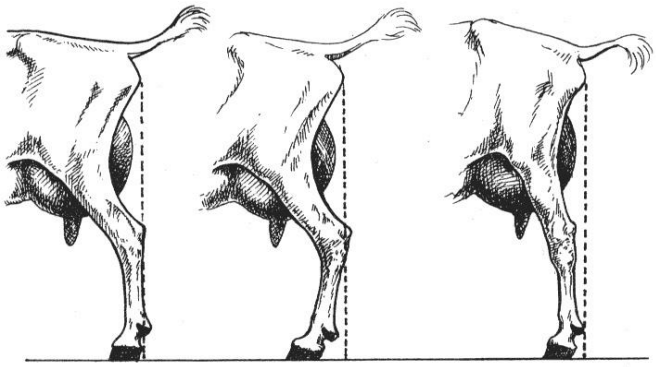


Goat hocks leave little space between the hocks for the udder, and cause stress on the stifle joints. Goat hocks are discriminated against.

Bowed rear legs are often the result of the inner toe being deeper than the outer toe. Bowed rear legs are discriminated against.

REAR LEG SET (VIEWED FROM THE SIDE)

Figure 26



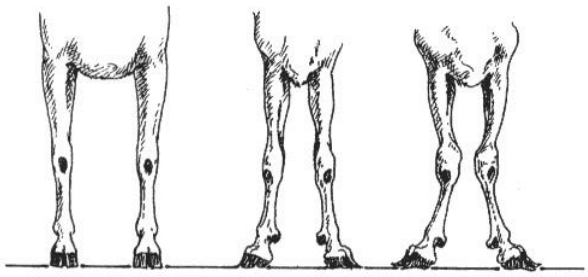
A vertical line from the pins should follow the rear leg to the ground

A sickled leg causes stress to the pastern.

A posty leg causes undue stress on the stifle and hock joints.

FRONT LEGS

Figure 27

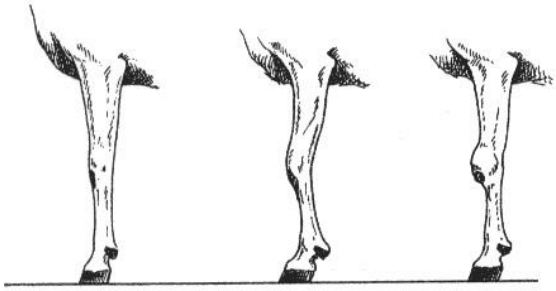


Squarely set with toes pointing directly forward.

Straight legs, but toes out starting at point of elbow.

Crooked legs, toes out from the knee down.

Figure 28



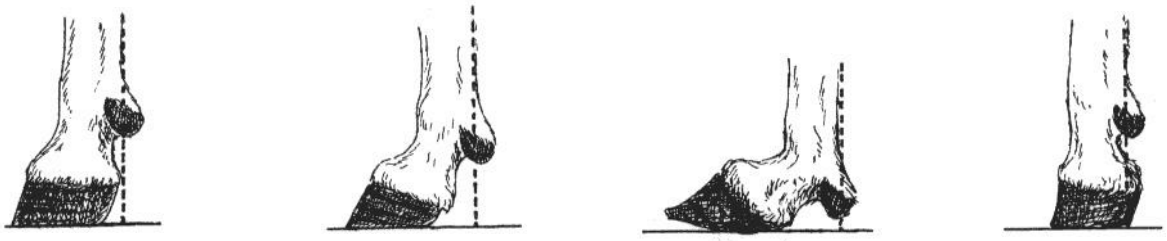
Straight and correct.

Bowed over knee.

Straight, but with enlarged knee.

FEET

Figure 29



Strong with correct slope. | Shallow heel. | Broken pastern | Knuckled-over

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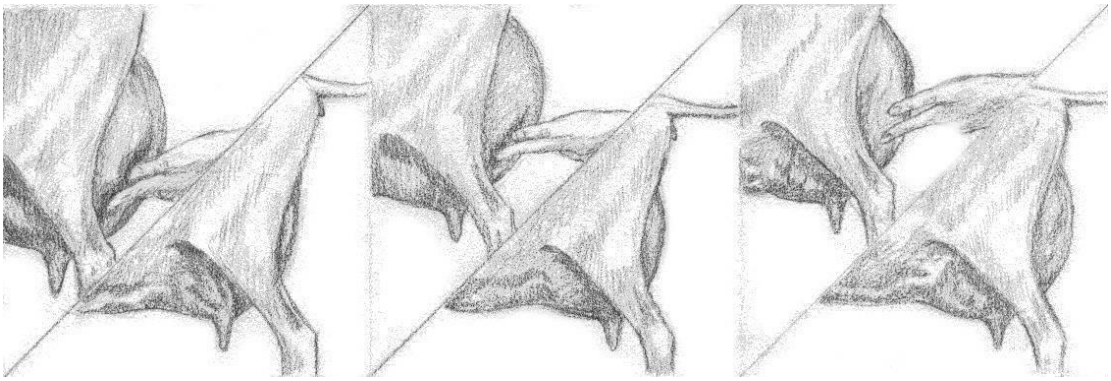
UDDER TEXTURE BEFORE/AFTER MILKING

Figure 30

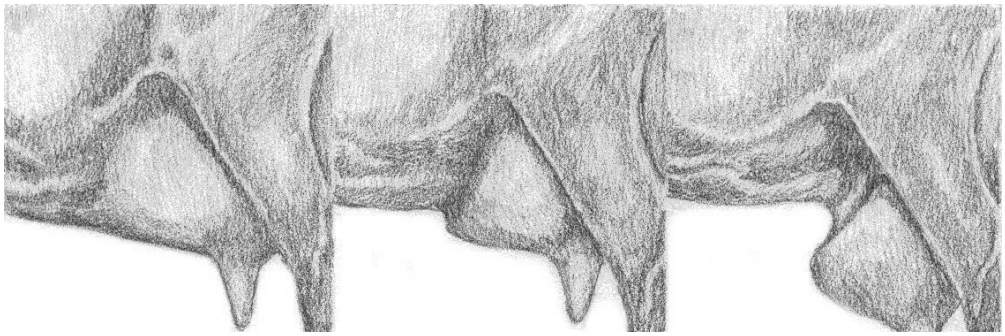


Desirable | Moderate | Undesirable

Fleshy udders that do not decrease in size when milked out or carry excessive flesh are undesirable. The udder should be soft, pliable, elastic, and well collapsed after milking.

UDDER FORE ATTACHMENT

Figure 31

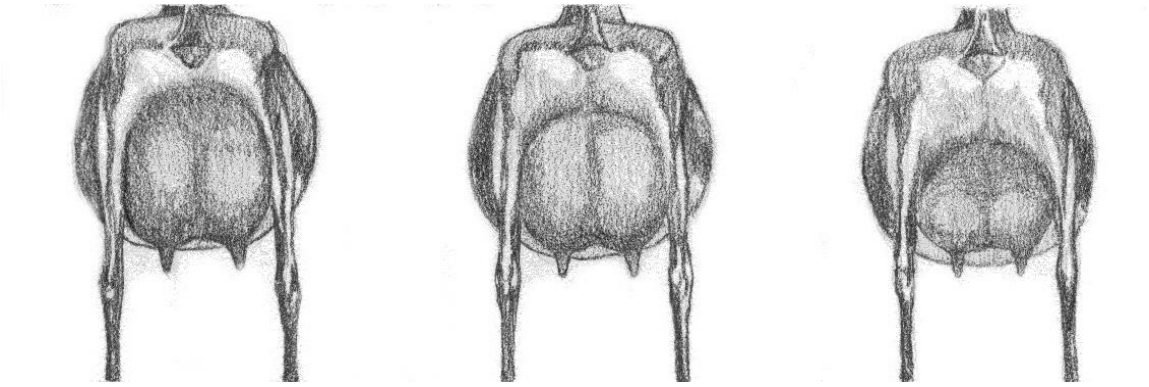


Smooth Blended | Pocket | Broken

The fore udder should be tightly attached, wide, and long, blending smoothly into the body and extending well forwards onto the abdominal wall. It should be noted that a doe with a bulgy fore udder does not necessarily have a weak fore attachment.

UDDER REAR ATTACHMENT

Figure 32



High Medium Low

The measurement is the distance between the base of the vulva and the top of the milk secreting tissue. A high rear attachment is preferred.

