

# British Boer Goat Society

## Breed Standard

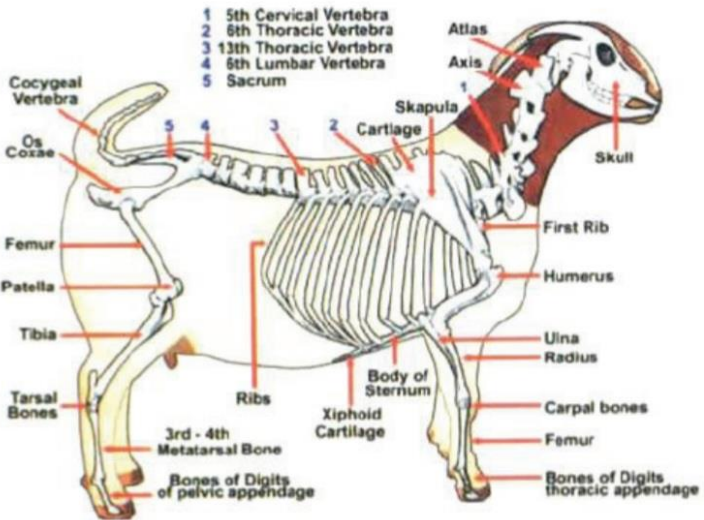
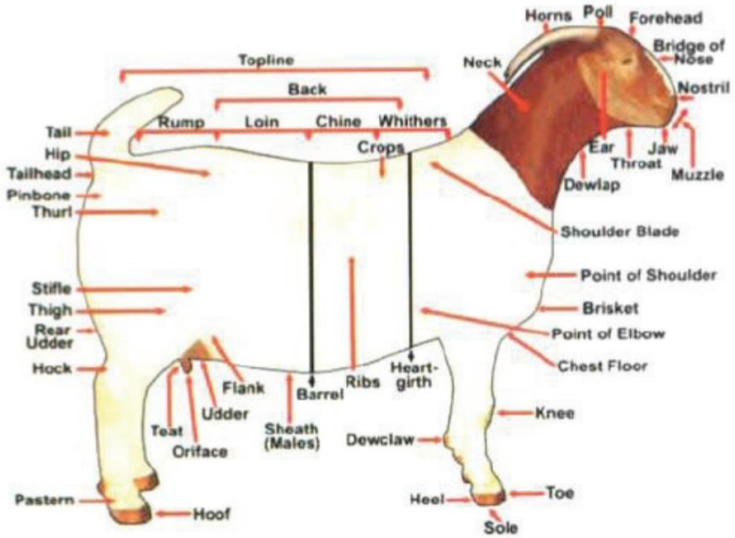


# The Breed Standard of the traditional Boer Goat.

The following guides  
are the breed  
standards as drawn  
up and accepted by  
the British Boer Goat  
Society.

The aim of breeding  
standards are to  
improve the breed  
and to increase the  
economic value.

# Skeleton



# Head

A strong head with large soft brown eyes.

A strong slightly curved nose, wide nostrils, strong well-formed mouth and well fitted jaws.

The forehead must be prominently curved linking up with the curve of the nose and horns.

Horns should be strong, of moderate length and placed moderately apart with a gradual backward curve.



# Head



Horns must be as round and solid as possible and darkly coloured.

Ears are to be broad, smooth and of medium length and hanging downwards from the head.

# Horns



Horns should be strong, of moderate length and placed moderately apart with a gradual backward curve.

Horns should be round and solid in a dark colour.



# Characteristic Defects



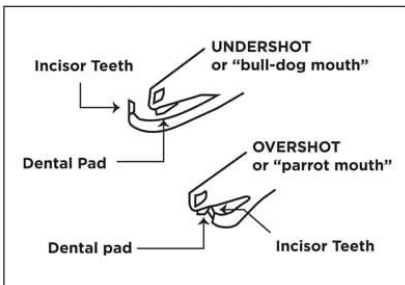
Undesirable flat head.

