

Evaluate Your Goat

Below are some points to look for when evaluating any goat. Consider them carefully when you are choosing a goat to show or to purchase. It is important to put your hands on any animal and feel the parts that you are judging.

- Straight, level topline
 - Enables goat to carry internal organs without undue stress
 - helps goat to walk easily and without pain
 - allows goat to stand comfortably to eat

- Strong legs and good feet
 - enables goat to walk easily and without pain
 - allows goat to stand comfortably to eat
 - helps doe to carry kids, especially multiples
 - helps buck to stand and mount doe for breeding

- Ample body depth for size
 - provides space for internal organs
 - good lung capacity
 - adequate room for doe to carry kids
 - space for full rumen and digestive system

- Udder type, shape, attachment
 - front attachment tightly forward without “pocket”
 - high, wide rear attachment
 - straight teats of medium size
 - soft, pliable texture
 - milks out completely
 - side view with 1/3 behind leg, 1/3 hidden, 1/3 in front of leg
 - globular shape

- Broad, deep chest floor
 - room for muscles that support front end assembly
 - allows for walking ease
 - carries and supports shoulders, neck, head

- Skeletal system
 - strong bones
 - good curve to rear leg set
 - no swellings on knees
 - high, sharp withers on dairy doe
 - wide, flat hips
 - minimal slope from hips to pin bones
 - wide spring of ribs with flat bones spaced widely
 - relatively long neck either feminine or masculine for doe or buck

- wide, straight muzzle and jaw
 - holds and anchors teeth
 - has strength to bite and tear off forage
- good breed characteristics for the goat
 - color and patterns
 - head shape
 - ear type