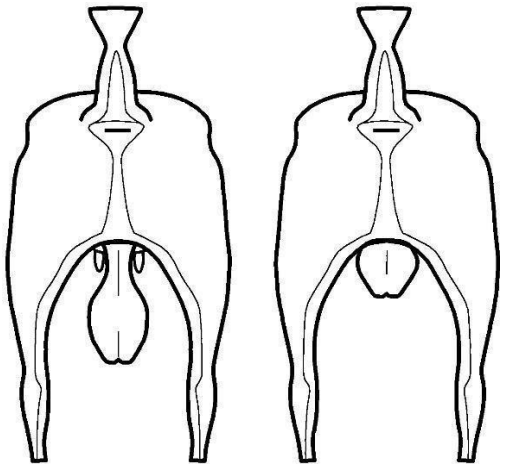
NOTES

Genitalia (male only)

Relatively large, symmetrical and balanced. Free from abnormal and extra teats. Strongly attached scrotum, without excess division. Firm, even testes.

NORMAL TESTICLES IN ADULT BUCKS

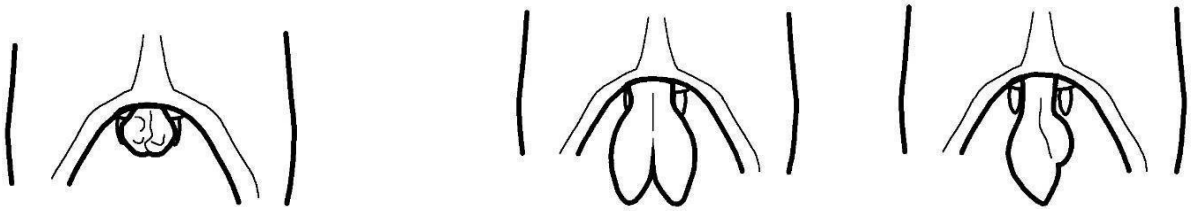
Figure 33A



Normal testicles vary considerably throughout the year, depending on the buck's readiness for breeding. During the height of breeding activity, testicles may be 25-30% larger than during the non-breeding period. Testicles may be held closer to the body in cool temperatures, further away when the weather is hot. The two glands may be held at different heights at times. Healthy testicles are indicated by firm, springy texture free from scar tissue or infection, and a fairly close equality in size between glands.

ABNORMAL TESTICLES IN ADULT BUCKS

FIGURE 33B



Undersized or underdeveloped testicles may indicate a hormonal insufficiency for breeding purposes. A buck's testicles are frequently fully developed by the time he is four or five months old. Scar tissue, or hard lumps felt in the texture, would indicate sterility caused by an infection or freezing.

A scrotum divided for more than a third of its depth is discriminated against because of the chance of infection caused by debris lodged in the cleft.

Occasionally one of the buck's testicles will not descend into the scrotal sac, but remain in the abdomen. Not only will this cause reduced fertility, but the condition is heritable and causes problems when trying to castrate buck kids. A scrotum in which one of the glands is absent or less than half the size of the other is a disqualification for breeding bucks.

CGS SCORECARD FOR DOES

(NOTE: Junior does to be judged on 65 point scorecard - not including mammary system score)

GENERAL APPEARANCE — TOTAL 35 POINTS

Attractive individuality indicating femininity, vigor and strength with a harmonious blending and correlation of parts; impressive style and attractive carriage; graceful and powerful walk.

STYLE	Graceful appearance; smoothness of blending throughout, especially the shoulder blades which should be set smoothly against the chest wall and withers; full in the crops.	**5**
BREED TYPE & HEAD	Appropriate for the breed.	**5**
BACK	The back strong and appearing straight; chine & loin broad, strong and nearly level.	**5**
RUMP	Long and wide, nearly level from hips to pins and thurl to thurl; hips wide and level with the back; pin bones wide apart, nearly level and well-defined; tail head set slightly above & neatly between the pin bones; tail symmetrical with the body.	**8**
FEET& LEGS	Legs wide apart, squarely set; bone flat and flinty; tendons well defined. Pasterns of medium length, strong & with some spring. Feet pointed forward with close toes, deep heel and level sole. Forelegs straight with clean knees. Hind legs nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern when viewed from the side; high and wide in the escutcheon with legs straight and well apart when viewed from the rear. Hocks clean.	**12**

DAIRY CHARACTER — TOTAL 15 POINTS

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

	Neck long and lean. Throat clean. Withers well defined and wedge shaped, rising above the shoulder blades. Ribs wide apart, bone wide, flat and long. Flank deep with arch well defined. Thighs incurving to flat when viewed from the side. Loose, pliable skin with fine hair.	**15**

BODY CAPACITY — TOTAL 15 POINTS

Relatively large in proportion to the size of the animal, providing ample digestive capacity, strength and vigour and showing desirable length of body.

	Width throughout beginning with the head and carried through the chine and loin. Barrel deep and strongly supported, ribs well sprung with depth and width tending to increase towards the flank. Heart deep and wide with well sprung foreribs; chest floor wide; fullness at the point of elbow.	**15**

MAMMARY SYSTEM — TOTAL 35 POINTS

A strongly attached, well-balanced udder of good quality, indicating ample production and a long period of usefulness

MEDIAL SUSPENSORY LIGAMENT & CLOSELY RELATED TRAITS			**15**
	Ligament strong & well defined, udder floor carried above hocks	**5**	
	Shape, balanced and well rounded	**4**	
	Texture, soft & pliable, free of scar tissue, well collapsed after milking	**4**	
	Teat placement, well apart, squarely set & plumb	**2**	
FORE UDDER	Carried well forward, tightly attached without pocket, wide, blending smoothly into the body & indicating capacity.		**8**
REAR UDDER	High, wide & smooth, securely attached in the escutcheon, and indicating capacity.		**8**
TEATS	Uniform, of correct length and circumference, cylindrical in shape, well delineated.		**4**

TOTAL 100

CGS SCORECARD FOR BUCKS

GENERAL APPEARANCE — TOTAL 54 POINTS

Attractive individuality indicating masculinity, vigor and strength with a harmonious blending and correlation of parts; impressive style and attractive carriage; graceful and powerful walk.

STYLE	Graceful appearance; smoothness of blending throughout, especially the shoulder blades which should be set smoothly against the chest wall and withers; full in the crops.	**8**
BREED TYPE & HEAD	Appropriate for the breed.	**8**
BACK	The back strong and appearing straight; chine & loin broad, strong and nearly level.	**8**
RUMP	Long and wide, nearly level from hips to pins and thurl to thurl; hips wide and level with the back; pin bones wide apart, nearly level and well-defined; tail head set slightly above & neatly between the pin bones; tail symmetrical with the body.	**10**
FEET& LEGS	Legs wide apart, squarely set; bone flat and flinty; tendons well defined. Pasterns of medium length, strong & with some spring. Feet pointed forward with close toes, deep heel and level sole. Forelegs straight with clean knees. Hind legs nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern when viewed from the side; high and wide in the escutcheon with legs straight and well apart when viewed from the rear. Hocks clean.	**20**

DAIRY CHARACTER — TOTAL 23 POINTS

Animation, angularity, general openness and freedom from excess fleshing.

	Neck long and lean. Throat clean. Withers well defined and wedge shaped, rising above the shoulder blades. Ribs wide apart, bone wide, flat and long. Flank deep with arch well defined. Thighs incurving to flat when viewed from the side. Loose, pliable skin with fine hair.	**23**

BODY CAPACITY — TOTAL 23 POINTS

Relatively large in proportion to the size of the animal, providing ample digestive capacity, strength and vigour and showing desirable length of body.