Undesirable wild horns.



**Cull**  
Ears folded lengthwise.

Undesirable protruding ears.



**Cull**  
Undershot and overshot jaw.

# Undesirable Horns



A flat sharp-edged horn.



Horns that are too upright.



Horns too severely curled.



Horns too flat.



Horns too high and flat.



Horns too close to each other.



# Neck and Forequarters



A neck of moderate length and in proportion to the length of the body.

Full and well fleshed and well joined to the forequarters is essential.

The breastbone should be broad with a deep broad brisket.

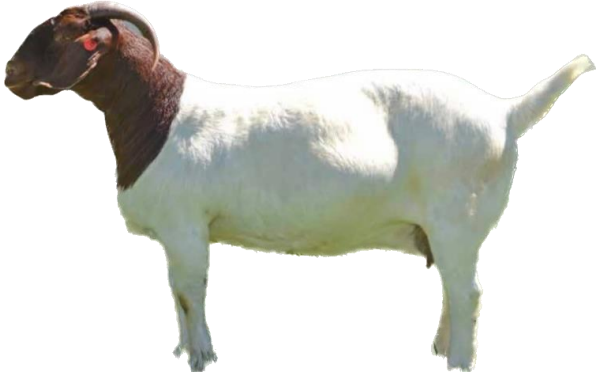
The shoulder should be fleshy, in proportion to the body and be well fitted to the withers.

The withers should be as broad as possible (not sharp).

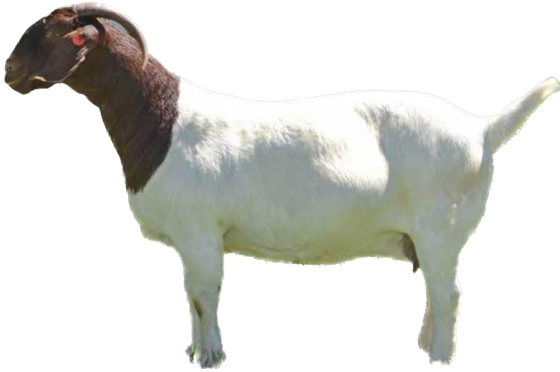
The front legs should be of medium length and in proportion to the depth of the body.

The legs should be strong and well placed, with strong pastern joints and well-formed hooves which must be as dark as possible.

# Neck and Forequarters



Neck too short.



Balanced-  
correct.



Neck too long.

# Neck and Forequarters



Too broad  
shoulders.



Balanced-  
correct.



Too  
narrow.

# Barrel and Balance

The ideal is a long, deep and broad barrel.

