



# AUSTRALIAN BOER GOAT

BREED STANDARD - 2020

The following is the standard accepted by the Boer Goat Breeders' Association of Australia Ltd (BGBAA), effective October 2020.

The aim of the breed standard is to improve the breed and to increase the economic value of the Boer Goat.

# Preface

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This 2020 BGBAA Breed Standard is based on the 2012 BGBAA Breed Standard but reflects decisions made by vote of Members at the 2017, 2018 and 2020 Annual General Meetings that rejected suggested changes to Teat Morphology, standardised specifications for Red Boer Goats (previously referred to a REDS, Kalahari Reds and Aussie Reds) and Black Boer Goats and clarified some terms without changing the meaning of the Breed Standard.

It should also be noted specifically that the 2012 BGBAA Review produced very few significant changes to the South African Breed Standard. The key changes were:

- Changes to the wording to reflect Australia English vernacular and BGBAA Judging and Show practice.
- Using Australian versions of South African terms (e.g. Buck for Ram, Doe for Ewe and Commercial for Flock, etc).
- No reference to Savannah Boer Goats (because none were being bred or Registered by BGBAA Members by 2012).
- Specification of colour markings as a percentage (%) of body area rather than width in cm at 12 months of age (providing a reasonable basis of identifying “off-colour” animals at the earliest opportunity).
- Specification of 25mm testes split rather than 50mm (based on evidence of a link between testes split and udder attachment in cattle).

# Preface

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- A slightly larger range and slightly different teat morphology diagrams (although the general requirement for teats to be “functional” remains the same as the South African Standard).
- Unequivocal specification of identical teat requirements in both Does and Bucks (rather than a temporary specification until such time as scientific research into teats may necessitate a different decision).

The Breed Standard will be reviewed from time to time at the discretion of the Board, such discretion taking account of a request in writing by any Member that sets out a reasonable basis for undertaking a review. Should the Board decide that a review is warranted, such review shall be undertaken in consultation with all Members in accordance with a Review Project Plan detailing the objectives for the review, the review methodology, the process for engagement and consultation with Members and the timeline for the review.

# The ideal Boer Goat

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The ideal Boer Goat must comply with the Breed Standard and must be functional. This goat must have the physical anatomy to be able to walk, eat and produce most effectively. It must also be able to adapt to the environment in which it is being raised and it must reproduce in that environment. It must be hardy and robust.

- The goat must have a good temperament with a lively appearance.
- Short smooth glossy hair.
- Does must be angular, have strong feminine characteristics and be fertile.
- Does must also possess good mothering characteristics.
- Bucks must be masculine, robust and fertile.
- An ennobled appearance, especially with a strong head and rounded horns.
- Loose thick, supple, folds of skin (particularly in the Bucks).

The ideal Boer Goat must satisfy the needs of the market by producing high quality, consistent breeding stock, and healthy low cholesterol, protein-rich red meat that will meet the expectations and requirements of consumers within the broader population.

# Explanation of the breed standards

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In applying this standard there are many aspects which cannot be completely defined. In such cases the inspector or judge must use their discretion.

*Where an animal is highly exceptional in its functional traits and displays an aesthetic fault, its exceptional traits should always be recognised.*

In spite of the breed standard being clear and to the point, it is nevertheless necessary to supply additional information to clarify some descriptions.

The major part of the body of the Standard Boer Goat is white to make it conspicuous and to facilitate the rounding up of goats in dense terrain. A pigmented skin on the hairless parts e.g. under the tail, round the eyelids and mouth etc, is essential, because it offers resistance to sunburn which may result in cancer.

A loose, supple skin is essential for adaptability to climatic conditions. In Australia, which is a warm and sunny country, an animal with loose skin and short hair is better adapted, noting however, the normal differences expected in areas of extreme cold and heat.

# General appearance and type

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A Boer Goat is a goat with a strong head, round horns that show a gradual backward curve, 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 to the front, which is a sign of fertility. The Buck is heavier in the head, neck and forequarters, but must also be well muscled in the hindquarters and masculine. The Boer Goat is an animal with beautiful symmetry, exhibiting a strong, vigorous appearance and fine quality. The Doe must be feminine and the Buck masculine.