	Width throughout beginning with the head and carried through the chine and loin. Barrel deep and strongly supported, ribs well sprung with depth and width tending to increase towards the flank. Heart deep and wide with well sprung foreribs; chest floor wide; fullness at the point of elbow.	**23**

TOTAL 100

Breed Standards

Canadian Goat Society

These breed standards apply to all registered animals. If animals do not meet breed standards judges must report this on the Report of Awards

Breed	Characteristics	Disqualifications (For registrations and shows)
ALPINE	• Erect ears	• Pendulous ears • Bucks that are all white in colour
LAMANCHA	• Short ears, either gopher or elf for does. • Bucks must have gopher ears. **GOPHER**: approximate maximum length of one inch with little or no cartilage. **ELF**: approximate maximum length of two inches, end of ear turned up or down and cartilage shaping the ear allowed).	• Anything other than gopher ears on bucks • Anything other than elf or gopher ears on does
NIGERIAN DWARF NOTE: Judged according to the dairy goat scorecard.	• A miniature dairy goat which must have erect ears and a straight face. • Any colour or combination of colours is allowed however, it is a serious fault to have "agouti" colouration **(agouti defined by having individual hairs having bands of colour.)**	• Pendulous ears • Convex or dished nose profile
NUBIAN	• Pendulous ears • Convex nose profile	• Dished face • Upright ears
OBERHASLI	• Erect ears • Colour must be Bay, (i.e. reddish brown or blood-bay ranging from light to deep red with the latter most desirable) with black markings such as facial stripes, forehead, dorsal stripe, martingale and belly: udder gray or black. • Black does permitted but will be identified with "black" as a suffix to their registered name.	• Pendulous ears • Black Bucks • Large white spot in hair (more than 1 1/2" in any direction • Any colour other than bay in bucks • Any colour other than bay or black in does.
SAANEN	• Erect ears • Colour white or cream for does • Bucks must be white.	• Pendulous ears • Any colour other than white in bucks • Any colour other than white or cream in does • Large dark spot in hair (more than 1-1/2" in any direction).
TOGGENBURG	• Erect ears • Colour must be a shade of fawn or brown with white or cream colour markings (white preferred such as facial stripes: outline of ear: below knees and hocks and inside the top of the legs: and a triangle on each side of tail base. White spot may be present at the point of elbow and at root of wattles or where wattles would be if there are none. A dark vertical line may be present below the knees. • Does which are black with Toggenburg markings are permitted but will be identified with "black" as a suffix to their registered name.	• Pendulous ears • Tri-colour or Piebald • Black bucks • White stomach, except on British Toggenburgs • Large white spot in hair (more than 1-1/2" in any direction)

Evaluation of Defects

(Determines the degree of seriousness of fault but does not disqualify)

SLIGHT

- Broken or wry tail
- Toggenburg bucks lacking facial stripe0

MODERATE

Breed specifics for height and weight based on mature does being in at least their 3rd lactation and mature bucks being at least 3 years of age. If animals are not minimum height or weight, consider this a moderate defect. Additional moderate defects by breed are listed below.

		Minimum height at withers	Minimum weight
Alpine	**Doe**	30in/76cm	135 lbs/61.36 kg
	Buck	32in/81cm	170 lbs/77.27 kg
• Does with Toggenburg colour and markings • Does that are all white in colour			
LaMancha	**Doe**	28in/71 cm	130 lbs/59.09 kg
	Buck	30in/76 cm	160lbs/72.72 kg
Nubian	**Doe**	30in/76cm	135 lbs/61.36 kg
	Buck	32in/81cm	170 lbs/77.27 kg
Oberhasli	**Doe**	28in/71 cm	120 lbs/54.54 kg
	Buck	30in/76 cm	150 lbs/68.18 kg
• Bay Oberhasli does lacking some black • Markings & does that are all black			
Saanen	**Doe**	30in/76cm	135 lbs/61.36 kg
	Buck	32in/81cm	170 lbs/77.27 kg
Toggenburg	**Doe**	26in/66 cm	120 lbs/54.54 kg
	Buck	28in/71 cm	150 lbs/68.18 kg
• Toggenburg does with a few small white spots in hair and does with cream markings			

SLIGHT TO SERIOUS

Depending on degree

- Scurs or stubs
- Undershot or overshot jaw
- Enlarged knees
- Bowed-over front knees or knock-kneed
- Small boned for body size
- Loose, winged or heavy shoulders
- Narrow chest or pinched heart girth
- Short, shallow or narrow body
- Low-back
- Steep rump

- Close in hocks
- Swollen hocks
- Swollen stifle joint
- Postiness
- Hind legs close together
- Pasterns that are sprung or that are knuckled over
- Turned out or crooked feet
- Udders that:
    - are beefy in texture
    - have a pocket
    - lack fore, rear or side attachment
    - have a bulgy rear udder (protruding past the vulva)
    - lack shape to the fore or rear udder
    - have too much separation between the halves of the udder
    - have scar tissue
- Teats that are:
    - too large or small
    - pointed sideways
    - uneven in size
    - not clearly delineated

MODERATE TO SERIOUS

Depending on degree

Alpine:	Roman nose
LaMancha:	Roman nose
Oberhasli:	Roman nose
Saanen:	Roman nose
Toggenburg:	Roman nose Incomplete facial stripes in does

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Alpine:	Toggenburg colour and markings on bucks
Oberhasli:	Small white spots in hair of does
Saanen:	Dark cream coloured does Several small dark spots in hair
Toggenburg:	Black colour in does Few small white spots in hair of bucks
Nigerian Dwarf:	Agouti colouration (agouti defined by having individual hairs having bands of colour).

VERY SERIOUS DEFECTS

(Note: animals with Very Serious faults are not eligible to receive Champion or Reserve Champion award at show)

- Udder:
  - Pendulous
  - Too distended to determine texture
  - Hard or swollen
  - So uneven that one half is less than half the size of the other
  - Udder lacking capacity in relation to the size of the doe
  - Double orifice in teat of doe
  - Extra teat or teats have been cut off on does
- Crooked face on does
- Very crooked or malformed feet
- Barely drooping ears on a Nubian
- Straight face on a Nubian
- Small white spots in hair of Oberhasli bucks
- Bay Oberhasli bucks lacking some black markings
- Cream markings on Toggenburg bucks
- Nigerian Dwarfs that are over the maximum size as per body measurement chart.
  - Males: Maximum height at the Withers: 23.5in/59.69 cm
  - Females: Maximum height at the Withers: 22.5 in/57.15 cm

Disqualifications: (for Shows)

General:

1. Total blindness
2. Serious emaciation
3. Non-functioning half of udder
4. Blind teat
5. Double teat
6. Extra teat(s) that interferes with milking
7. Active mastitis or any other cause of abnormal milk
8. Evidence of hermaphroditism or other inability to reproduce
9. Permanent physical defects such as navel hernia
10. Crooked face on bucks
11. Extra teats or teat(s) that have been cut off on bucks
12. Double orifice in teat(s) of bucks
13. Buck with one testicle or with abnormal testicle
14. Presence of natural horns (see slight to serious for scurs or stubs)

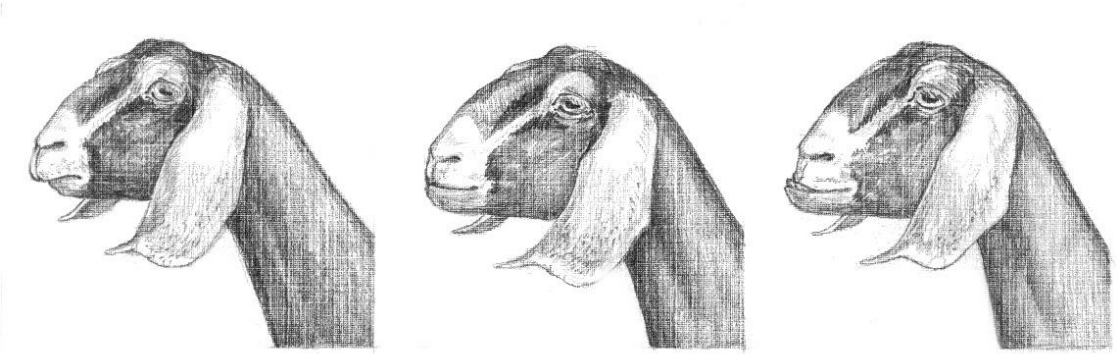
Breed Specific Disqualifications: (for Registration and Shows)

Alpine:	Pendulous Ears
	Bucks that are all white in colour LaMancha Type Ears
LaMancha:	Anything other than gopher ears on bucks
	Anything other than elf or gopher ears on does
Nigerian Dwarf:	Convex or dished nose profile
	Pendulous ears LaMancha Type
	Ears
Nubian:	Dished face
	Upright ears
	LaMancha Type Ears
Oberhasli:	Pendulous ears LaMancha
	Type Ears Black Bucks
	Large white spot in hair (1-1/2" or more in any direction) Any colour other than Bay in bucks
	Any colour other than Bay or black in does
Saanen:	Large dark spot in hair (1-1/2" or more in any direction)
	Pendulous ears LaMancha Type
	Ears
	Any colour other than white in bucks
Toggenburg:	Tricolour or Piebald
	Black bucks
	White stomach (except on British Toggs).
	Large white spot in hair (1-1/2" or more in any direction) Pendulous ears
	LaMancha Type Ears

Note: If animals do not meet breed standards judges must report this on Report of Awards