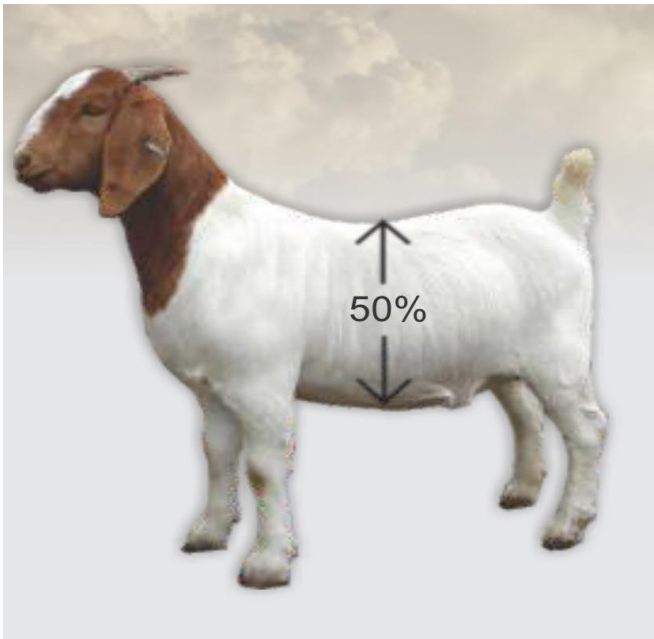
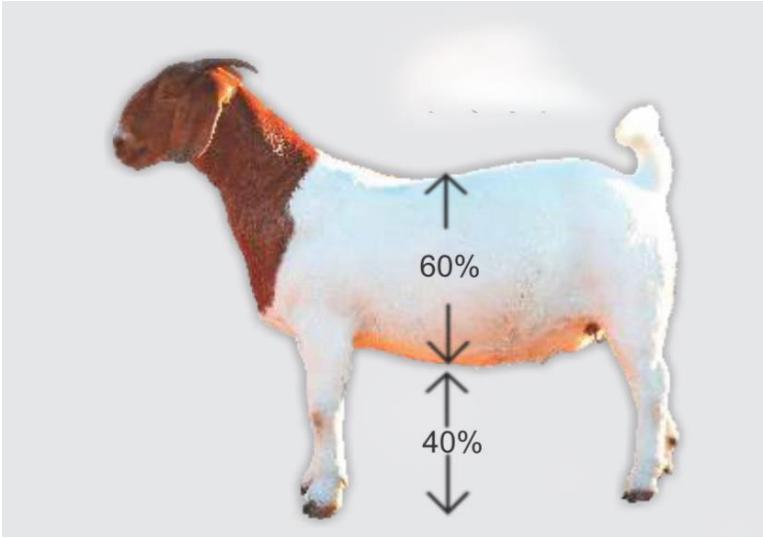
The ribs must be well sprung and fleshed and the loins as well fitted as possible.

The goat should have a broad fairly straight back and must not be pinched behind the shoulders.



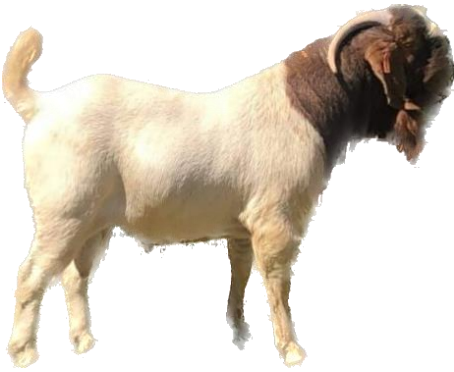
# Barrel and Balance

## Legs to body ratio

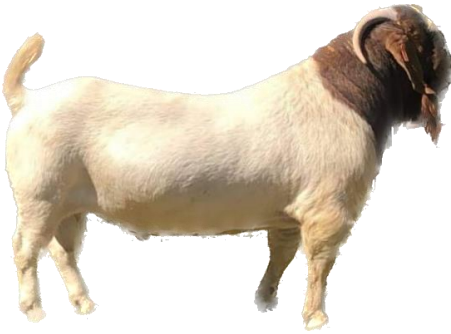


50/50 legs to body ratio  
acceptable for kids.

# Barrel and Balance Length



No balance,  
body length  
too short.



No balance,  
body length  
too long.



Correct -  
balanced.

# Barrel and Balance

## Body Depth



No balance.  
Shallow body  
depth.



Correct-  
balanced



No  
balance,  
body too  
deep

# Barrel and Balance Topline

Hollow  
weak back.



Straight back  
showing lack  
of muscling.



Correct -  
balanced.





# Barrel and Balance Width



Flat sided goat.  
Less goat,  
producing less  
meat.

Goats that are too large,  
physically struggle,  
would be prone to leg  
problems like weak  
pasterns.



The ideal width,  
with balanced  
amount of long  
muscling.