# Conformation

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**Size:** The ideal Boer Goat is a medium sized heavy goat for maximum meat production. A desirable ratio between the length of leg and depth of body should be achieved at all ages. Kids tend to be longer in the leg, and body depth should increase as an animal matures.

*Characteristic Cull Defects:* Goats too large or too small (pony).

**Head:** A strong head with large soft brown eyes and without an untamed or wild look. The head should have a strong slightly curved nose, wide nostrils, strong well-formed mouth with well-fitted jaws.

A strong curved lower jaw rising to meet the upper jaw is ideal. Up to 6 tooth in age must show a perfect bite. Eight tooth in age and older may show 6mm protrusion of the lower jaw. Permanent teeth must cut in the correct anatomical place and order.

The forehead must be prominently curved, linking up with the curve of nose and horns. Horns should be strong, of moderate length and placed moderately apart with a gradual backward curve.

Horns should be round, solid and dark in colour. Ears are to be broad, smooth and of medium length hanging downwards from the head. Ears that are too short are undesirable.

*Characteristic Cull Defects:* Concave forehead, horns too straight or too flat, or horns too close together, pointed jaw, ears folded (lengthwise), stiff protruding ears, ears too short, over- or under-shot jaw and blue eyes.

# Conformation

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**Neck and forequarters:** A neck of moderate length in proportion to the length of the body and well-joined to the forequarter. In Does, the neck should come out deep from the chest blending smoothly with the shoulders, be wide in its attachment and rising gracefully to the throatlatch, which is a sign of refinement. In Bucks the neck should be thicker, well-muscled and show skin folds when mature as a sign of masculinity.

The breastbone should be broad with a deep, broad brisket. The shoulder should be in proportion to the body and be well-fitted to the withers. The withers should be broad and as well-fitted as possible whilst still allowing the animal the flexibility and agility to browse effectively (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 pasterns and well-formed hoofs.

*Characteristic Cull Defects:* Too long, thin neck, too short neck, shoulders too loose.

**Barrel:** The ideal is a long, deep broad barrel. The ribs must be well sprung and fleshed, and the loins as well filled as possible. The goat should have a broad, fairly straight back and must not be pinched behind the shoulders.

*Characteristic cull defects:* Back too concave, too slab-sided, too cylindrical or pinched behind the shoulder.



# Conformation

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**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 and then may swing to either side.

*Characteristic Cull Defects:* A rump that is too steep, or is too short, a long shank or flat buttocks, hips too narrow, pins too narrow, wry tail.

**Legs:** Emphasis should be placed on the legs which should be strong boned and well placed. Legs should be squarely placed with correct angulation and freedom of movement. The upper leg should be long in proportion to the cannon bone and should be well-muscled. 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 or sickle hocked. Legs too thin, weak pasterns and hooves pointing outwards or inwards.

**Skin:** A loose supple skin, (with sufficient chest and neck skin folds in the case of Bucks), is desirable. Eyelids and hairless parts must be pigmented. The hairless skin under the tail should have 75% pigmentation as a minimum with 100% pigmentation desirable at 12 months. Short, glossy hair is desirable. A limited amount of Cashmere will be tolerated during winter months.

*Characteristic Cull Defects:* Hair covering too long and coarse or excessive cashmere through coat in summer

# Conformation

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**Skin and hair covering:** A loose supple skin, (with sufficient chest and neck skin folds in the case of Bucks), is desirable. Eyelids and hairless parts must be pigmented. The hairless skin under the tail should have 75% pigmentation as a minimum with 100% pigmentation desirable at 12 months of age. Short, glossy hair is desirable. A limited amount of Cashmere will be tolerated during winter months.

*Characteristic Cull Defects:* Hair covering too long and coarse or excessive cashmere through coat in summer.

## **Sexual Organs:**

**Does:** Does must have a good shaped and well-attached udder with well-placed teats that are Identified as either Ideal or Acceptable on the diagrams on pages 11, 12 & 13 of this Breed Standard.