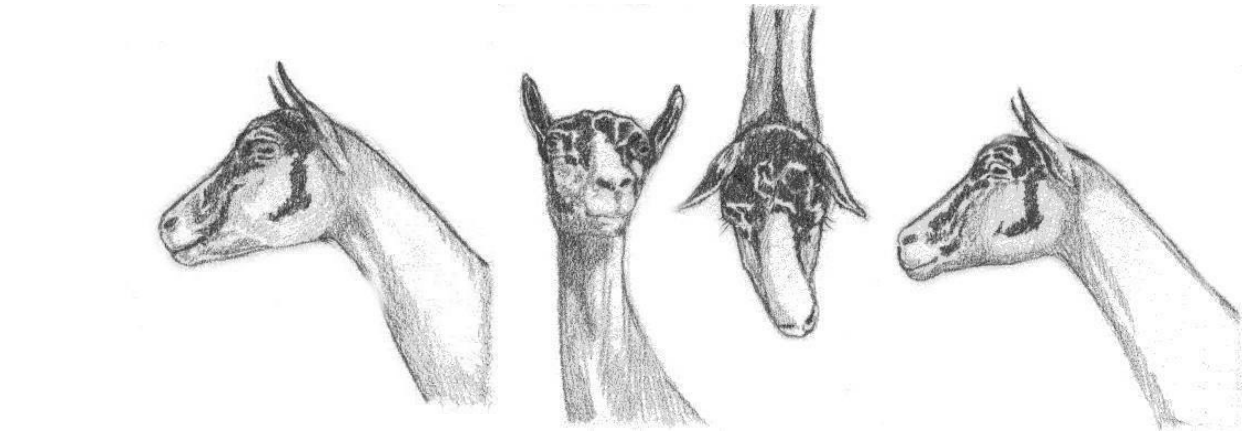
Jaw (Defects)

Figure 36



Overshot (parrot) Correct Undershot

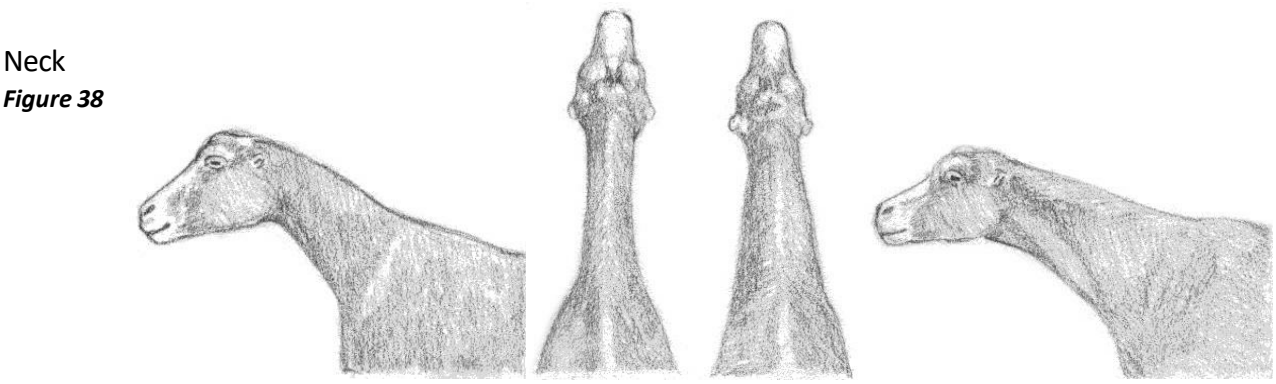
Figure 37 (Defects)



Short Wry Face Weak Jaw

Neck

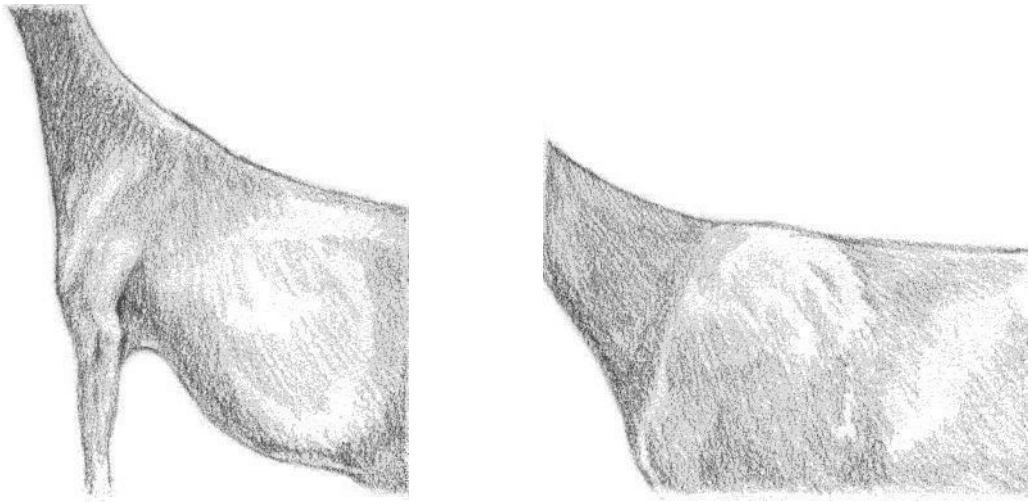
Figure 38



Short Neck Thin/Thick Neck Coarse Neck. Thin is the ide

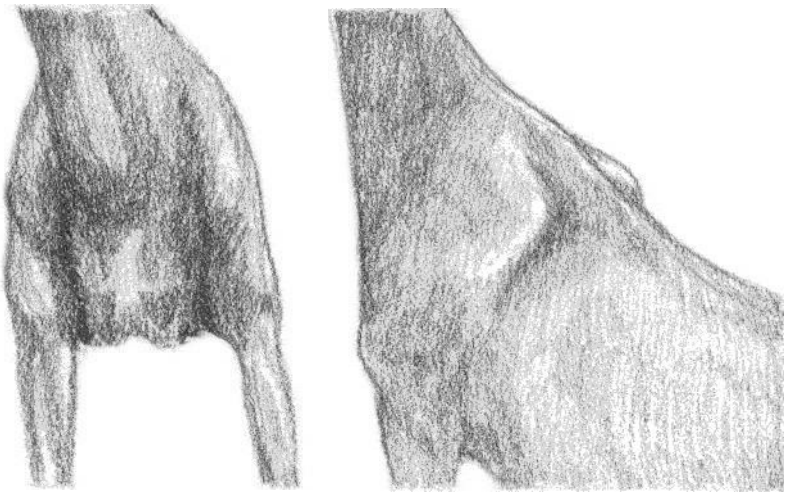
Shoulders (Defects)

Figure 39



Winged Shoulder Heavy Shoulder

Figure 40



Open Shoulder Weak Crop

Judging Classes of Animals

Each class that you are asked to judge at the licensing conference will consist of four animals. This includes practice classes as well as classes that are scored to determine if you will qualify for a judge's license. You will be asked to place classes of animals and give reasons both in front of other conference participants and in front of the panel, who will score your reasons. You will have 5 minutes to place your class.

Judging procedure

There is a system to judging and you might find that this procedure works well for you.

1. As you enter the ring, observe all animals standing head to tails from the opposite side of the ring, ideally from 10-12 feet (3-3.5 meters) away.
2. Proceed to individually assess each animal, starting at the front of the line and moving around the goat assessing the following traits: breed character of the head and breed-specific colouring, width of chest, length of neck and cleanness of front end, depth of body, strength of topline, strength of loin, curvature of the legs, strength of pasterns, bone quality, strength of fore attachment, length and width of rump, and height and width of rear attachment. Move to the other side of the animal and observe the fore udder, balance of udder, and overall length of the goat. Lastly, viewing from the top, check the sharpness of withers, spring of rib, and overall blending of the body parts. This is when you should check the teats on all juniors and bucks. Closely inspecting the rear udder allows you to examine the strength of both the lateral and median suspensory ligaments. Also, pay attention to the shape, size and placement of teats.
3. Once all animals have been inspected, remember to take a mental note if there were any animal(s) showing a very serious defect(s) that warrants an automatic last place (or disqualification).
4. You may want to signal the handler of the animal standing at the beginning of the line to circle the ring (clockwise). From this vantage, animals can be analyzed for freedom of movement, smoothness of blending, strength of pastern, head carriage, loin strength, depth of barrel, and udder depth and correlation of parts.
5. Pull the goats you want to observe closer into a side by side lineup, starting with the best ones. Failing to compare the animals side by side will make you judge only two dimensions and you might end up missing some obvious differences.
6. When the goats are in a side by side line, observe the entire group, from the rear. Then walk around to the front of the animals to view their front end.
7. Place the goats head to tail, starting from the best one.
8. When all the goats are in their final lineup, walk down the rear of the lineup for one final inspection. Begin to mentally organize your reasons. Should you need to go through this procedure with each animal in the class, return to the center of the ring and watch the goats circle around the ring again.
9. Once your time is up or you are ready to signal to the panel that you have placed your class, hand your card to a panel judge and proceed with your reasons.