# Barrel and Balance

## Loose Shoulders

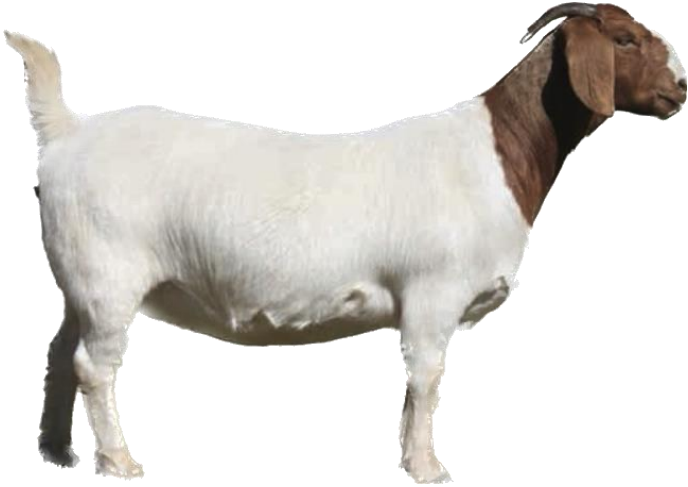
When the shoulder blades are very loose the shoulder blade protrudes above the line of the goats back.



Devils Grip and Shallow Flank  
Lacking strength behind the  
shoulder.



# Hindquarters



The Boer goat should have a broad and long rump.

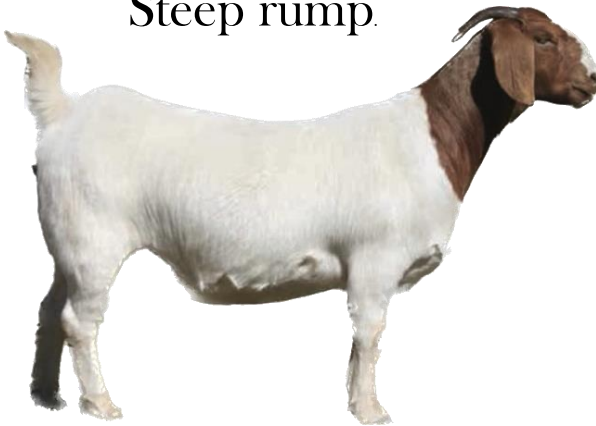
Not sloping too much, well fleshed buttocks which are not too flat and have fully fleshed thighs.

The tail must be straight where it grows out of the dock.

# Hindquarters Rumps



Steep rump.



Rump too  
short.



Balanced - correct.

# Hindquarters Tails



The tail must be straight and vertical from the base to the tip.



The tail that is bent at the base is unacceptable and is genetically hereditary.



This tail grows straight at its base and is curled thereafter resulting in the tip flying flat on the goats back, this is acceptable.

# Legs



Emphasis should be placed on the legs which should be strong and well placed.

Too fleshy legs are undesirable. Strong legs imply hardiness and a strong constitution, which are essential characteristics of the Boer Goat.

Characteristic cull defects: knock knees, bandy legs, cow hocked, post legged, sickle-hocked, legs too thin or too fleshy. Weak pasterns and hooves pointing outwards or inwards

# Legs

Legs too  
long.



Legs too  
short.



Correct-  
balanced



# Front legs



Bandy  
legs.



X legs.



Balanced -  
correct.



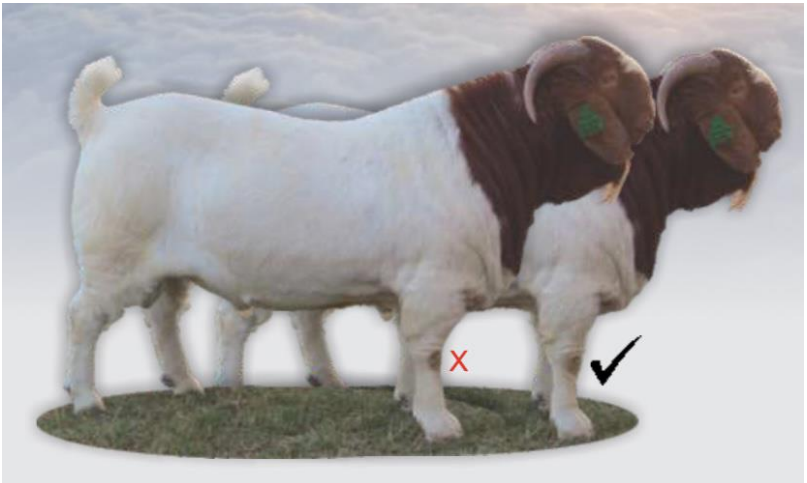
# Front legs



Turned in  
hooves.