**Bucks:** Bucks must have two reasonably large, well-formed, healthy and equal sized testes in one scrotum. A scrotum with a split no larger than 2.5cm is acceptable. The scrotum must be at least 25cm in circumference at 12 months of age.

The teat requirement for Bucks is exactly the same as for the Does.

*Characteristic Cull Defects:* Teats identified as Cull teats in “Teat Morphology Diagrams” for both bucks and does. For does, pendulous udders and poor teat placement. For bucks, testes too small monorchid or cryptorchid, a scrotum with a more than 2.5cm split, twisted scrotum.

# Teat Morphology Diagrams

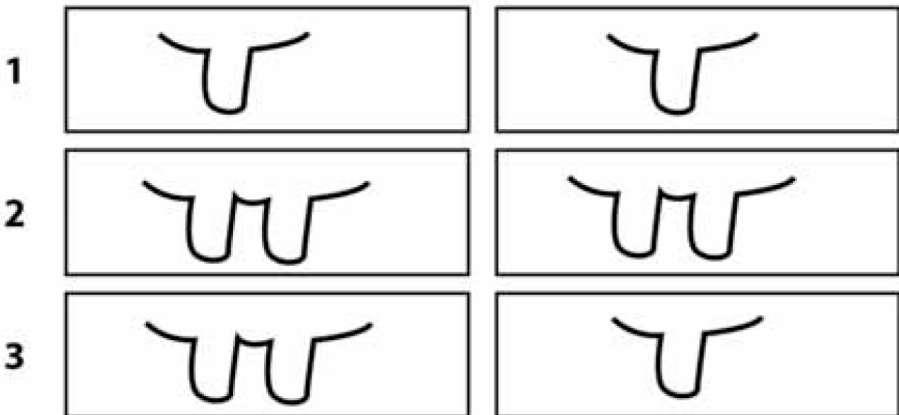
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*Please note that all teat structures in diagrams 1 - 17 are Acceptable for Stud animals and are permitted in the Show Ring.*

*All of the Teat diagrams from 11 – 17 are acceptable but less desirable. A teat with a double orifice must be of a similar size to the corresponding teat on the opposite side of the udder.*

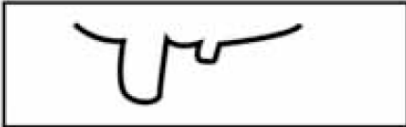

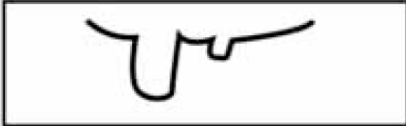
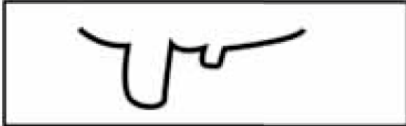
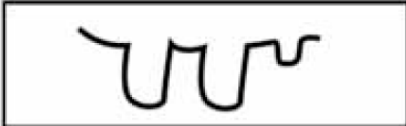

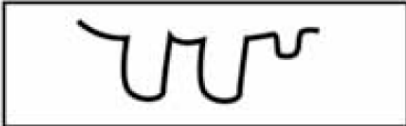
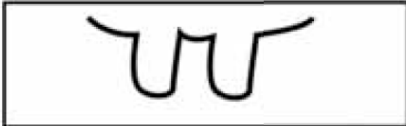

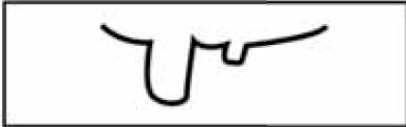
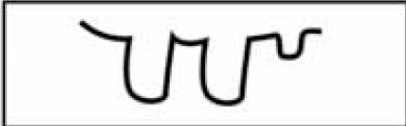