Don't labor it, be timely. Trust your gut feeling; don't second guess yourself!

Judge as they stand

In judging, milkers are usually divided by age classes up to at least 3 years old and many times up to 5 years. In the aged classes, where you may have does from 5 to 9 years of age in the same class, "judge them as they stand" may make more sense (within reason) for onlookers. Adding points for age is not correct and is unsafe as it is to assume that the animal was

better in her fault areas in her youth and this certainly does not always hold true. However, some of the judges have found in judging aged, GCH or Best in Show classes that judging as they stand makes the job far less confusing than trying to add points for age (there are no points for age on the scorecard) or forgiving faults.

Give careful consideration to age only when it makes sense. Do not use age as one of your two reasons for making a placing. Age could be mentioned as an observation along with the proper two reasons given based on the scorecard sections and in that way can be a sensible observation. When there is a very close placing, then it makes sense to give the advantage to age. Judges have always been instructed to judge them as they stand and only give the advantage to age in close placings however, some judges have developed a habit of forgiving faults or adding points for age to the extent that they become confused or find difficulty in justifying a placing according to the scorecard values.

Lastly, animals should fit the class they're in, while a goat might be a great animal, a yearling shouldn't look like a 4 year old!

It must be remembered that the spectators may not be listening to the reasons and visually, a placing made with age as a reason, will not be convincing.

Giving Accurate Reasons

Your job is to analyze each animal, place the class, and describe to exhibitors and spectators why you've placed the goats the way you have. Practice is critical in developing the skill to deliver strong sets of reasons. You may find it helpful to practice at home, speaking aloud in front of a mirror or friends or family.

A good set of reasons is important because:

- It provides an educational opportunity for the exhibitors and spectators
- It enhances credibility of the judge's decisions and of the system of judging shows and
- It encourages breed improvement through fair competition

Effective reasons describe placings accurately, and compare animals in the class.

How to Give Reasons

It is important to organize your thoughts and describe **clearly** what you see. To accomplish this, our CGS judges are trained to follow a system of giving reasons as described below:

- For each placing (#1 over #2, etc.) you should give **two reasons** from two different sections of the scorecard. For instance, one reason could be "Mammary System, for her higher, wider rear udder attachment and more correct size and shape of the teats".

In this case, you have identified the section of the scorecard and specified what it is about that mammary system that is better than the one standing in second place.

Your second reason might be "General Appearance, because of the strength of her topline, particularly in the chine. She also shows stronger rear pasterns".

Again, the section of the scorecard was identified and then you explain the strong points.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- *Start your first set of reasons of the day with a cordial statement indicating your pleasure honor to be invited to judge.*
- *Speak slowly, crisply, and confidently into the microphone. Stand straight, but relaxed. Breathe!*
- *Start each set of reasons with an opening statement*
- *Use simple words. Do not use slang, or trendy words that ringside spectators don't understand.*
- ***Comparative** terminology must be used, **comparing** one animal to the animal placed below it. The animal **should not be described**. **Comparative** terminology uses words ending in •er•, such as longer, wider, taller, deeper, etc.*
- *The obvious points of difference should be your primary concern. Use one really good point, and another couple of points of difference for each pair of animals.*

Be sure to speak only to those traits which are under a particular section on the scorecard. If you are talking about Body Capacity for a reason, you should not mention sharper withers because sharpness of withers is part of Dairy Character.

Reasons must reflect the class being judged: never give an inaccurate reason or one not describing the class at hand

What if there aren't two reasons?

There usually are, but if you find the odd situation where you have a pair of very closely matched animals, you may find that there is so little significant difference in three areas of the scorecard that you are really only left with one area that is significant.

If this is the case, say so: begin your reasons by saying that the animals are very closely matched, or that it is a very close placing and the main reason is in "General Appearance since the first place doe has more style and a smoother blending of the shoulder blades against the chest wall as well as blending more smoothly from the neck into the withers". This situation of having only one reason is fairly rare. You should be able to find two reasons to justify each placing. If you line up the animals, then quickly rehearse the reasons in your mind before going to the microphone, you may realize that you only have one reason for 3 over 4. There are two answers:

- Perhaps there is only one reason OR
- More likely, you have not made the correct placing!

Sometimes switching the two animals or moving one to a different spot in the line will make all the difference. In placing a large, **difficult class, there is no shame in** making a preliminary placing of the animals and then switching one or two positions. However, this should not be necessary in every class. Do not belabor your placings if at all possible because you will begin to lose the exhibitors' and spectators' attention. Habitual long and laboured placing of classes will affect your own confidence level as well as the confidence of onlookers. Once you have made your placing, go to the microphone and present your reasons with confidence.

In a difficult situation, try not to frown and/or groan and wring your hands even when you feel sorely tempted. There will be times when you will wonder why you got yourself into this predicament: the class seems difficult to sort out, the sun's beating down and the kids are fidgeting and bleating. If you find yourself stalemated, it often helps to SMILE while asking the class to move once more around the ring. Then trust your "eye" and make the placings.

Smiling rather than frowning instills confidence and really does make you feel better, more efficient and in control.

You may see something you missed before if you move the animals again that will help clarify the situation.

Do not feel intimidated by other more senior judges watching the class. You can be sure that your fellow judges on the sidelines sympathize and have been in that situation themselves at one time or another. Once you have experienced the camaraderie of a training conference you will understand that the other judges are "pulling for you." There is an unwritten rule that judges make a practice of never criticizing a judge's performance to other exhibitors on the sidelines. No one but another judge can really understand the commitment necessary to being a licensed judge.

Use only the language from the scorecard or from the suggested terminology list.

If we all get used to using similar terms, we will understand each other. Use of unfamiliar terms is only confusing to exhibitors and spectators and therefore affects your ability to convince your audience.

While avoiding canned reasons, slowly practice the words you might use in placing a class. Practice in front of your family and friends, and often!
Add new phrases as you gain confidence and success.

What Is a Grant and How Is It Used?
You may have two clear reasons from two parts of the scorecard to place one over two however, #2 may still excel in one area that cannot be overlooked. In fact, you did not overlook it but it did not gain the second place animal enough points to place her over the first. To make it clear to your audience, that yes, you did see that, and no, it is not enough to put her higher, the judge may give the two reasons for the placing and then state, "However, #1 grants to #2 a more nearly level topline with a stronger chine."

In this case, assume that #1 is a doe with advantages in mammary system and dairy character but possesses a weak topline, particularly in the chine. While she clearly (to you) has enough total points to carry the placing, #2 is standing there with a wonderful topline that is very obvious to the spectators.

"Grants" are not made very often and only in such a situation where you want to make the point that you did see such an obvious difference.
Remember that more of the spectators are not trained judges and do not understand the point breakdown or relative values. Giving a grant will clarify such a situation **however, too much granting will appear to muddy the water and detract from the confidence of your placings. Grants should be used judiciously.** If you do feel a grant is necessary, give only one. If you grant too much you will end up convincing your audience that you made the wrong choice.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- *Always start with the most important reasons as to why one animal places over another. Consider only the major points of superiority. Grant an obvious advantage to lower placing animal, especially in close-placing pairs.*
- *When two animals are extremely close, give only one or two reasons for placing them the way you did.*
- *In a not-so-good class, keep the reasons short. Don't try to manufacture something that's not there.*
- ***Always be positive when giving reasons.***
- *Allow your brain to work faster than your tongue.*
- *Conclude the show with complimentary remarks about the quality of the show, support of exhibitors, etc.*

Commending the Last Place Animal

After you have given all the appropriate reasons for a class be sure to make a commendation to the last place animal. Feel some compassion for the person standing in last place and smile kindly when you give the commendation. In a very strong class, the last place animal may still be a very worthy animal. Even if the last place animal is very poor and really should not be at a show at all, remember that this may be a new exhibitor and/or someone who needs some encouragement to get better. Standing in last place is never pleasant; the judge's attitude can either make it bearable and educational or such a miserable experience that the person gives up on showing.

One commendation is sufficient such as "I commend the 8th place doe for her dairyness, particularly in the sharpness of her withers". If it is a class of 8 animals for example, it is even better to say, "The animal placing 8th, is still to be commended for her dairyness, etc". Eighth place sounds better than last.

Do not give more than one commendation to the last place doe because you may leave the impression that she should not have been last.

