

Goat Show Judging

What Does A Judge Look For?

ADGA provides all of its judges with a scorecard to evaluate dairy goats. The scorecard for Senior does assigns the following priorities: general appearance 35%, mammary system 35%, dairy character 20%, and body capacity 10%. The Junior doe is allocated for general appearance 55%, dairy character 30%, and body capacity 15%. For Bucks, general appearance is allotted 55%, dairy character 30%, and body capacity 15%. In addition, the judge must see that each animal meets the breed standard for its breed.

On the ADGA scorecard, *general appearance* is defined as "An attractive framework with femininity (masculinity in bucks), strength, upstandingness, length, and smoothness of blending throughout that create an impressive style and graceful walk."

In *mammary system*, the judge seeks one that is "Strongly attached, elastic, well-balanced with adequate capacity, quality, ease of milking, and indicating heavy milk production over a long period of usefulness."

Dairy character is "Angularity and general openness with strong, yet refined and clean bone structure, showing freedom from coarseness and with evidence of milking ability giving due regard to stage of lactation (or of breeding season in bucks)."

Finally, *body capacity* should be "Relatively large in proportion to size, age, and period of lactation of the animal (or of breeding season for bucks), providing ample capacity, strength and vigor."

There are a number of defects which may cause the judge to disqualify an animal, such as blindness, serious emaciation, permanent lameness, double teats or other permanent physical defects.

Nigerian Dwarf Conformation

A Nigerian Dwarf goat's conformation is similar to that of the larger dairy goat breeds. The parts of the body are in balanced proportion. The nose is straight, although there may be a small break or stop at the level of the eyes. The ears are upright. The coat is soft with short to medium hair. Any color or combination of colors is acceptable, although the silver agouti pattern and color is a moderate fault (pygmy goat-specific markings).

Ideal height of Nigerian Dwarf goats is 17" to 19" for does with does up to 21" allowed in the breed standard. Ideal height for bucks is 19" to 21" with bucks up to 23" allowed in the breed standard. Ideal weight is suggested to be about 75 lbs. Animals are disqualified from the show ring for being oversized for the breed standard and/or for other faults: having a curly coat, roman nose, pendulous ears or evidence of myatonia (a breed characteristic of fainting goats).