

Fact sheet 11. Meat goat judging terminology



Broad through the chest floor or good spring of rib	Goat will have a desired barrel shape through the ribs, front legs will be wide apart, the rack wide and smooth, and the ribs round, not flat from the spine to the breastbone.
Carcass merit	The value of the goat carcass when slaughtered is evaluated. Overall thickness and volume of muscle as demonstrated on the live animal indicates carcass value.
Clean up on feet and legs	Goat exhibits structural problems with pasterns or hocks – usually do not serve.
Correct bite	The bottom jaw must line up with the top dental pad. Sometimes in kids, the teeth are pushed forward, but the dental pads still align. This usually corrects itself by the time their first two adult teeth come in. Older goats whose teeth don't align have an incorrect bite.
Correct on feet and legs	Goat is structurally correct
Deep through the twist	The goat measures long between the anus and where the legs split. Goats that are deep through the twist have more leg muscling.
Eye appeal	The goat is nice to look at.
Good wide horn set	The horns are set wide apart so not to catch legs.
Hocks in – cow hocked	Hocks turn in when the goat stands or walks.
Lacks volume/depth/capacity	Goat is narrow and shallow bodied. Front legs are set close together, and the hips are usually short and steep. The animal lacks room to have a large functioning rumen system or lungs. Lacks adequate space to carry kids.
Lacks scale and size	Goat not big enough for its age or sex.
Mouth is out	Front teeth don't line up with top dental pad – usually the teeth stick out too far. The lower jaw is longer than the upper jaw. The mouth is 'undershot'.
Parrot mouth	The bottom jaw is shorter than the top jaw causing an incorrect bite.
Pinched through the withers/behind the shoulders or sharp through the rack	The rack narrows behind the withers. Usually, this can be seen all the way down the ribs and behind the front legs.
Slab-sided or lacks spring of rib – flat ribbed	Goat lacks volume/ depth/capacity. Narrow bodied.
Smooth over the shoulders and through the front end	Goat is wide and flat through the rack. The shoulders tie in smoothly to the neck and the ribs.

Short through the hip	There is not enough distance between the hip and pin bones.
Short through the rump	Goat lacks adequate distance between the hip and pin bones.
Splays out in the front	Front feet turn out when the goat stands or walks.
Steep rump	There is too much angle between the hip and pin bones.
Stylish	The goat is well balanced and pretty to look at. Exhibits the characteristics of the type of animal you are judging.
Tracks wide in the front and rear	Goat legs are straight and wide in the front and rear.
Weak/down in the pasterns	Pasterns are weak and give when the goat walks or stands. Goat may walk on its dewclaws if severe.
Weak/soft over the top	Goat 'gives' behind the shoulders, falls off behind the withers. Isn't smooth through the rack.
Well balanced	Goat is well put together. All the parts match and tie in correctly. Symmetrical – not too wide and powerful in the front, narrow through the hips.

Terms used by meat buyers for market goats

Correctly finished or correct amount of finish	The wether is fed to have the correct amount of fat covering.
Finish/cover	The amount of fat covering the goat. Goats put on fat two-thirds of the way down the rib cage towards the chest floor first. The loin is the last place to finish. The goat is not too fat or too thin. The goat is smooth.
Not enough finish or lacking finish	There is not enough fat and muscling.
Over finished	The goat is too fat.
Short bodied	The goat is short from the shoulders through the hip. Lacking in overall body length.
Short through the loin	The loin (between the 12th rib and hook bones) is too short for the goat's size.
Smooth over the rack	The goat is flat and shows good finish. Smooth over the withers and ribs. Top-muscling over the rack through the loin and hip.
Stale - past its prime	The goat is starting to put on fat and lose its top. Internal fat causes a belly, and external fat is evident.
Wasty	Too much fat on carcass, both external and internal. Too much fat needs trimming.