Be sure to remember to examine the last place doe to find your commendation before you get to the microphone. It is sometimes easy to forget that in a class where you have an "easy last" but the rest of the class was difficult to place. You might find yourself in the embarrassing position of whizzing through an excellent set of reasons, get to the bottom of the class and be tongue-tied if she is poor enough that her one good quality is not obvious from your vantage point. Believe it, this has happened to many a good judge.

After the show, it is not unusual for a new exhibitor to come over to you to ask about that last place animal. If you commended her for dairyness and sharp withers, kindly point out that this is something he should strive to retain in his breeding program but encourage him to breed for increased width or udder attachment, etc. as the situation warrants. If he thought enough (rightly or wrongly) of the animal to bring it to a show, then he likely doesn't want to be told it should be culled and it's best to take a positive approach. It has often happened that a new exhibitor placing last and learning something constructively from it, becomes the "hot" breeder of the future.

TIPS FOR STUDYING AND GIVING GOOD REASONS

We cannot emphasize how important it is to train yourself to give reasons clearly and confidently **before you get to the training conference.** There will be intensive practice sessions using live classes. There is much you can (and should) do before the conference to prepare yourself. You cannot expect to show up at a training conference without having done any preparation and succeed.

1. **STUDY** and repeat the suggested terminology until you feel confident that you can use the terms without hesitation. For example, being able to state that one shows "a more correct angulation of the rear legs when viewed from the side, being more nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern" without hesitation or searching for words, will be a great help to giving a quick, efficient set of reasons.
2. **PRACTICE**. Those of us who have been though training conferences many times before have developed good study methods to learn terminology and give confident reasons:

- Some of us are well past school age and studying and committing to memory may not seem to be as easy as it used to be. Writing out the terminology and saying it at the same time really helps to engrave information on your memory. This works equally well for learning your scorecards, defects and breed standards.

Summary of Giving Good Reasons

- Start with your opening statement
- Use **comparative** terminology (not descriptive) to compare one animal to another
- Be **accurate**
- Be **positive**
- Emphasize only the main points of difference
- Grant an obvious advantage to a lower placing animal

➢ Some judges record their reasons of an imaginary class and replay it to detect areas that could be technically improved or have more flow.

➢ Some play the recording as they are driving to work.

➢ Giving reasons in a clear, loud voice while you are driving, gives you the privacy to practice until you can gain some confidence. Ignore the driver in the next car who may think you have taken leave of your senses. It's for a good cause.

➢ Go out to your barn and describe your animals using the specific terminology. Speak clearly and loudly. The animals won't mind. Give reasons for placing Daisy over Jane.

➢ Once you feel you are starting to get the knack (and it will come), ask a family member, friend or neighbor, to listen as you practice in the barn.

PRACTICE

Use this table below to visualize the structure of your reasons. Pictures of animals can be used in this practice but live animals are best. Start with an opening statement such as: "Today, in this class of 2 to 3 year old alpine does, I placed my animals B-D-C-A."

Animal	Section 1	Reasons	Section 2	Reasons
I placed 1 over 2…	…for an advantage in (Category 1);	…she is more desirable in (Reason 1) and	She also has more correct (Category 2);	…she is more correct in (Reason 1) and
		…she has an advantage in (Reason 2).		…she is (reason 2).
2 over 3		1.		1.
		2.		2.
3 over 4		1.		1.
		2.		2.
Commend 4th				

Suggested Terminology

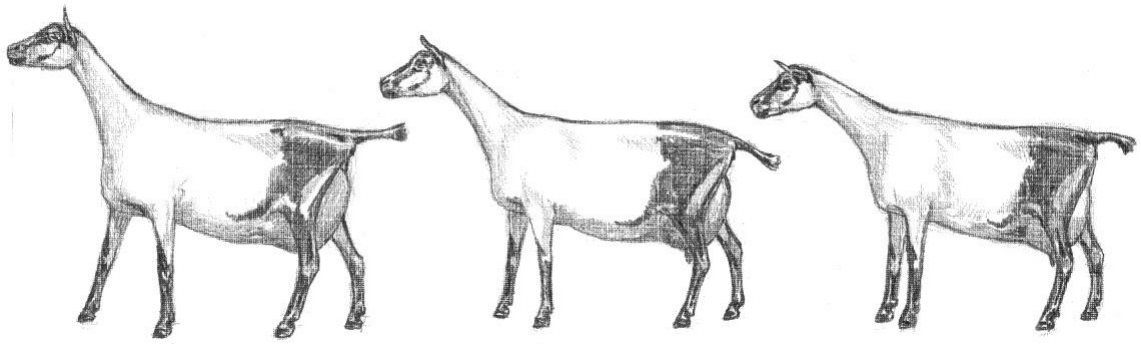
She is ….. She has ….. She is more desirable in ……. She has an advantage in… She is more correct in….

GENERAL APPEARANCE

STYLE

- more graceful appearance, with more smoothness of blending especially:
  - A smoother blending of the shoulder blades against the chest wall.
  - A tighter junction of the shoulder blades with the withers.
  - Blends more smoothly from the neck into the withers.
  - Blends more smoothly from the withers into the chine.
- fuller (or smoother) in the crops
- walks with more grace

Figure 34



It is difficult to define or portray style. These drawings show animation and proud bearing on the desirable end.

HEAD & BREED CHARACTERISTICS

- broader in the muzzle (more width)
- more correct breed character about the head especially in:
  - straightness (or curvature) of the nose
  - length of ears
  - facial markings
- stronger jaw
- neater in the poll area
- more femininity about the head having a leaner jaw
- shows more desirable breed characteristics due to colour

TOPLINE

- stronger and straighter in the topline, especially in the:
  - chine
  - loin
  - rump
- wider in the loin
- more nearly level in the loin

RUMP

- more nearly level (from hips to pins)
- wider across the hips
- wider from thurl to thurl
- more nearly level from thurl to thurl
- more nearly level with the tailhead, blending more smoothly
- a smoother (or straighter) tail setting

FEET & LEGS

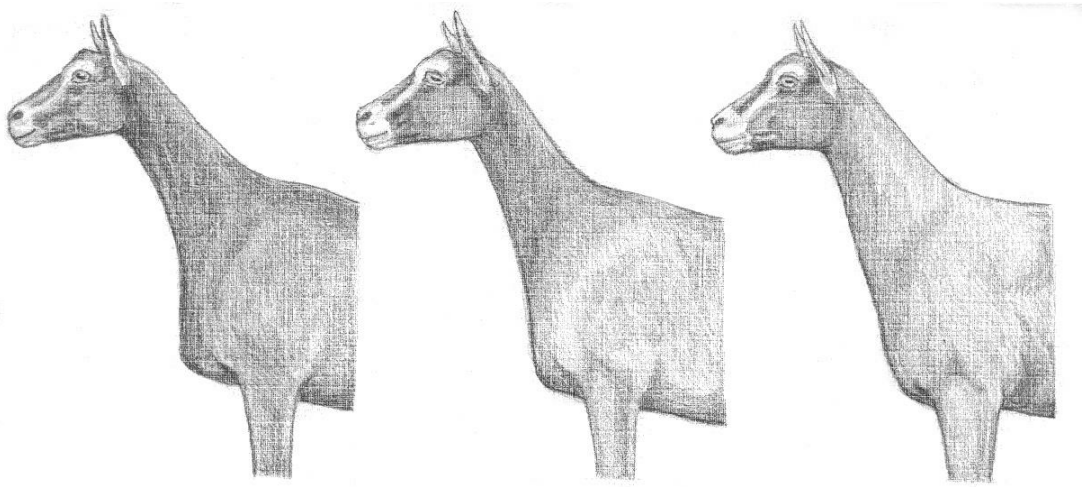
- straighter in the forelegs
- stronger in the forelegs
- front feet pointing more correctly forward
- neater (or cleaner) in the knees
- tighter junction at the point of elbow
- stronger in the pasterns
- more desirable shape to the foot
- tighter spacing of the toes (front or rear)
- shorter pasterns
- a deeper heel
- a more level sole
- more desirable leg set when viewed from the side being more nearly perpendicular from hock to pastern
- more desirable leg set when viewed from the rear:
    - having more width between the hind legs
    - with more space between the hocks when at rest
    - travels with more width between the hocks
    - more width in the escutcheon
- more desirable angle in the stifle joint
- cleaner in the hocks