## Ideal

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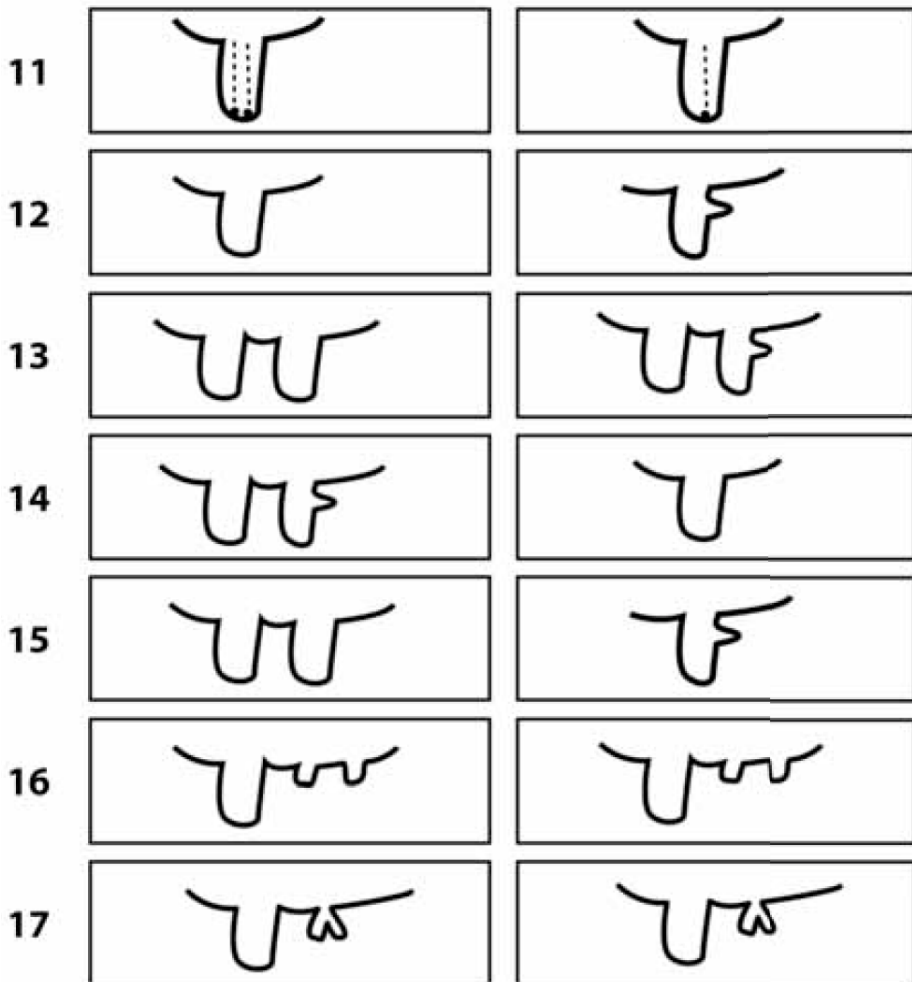
# Acceptable

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10		plus any teat from above