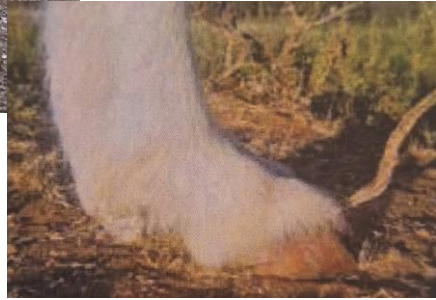


Turned out  
hooves.



Knees bent backwards. This is  
found more often in bucks  
than on does.

# Legs Pastern Joints



These are clear example of weak malformed pastern joints. This is highly undesirable as the animal walks with great difficulty.



Correct strong pastern joints.

# Legs Thickness



When legs are too thin this results in a lack of muscling, this is undesirable as it results in less production of meat.



If the legs are too thick it shows a tendency to masculinity and possible reproduction problems.



Correct  
balanced.

# Leg Stance



Sickle-hocked.



Posty legged.



Correct.

# Leg Stance



Bandy hind  
legs.



Cow  
hocked.



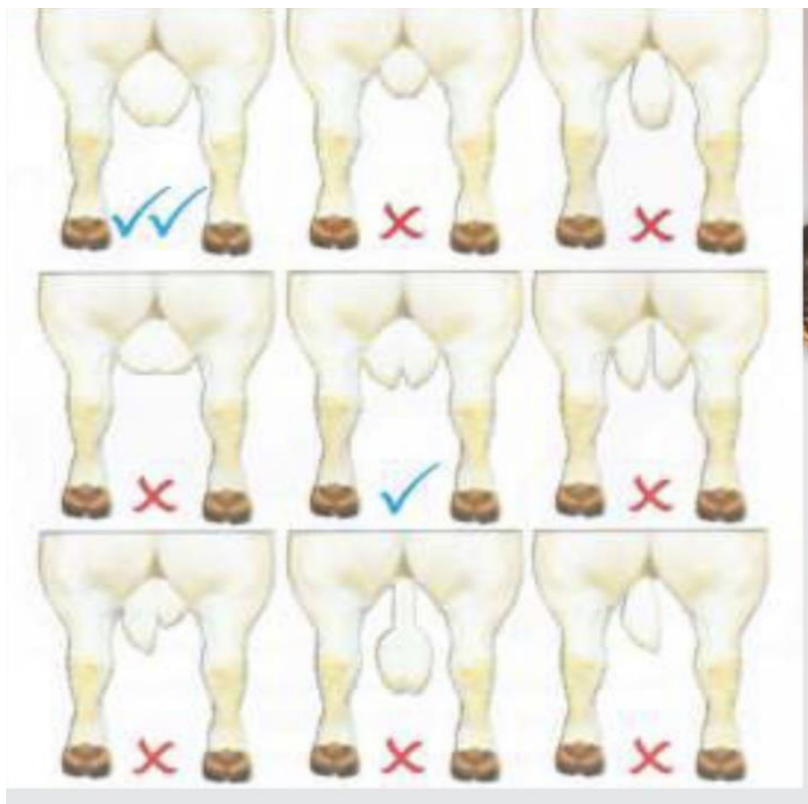
Balanced  
correct.

# Testicles



The ideal testicles are large and even, with a distinct epididymis.

A split of 5cm is acceptable. Too long, too small, too flat( no epididymis) too long a split, uneven or single testicles are not acceptable.



# Udder and Teats



The ideal lactating udder is well attached and evenly shaped, with teats long enough for the kid to suckle, but not too long.