DAIRY CHARACTER

- longer, leaner neck
- neck blending more smoothly into the withers (can be for General Appearance – smoothness of blending under "style" as opposed to being "ewe necked")
- sharper in the withers
- more width (or more open) between the ribs
- flatter in the rib
- longer ribs
- finer skin
- looser, more pliable skin
- more finely textured hair
- more highly arched in the flank
- more refined in the flank
- flatter bone in the rear legs
- a more incurving thigh
- leaner in the thigh
- more sharpness and angularity
- a more proper degree of fleshing

Dairyness

Figure 35



Desirable Medium Coarse

BODY CAPACITY

- greater spring of rib
- longer body
- deeper body (or barrel)
- more increase in depth of body towards the flank
- deeper in the heart girth
- wider in the chest floor
- more fullness at the point of elbow
- stronger (or more powerful) in the brisket

MAMMARY SYSTEM

- a more capacious fore (or rear) udder
- more desirable shape to the fore (or rear) udder
- the halves of the udder are more balanced
- a more symmetrical udder
- more extension of the fore udder attachment
- more side extension of the fore udder attachment
- a wider fore (or rear) udder attachment
- a tighter fore udder attachment
- a smoother fore udder attachment
- a higher rear udder attachment
- a more smoothly blended rear udder attachment
- a larger overall area of udder attachment
- the udder floor carried more properly above the hocks
- a stronger medial suspensory ligament
- a more distinct medial suspensory ligament
- a more desirable medial suspensory ligament
- softer (and/or more pliable) udder texture
- milks down more completely

- less non-productive tissue (fleshiness or scar tissue)
- Teats are:
    - more even in size
    - more desirable in size
    - more clearly delineated from the udder
    - more desirable in shape
    - more properly placed
    - more squarely set
    - more correct length

Show Special Features

The primary goal in judging group classes is to find **uniformity of good type**. Remembering how individuals placed in their individual classes is helpful in speeding up the sorting process, but that comes most easily for those animals that did particularly well. Normally groups that include individuals of greater age and maturity have an advantage, although this does not mean that you should automatically place a group of 3 poor milkers over 3 exceptional dry. Color or color patterns should only be a concern with those breeds whose standard call for a specific color and pattern.

Get of Sire
This consists of 3 daughters from one sire. 3 different dams are desirable to get a better indication of what the sire is passing on. Looking for consistency in the 3 daughters in overall conformation. In two equal groups, one with different dams represented will be advantaged.

Dam & Daughter
Looking for the strengths of the dam to be passed on to the daughter, but would also like to see some improvement in the daughter indicating an improvement in the overall breeding program. In the case of the dam and daughter being very similar in strengths, i.e. there is no need for improvement in the daughter, this pair should not be overlooked.

Progeny of Dam
Looking for overall consistency in conformation in the two offspring of the dam. In two equal groups, one with different sires represented will be advantaged.

Dairy Herd
Looking for consistency in overall conformation as well as milk ability. A dairy herd should be able to produce large quantities of milk over a long period of time.

Breeder's Herd
Looking mainly for overall conformation and consistency in the group, as this group usually contains dry animals.

4-H
Project: to be given a score out of 100 keeping in mind that there might be meat animals in the lineup. Meat animals are not to be discriminated against. The animal only is judged in this class on overall conformation according to their breed - quite often there will be a pygmy or crossbred in the class. The meat scorecard is included in the training package for judges' reference.

Showmanship
Discussion on the scorecard and different ways that individual judges have come up with some tricks to help make a break between top show-people.

CGS SHOWMANSHIP SCORECARD

APPEARANCE OF THE ANIMAL		TOTAL 40 POINTS
CONDITION AND THRIFTINESS	Showing normal growth, neither too fat nor too thin.	**10**
HAIR, HOOVES AND DISBUDDING	Hair clean and properly groomed. Hooves trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally. Neatly disbudded if the animal is not naturally hornless.	**10**
CLIPPING	Entire body if weather has permitted, showing that sufficient time was allowed to grow a neat coat of hair by show day.	**10**
CLEANLINESS	Clean body, as free from stains as possible, with special attention to legs, feet, tail area, nose and ears.	**10**
APPEARANCE OF EXHIBITOR		**TOTAL 10 POINTS**
ATTIRE	Clothes and person neat and clean. Plain white costume preferred	**10**
SHOWING ANIMAL IN THE RING		**TOTAL 50 POINTS**
LEADING	Enter, leading the animal at a normal walk around the ring in a clockwise direction, walking on the left side of the animal and holding the collar with the right hand. Exhibitor should walk as normally and inconspicuously as possible. Goat should lead readily and respond quickly. Lead equipment should consist of a collar or small link chain, properly fitted. As the judge studies the animal, the exhibitor walks on the side of the animal opposite to the judge. Exhibitor leads slowly with the animal's head held high enough for impressive style, attractive carriage and graceful walk.	**10**
POSE AND SHOW	Animal should be between the exhibitor and the judge as much as possible. Avoid exaggerated positions such as crossing behind the goat. Exhibitor should stand or kneel where he can observe both the animal and the judge. Pose animal with front feet squarely beneath and rear feet slightly spread. Where possible, face animal upgrade with her front feet on a slight incline. Neither crowd other exhibitors nor leave too much space when leading into a side by side position. When judge changes placing, animal is lead forward out of line, down or up to the place directed, then back through the line, finally making a U-turn to get into position. Slight pull on the collar is used to step animal ahead. If the animals steps badly out of place, she is returned to her to position by leading her forward and making a circle back through her position in the line. When the judge is observing the animal, if she moves out of position, she is replaced as quickly and inconspicuously as possible. Exhibitors should be natural - Over showing and undue fussing and maneuvering are objectionable.	**15**
SHOW ANIMAL TO BEST ADVANTAGE	Exhibitor should recognize the conformation faults and good points of the animal they are leading and strive to overcome the faults and enhance the good points.	**15**
POISE, ALERTNESS AND COURTEOUS ATTITUDE	Exhibitors should keep an eye on their animals and be aware of the position of the judge at all times, but not stare at the judge. Exhibitors should not be distracted by persons or activities at ringside and respond rapidly to requests from judges or officials. They should be courteous, sportsmanlike and respect the rights of other exhibitors at all times. The best showman shows the animal, not themselves. They continue exhibiting well until the entire class has been placed, the judge has given reasons and class is dismissed.	**10**
		TOTAL 100

Showmanship Strategies for Judges

If it's your first judging assignment and you've not very familiar with 4H, this part of the show can be a bit intimidating! Below are some tips and tricks to get you started with judging showmanship along with the CGS Showmanship Scorecard.

Ask the show committee the level of expertise of your exhibitors and adjust accordingly. Not all shows will have these exact classes but this should help you get started.

When asking questions to the exhibitors, keep it to showmanship related elements, questions of veterinary nature are not appropriate.

Novice (8 years old and younger)
When judging a novice class, remember that it can be the very first experience in participating in showmanship for many exhibitors and you might have a few very young children with their keen eyed parents scrutinizing yours and their every move. As the judge, you have a lot of influence on that first showing experience and might impact their future participation, so make sure it's a good one.

To ensure that the children are not intimidated with you, squat down to their eye level, talk to them gently, and call them by their name (if possible). Young children might not have the attention span or the strength to last for a long class (especially if their animal is misbehaving), so be concise with your judging. If the animal is misbehaving, it can be okay to help a young novice exhibitor. Check with your Show Chairman first but, at your discretion, for larger shows where it's mainly new exhibitors, you can group children in 1st, 2nd and 3rd so that everyone gets a ribbon and not a single child is last. Make sure to get the crowd cheering and clapping before starting your reasons.

Skills to assess:

- Focus on basics; holding the chain correctly at the jaw and keeping control of their animal
- Keeping the animal between the judge and themselves
- Paying attention to the judge and other exhibitors
- Knowing how to set up a goat
- Showing proper spacing between their goat and other goats on the walk and when setting up Sample questions:
- What is the name of your goat?
- What is the breed of your goat?
- Point to basic body parts (ears, eyes, nose etc.)

Junior (9-12 year old)
When judging this group, you want to see that they are already comfortable with the Peewee showmanship skills, you can ask exhibitors to switch animals while judging to add some difficulty if appropriate. Keep in mind that there might also be some first timers with more experienced showman and show some consideration when giving your reasons to encourage the new comers.

Skills to assess:

- Knowing how to line up goats side-by-side and head-to-tail.
- Moving up and down a line-up

Sample questions

- Parts of a goat (withers, rump, knee, barrel, pasterns etc.)
- Basic score card questions (What is Body Capacity?)

Intermediate (13-16 year old)
This group must display that they master the junior showmanship skills and knowledge. When placings are close, feel free to ask the exhibitors to switch animals while judging to add some difficulty.