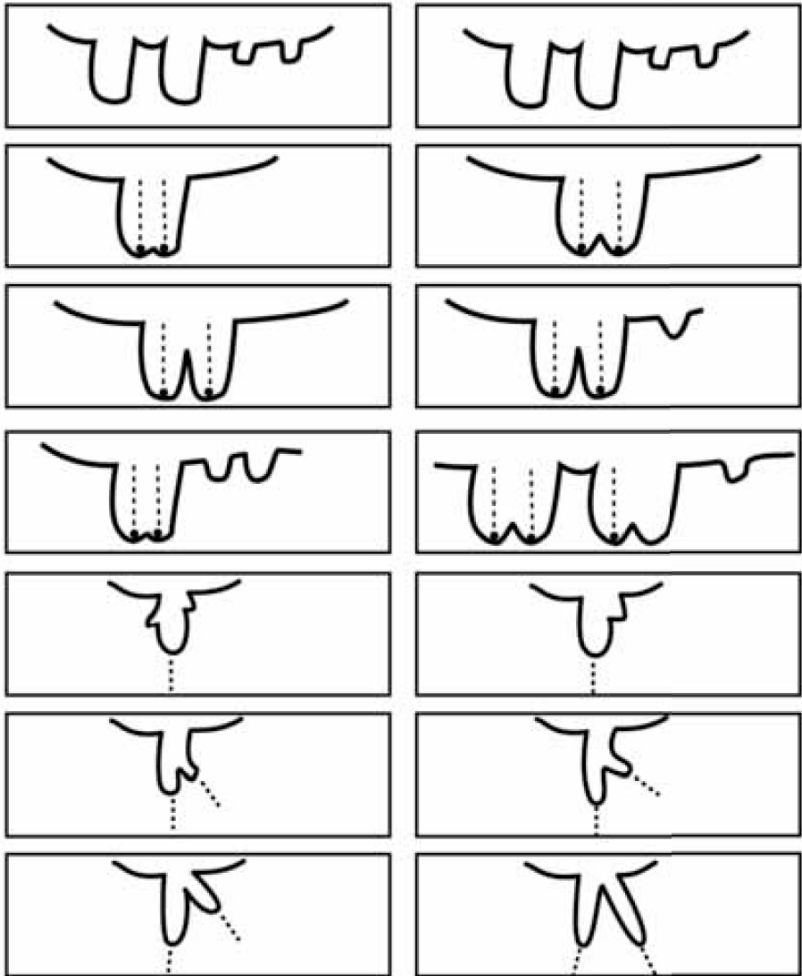
## Acceptable but less desirable

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# Cull

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# Colouring

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**The ideal Standard Boer Goat is a white goat with a red head and ears, with white facial markings and fully pigmented skin. A full red head is also acceptable.**

Shadings between light red and dark red is acceptable. The minimum requirement for a Stud animal is a red patch of at least 10cm in diameter on both sides of the head at 2 tooth in age, ears excluded. Both ears should have at least 75% red colouring with 75% pigmentation.

**The following is acceptable for stud purposes:**

Head, neck and forequarters: complete red colouring is acceptable up to but not further than the shoulder blade.

The acceptable allowance of red colour on the body and limbs of a Stud animal should not exceed 5% of the body and must not give a mottled appearance. (The head, neck and shoulders are not to be counted when calculating the 5%).

**Red hairs (Roan):** Some red hairs are acceptable from the 2 years of age, however not desirable.

**Pigmentation:** Discriminate against too light pigmentation.

# Red Boer Goats

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**Colouring:** The ideal is a completely red goat with no white.

The acceptable allowance of white colour on the body and limbs of a Stud Red Boer Goat should not exceed 5% of the body.

A white marking on the head no larger than 10cm is acceptable. White on the front legs no higher than the knee is acceptable. White on the back legs no higher than the hock is acceptable. A single white marking on the body of the animal is acceptable, provided that the total amount of white on the Red Boer Goat does not exceed 5%.

A Red Boer Goat should be consistent in colour type and coat pattern throughout the body, with expected allowances for various shadings of red, but a goat that has red and black markings is undesirable.

It is highly desirable that a Red Boer Goat displays the same characteristics as the Standard Boer Goat regarding quality, functionality, consistency of type and ennoblement. Therefore, the remainder of the Breed Standard for Red Boer Goats is the same as for Standard Boer Goats.



# Black Boer Goats

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**Colouring:** The ideal is a completely black goat with no white.

The acceptable allowance of white colour on the body and limbs of a Stud Black Boer Goat should not exceed 5% of the body.

A white marking on the head no larger than 10cm is acceptable. White on the front legs no higher than the knee is acceptable. White on the back legs no higher than the hock is acceptable.

A single white marking on the body of the animal is acceptable, provided that the total amount of white on the Black Boer Goat does not exceed 5%.

A Black Boer Goat should be consistent in colour type and coat pattern throughout the body, with expected allowances for various shadings of black, but a goat that has red and black markings is undesirable.

It is highly desirable that a Black Boer Goat displays the same characteristics as the Standard Boer Goat regarding quality, functionality, consistency of type and ennoblement. Therefore, the remainder of the Breed Standard for Black Boer Goats is the same as for Standard Boer Goats.

# A note on accuracy and consistency

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Accuracy of colour recording is both expected and essential in all Boer Goats accepted into the BGBAA Registrar. This helps ensure clarity and consistency to our fellow breeders, clients and markets.