

Selection Pointers For the Commercial Goat Breeder

Selection Priorities – Does

1. Mouth structure
2. Udder confirmation & pigmentation
3. Feet & leg confirmation
4. Muscle confirmation

Mouth

Teeth should meet the dental pad. Monkey jaw (bottom jaw too long) and parrot mouth (bottom jaw too short) are undesirable.



Ideal fit

Monkey mouth

Parrot mouth

Udder

The udder has two halves that should be equal in size. The udder should be tightly attached in the front, and be suspended by a strong, wide ligament in the rear.

Ideal structure is one functional teat per side. Two teats are acceptable, as long as they are separated to the base. Fish teats, clusters of teats, bottle or balloon teats are undesirable.

The bare skin under the tail should be darkly pigmented, dark brown to black in color. Light pink skin with no evidence of pigmentation is undesirable.



Undesirable



Ideal



Fish teat (on left)



Ideal



Pigmentation

Undesirable

Feet & Legs

Legs should be straight when viewed from the front or rear. Hooves should point toward the front of the animal. Pasterns should be strong and dewclaws well off the ground.

The topline or back of the animal should be straight and strong. Sway back, coarse shoulders and steep hip are undesirable.



Bad



Bad

Ideal



Ideal feet & legs

Muscle

Goats should be adequately muscled. Look for width and squareness down the back and a square hip. When viewed from behind, the center of the hind leg should be the thickest. Circumference of forearm is a good indicator of muscling.



Lacking

Adequate



Beautiful does showing a strong top-line, correct feet and legs and plenty of muscle.

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