Skills to assess:

- Appearance of the animals should meet most of the criteria
- Appearance of the exhibitor should meet most of the criteria
- Showing the goats to their advantage at all times, be aware of strength and weakness of the animal they are showing
- Setting up smoothly and quickly
- Moving their goat up and down a line-up
- Walking your goat with another goat side-by-side toward and away from the judge (in a figure 8). Sample questions:
- Most parts of the goat
- Know the scorecard very well. (What are the parts of General Appearance?)

Senior (17-21 year old)
When judging Senior Showmanship, you should expect the exhibitors to master intermediate skills and knowledge as well as meeting all criteria on the score card.

Skills to assess:

- Appearance of the animals should be irreproachable
- Appearance of the exhibitor should be irreproachable Sample

questions:

- All parts of the goat
- Know the scorecard perfectly. Buck, doe and showmanship
- Ask the exhibitor to recognize the conformation faults and good points of the animal they are leading. You want to see that they strive to overcome the faults and enhance the good points.

Remember this is to help you getting started, you will have to adjust based on the group of exhibitor's age, skill level, and competitiveness of the show. You need to find the balance between providing a great learning experience and a fair platform for competition.

Directives to Judges

Animal welfare and Biosecurity
Herd owners are very mindful of their herd health. Judges will likely be in contact with all of the animals present at the show. It is important to use some best practices regarding biosecurity. Having clean hands, clothes and footwear is a great start.

Remember to wash your hands often by using sanitizer or wipes during the show.

Judges should do very little handling of udders. Train your "eye" and use your hands less. Strength of attachment can be determined by watching the udder when the animal is on the move, especially when viewed from the rear. A gentle touch to the udder can be done if in doubt.

Do not insert your fingers in the mouth of the animal, do not strip milk.

Checking Teats for Double Orifices
We are following the more mannerly method of judging as is done by the cattle judges and we DO NOT wish to automatically turn up the teats on all does. However, if you do see a bump on a teat, a squared off teat or some other possible indication of a double orifice you may turn up the end of the teat GENTLY.

Udders Too Distended to Determine Texture
When we say hard, we mean HARD; pendulous means PENDULOUS; too distended does NOT mean a capacious udder that still has texture.

Do not bounce udders up and down, it is painful for the animal and can induce dangerous milk let-down.

REMEMBER that you still must check teats on all junior doe (kids and dry yearlings that have never freshened and on all bucks regardless of age (one of the good reasons for bringing a change of clothes!)

You're now a Judge, what's next?

Prior to a Show

- Provide quick response to inquiries for judging assignments.
  - Provide definitive answers to inquiries regarding dates, assignment (breeds to judge, classes, showmanship classes, buck shows, etc.)
  - All fees and expenses (including travel, lodging & food)
- Secure a signed formal contract or a letter of confirmation for assignments
- Assemble the necessary items you might need:
  - CGS Show Rules, JLC Package, blank copy of ROA and forms
  - Flashlight
  - Measuring tape (for Nigerian Dwarfs)
  - Show information (Should be provided by the fair/show)
  - Copy of judging contract
  - Change of clothes and footwear as well as extra clothes for return trip
  - Phone numbers & contact information for show officials, transportation, & lodging

Only accept shows within your capability and experience.

At the Show Location

- Be prompt and plan ahead for unforeseen circumstances (have names & phone numbers, flight information, motel name & number, etc.).
- If you are going to be delayed, communicate with show officials as soon as possible
- Be aware of and avoid major conflicts of interest (See Show Rules).
- Wear proper attire for the particular show
- Avoid compromising situations (transport by an exhibitor, excessive conversation or contact with exhibitors or their animals prior to judging, etc.).
- Discuss with your show chairman where animals are to be lined up, keeping in mind the final lineup should be viewed from behind by the largest audience.

During the Show

- Survey the ring to understand the best way to use its features to best present yourself and animals to the exhibitors, the show committee, and the ringside.
- Discuss the procedures you will be using with show officials and especially the ring steward to ensure a good flow of animals in and out of the ring, as well as signals you can use to verify that the entries for each class are present and complete.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- *Dress professionally; set an example as a Canadian judge.*
  - *Men could wear a suit (or sports jacket/pants) and tie.*
  - *Women should wear a pantsuit or dress pants and jacket/vest. Remember that you will have to bend over quite a bit, therefore a longer shirt is advised.*

  At a minimum, dress business casual.
- *Be well rested*
- *Arrive at the show at least 30 minutes prior to starting time*
- *Carry yourself with composure and presence, without arrogance. Display confidence - a feeling of assurance or certainty.*
- *Recognize the goats as the main attraction; do not grandstand.*
- *Inspect every animal closely in each class*
- *Establish a pattern. Animals placing high in individual classes should portray the same traits.*

- Get an estimate of the numbers of animals you will be judging so you can establish a pace that will allow you to finish the class with sufficient time to make travel connections or meet the expected schedule of the show. Adjustments may need to be made during the show.
- Establish a consistent ring procedure that exhibitors adopt quickly and easily.
- Evaluate all animals thoroughly, with special care to detect disqualifications that could affect the outcome of a class and a breed, including measurements, if deemed necessary.
- Disinfect your hands during the show, as necessary.
- Notify the show officials of any disqualifications.
- Deliver reasons that are "concise and to the point, stressing the main reason for placing one animal over another. Avoid general descriptive terms. Ring presence is most important. Be confident, but not arrogant. Be polite, but firm. Demand respect, but be humble. Be quick, but be thorough. Try hard to leave no doubt but that you are honestly placing the class as you see it today.
- Avoid excessive chatting with exhibitors as you meet them and evaluate their animals.
- Take special care in reading tattoos before animals leave the ring and see that they are properly recorded.
- As the show closes, thank the exhibitors and show committee for their participation and assistance.
- Review the report of awards before signing to make sure the necessary signatures are present and the necessary blanks are completed accurately. The completeness and accuracy of the report of awards is essential for animals earning championship legs. Sign the ROA last and make sure all required forms are collected.

After the Show

- If there is time, try to be available for questions and comments.
- Be sure you have taken the proper copies of the show report and left the show committee with their copy.
- Finalize the process of getting reimbursed for all fees, which may include signing special fair reports, submitting expense forms, etc.
- Promptly mail the original copy of the show report to CGS, **no later than 10 days after the show**.
- Situations will arise that may not be covered specifically by this instruction. In those cases, a judge must use common sense and their best judgment. It may help to consult with other senior judges, but this Manual should be your best reference

Visiting with exhibitors following the Show

For good public relations, it's important that you visit exhibitors after the show. Divide your lime fairly among all exhibitors. First-time show persons standing down the line deserve your attention as well as the top winners. It gives them an opportunity to ask you some questions about what they did well and what they could be doing differently. You have a wealth of expertise to share.

For larger shows, try to end your visit with the Premier Breeder, Premier Exhibitor and exhibitors of the Reserve Grand and Grand Champions.

It's perfectly acceptable to socialize and enjoy the after-show atmosphere, but remember your official position • you're representing CGS.

Always conduct yourself in a professional manner. Finish your judging experience on a high note.

The Value of Judging Beyond the Show Ring

Life skills developed through judging include communication, problem-solving, and decision-making.

The knowledge and practical skills gained through closely evaluating, reasoning, and making decisions extends far beyond placing animals. It's about developing valuable transferable skills for use in many or life's situations at any age.

If you plan to breed goats, make business management decisions, or invest in the dairy goat industry, you must develop a keen eye for detail. Judging goats involves looking for particularities, and weighing differences. Without the ability to evaluate goats and to make logical and quick decisions, it would be far more difficult to manage a viable dairy business.

We are not born with the natural ability to reason through difficult situations, work under pressure, or make sound decisions quickly. These skills are developed through experience. Judging in a time-limited setting sharpens decision-making expertise.

The reasoning process is the same for. "Which goat do I place first?" and "Should my business spend $50,000 on this equipment now?" Both situations involve problem solving - a complex process or weighing facts, utilizing information gained from earlier experiences, and making a decision.

Life is full of times when you must explain your ideas and decisions. By presenting oral reasons in the ring or barn, you learn to organize, prioritize, and present your thoughts in a clear, concise manner. It's about selling yourself, your ideas, and persuading others - **communication**.

Judging develops confidence and a sense or achievement.

The respect and admiration earned from a job well done brings lifelong satisfaction, whether through a good business plan, or a successful judging experience. The long-lasting friendships and contacts you make through working with people of similar interests remain one of judging's greatest benefits!