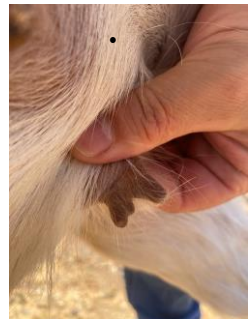
The udder should be neither too deep below the hocks nor too uneven showing a tendency towards mastitis. Teats should not be calabash, fishtail or bottleneck as shown. These are cull faults.

**Bottleneck.**

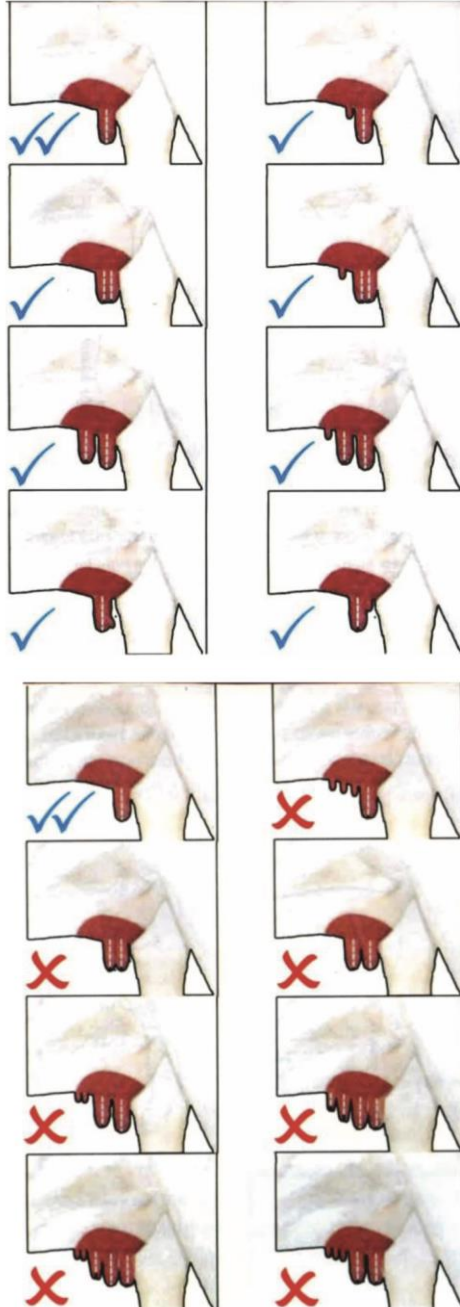


**Fishtail.**

**Calabash**



# Teats



The ideal is a single teat that is well attached; all other above multiple teats and teat forms are unacceptable.



# Colour

## Maximum colour for stud



1. The tail may be red, but the red colour may not continue on to the body more than 2.5cm.
2. Only one patch with a maximum of 10cm in diameter is permitted on the barrel- hindquarters- belly.
3. Patches with a maximum of 5cm in diameter are permitted on the legs.
4. The red of the neck and chest must not go beyond the point of elbow.

# Minimum colour



The minimum colour for a show animal is a patch of at least 10cm in diameter on both sides of the head (ears excluded). Both ears should have at least 75% red colouring.



# Colouring

The ideal is a white goat with a red head, white facial markings permitted and fully pigmented skin.

Yellow and black are not acceptable. Shadings between light and dark red are permissible.



To pale or yellow.



No black acceptable.



No mottling or dapples.

# Skin Development



The ideal skin development as seen here by the folds and loose skin on the neck area of the animal, particularly important in the bucks.

# Hair Quality



The ideal hair quality is short, fine and soft.

Long coarse hair is undesirable.

Normally the buck will have slightly coarser hair than the doe.



# General appearance and type



An ideal goat has a fine head, round horns that are bent backwards, a loose supple skin with folds (especially in bucks) and with body parts well fleshed and in perfect balance. The doe must be feminine, wedging slightly up to the front, which is a sign of fertility. The buck is heavier in the head, neck and forequarters. The Boer goat is an animal with symmetry with a strong, vigorous appearance and fine quality. The doe must be feminine and the buck masculine.