

MOHAIR AUSTRALIA YOUNG JUDGES COMPETITION



**Technique guidelines of judging animals,
Technique guidelines mohair fleeces,
Oral Class Presentation animals and fleeces**



Technique guidelines of judging animals: (L Carter)

How to judge an angora goat!

On the animal judging card it states:

You should look for:

- Body Confirmation
- Fleece Qualities

Follow these points

1. On entering the main Judging ring and time for Judging is called **Observation** of the animals to be judged by scanning for the properties of body confirmation
2. Head, horns, face, body size, leg structure is the animal stance square, is there any leg or foot fault observed by you, body length, barrel, age group, Male & or Females in line up, or both
3. Make a note in your head of the general appearance of the body confirmation of the animal
4. Commence working on handling the animals -Move towards first animal in the line up by beginning at the head.

Young judges, you will be told that the animals have a sound mouth by the announcer prior to the judging because of animal health contamination of OJD and mouthing of each goat.

Feel around the nose and eye area for softness and observe any small white chalky fibre of which is an indicator of medullation/ kemp in the body of the fleece.

5. Move over to feel the ears for softness/handle and observe any small white chalky fibres observe the ear for small black spots or pigmentation -tan or pink skin of the ear. Gently pull your index and thumb down the ear to observe any short fibres in your fingers another indicator of medullation/ kemp
6. Move to the front of the chest/neck to open the fibre on the animal. Using the "spider walk" to open If the animals are held by handlers you may ask for the holder to push the animal back so you have a clear view of the chest fibre and to observe the evenness of the mohair fall.
Using the "spider walk" of your hands together pull back gently to view the mohair from tip to the base of the staple
Open the fleece at the top, midway and bottom of the neck/chest fibre and note any unevenness or evenness or stronger lock structure.

This will include the qualities of mohair, Ringlet- balance of evenness of style & character, lustre length - growth rate from shearing date.

7. Move to the shoulder open and observe as above
8. Move to the Barrel and do the same
9. Move to the breech area and observe the mohair as above ,this is where you may note a difference of fibre to the body , neck of the animal
10. Look down the backline and observe if you can see any short fibre or thicker fibre on the back line if unsure place hands on each side of the back line and gently push hair upwards to see if you can see any medullation/ kemp
11. CHECK genitals
Female- lift tail and check for female vulva
Male- ask the holder to brace the animal

Place your hand under the back end and feel for the testicles, size and if there is two in the scrota

YOUNG JUDGES:

You are adjudicated on your ability to handle animals, to open fleeces on animals, to work through fleeces on the table before you

You are awarded an appropriate score by the over judge/s as to your ability demonstrated to apply "hands on" skills

Visual teaching guide 1-12 points above

On entering the main Judging ring and time for Judging is called **Observation** of the animals to be judged by scanning for the properties of BODY CONFIRMATION.

Sequence of photos to coincide with -How to judge an angora goat!



1. Check Mouth for age not permitted (OJD)
Ask holder to open mouth



2. Check for short chalky fibres around nose



3. Check for short chalky fibres on ears



4. Horn space



5. Look at chest fibre and front leg stance



6. Open up fibre to check for evenness and staple structure



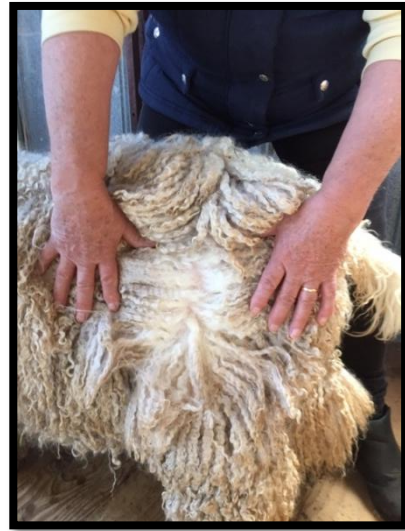
7. Move to shoulder and "spider walk" down the line of fleece.



8. Pull gently back to open and look for the evenness lustre and fineness



9. Move to the ribcage and repeat the spider walk to open look for all mohair characteristics



10. Move to the Breech and repeat



11. Look for any kemp or medullation down backline and feel for fat score/condition and muscling

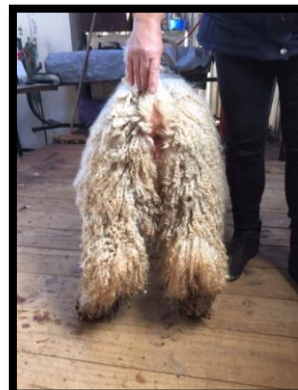


12. Check for Male or Female

Body Confirmation stance and size for age group of the class look for any faults like narrow chest hockiness and back problems make a mental note and determine you're placing of your animals.



Front Legs and feet



Back end legs and feet

Mohair fleece judging:

Mohair is a luxury natural protein fibre grown by angora goats. It grows rapidly at about 2cm per month, and is shorn every six months.

The higher the quality of mohair, the better the performance in the manufacturing process for cloth-making (weaving). Lesser quality mohair is used for knitting yarn, upholstery and home wares.

Breeders should aim for a body cover of perfectly formed fleece of even length and uniformity of staple. Well-bred angoras should be covered with soft, lustrous and kemp-free mohair.

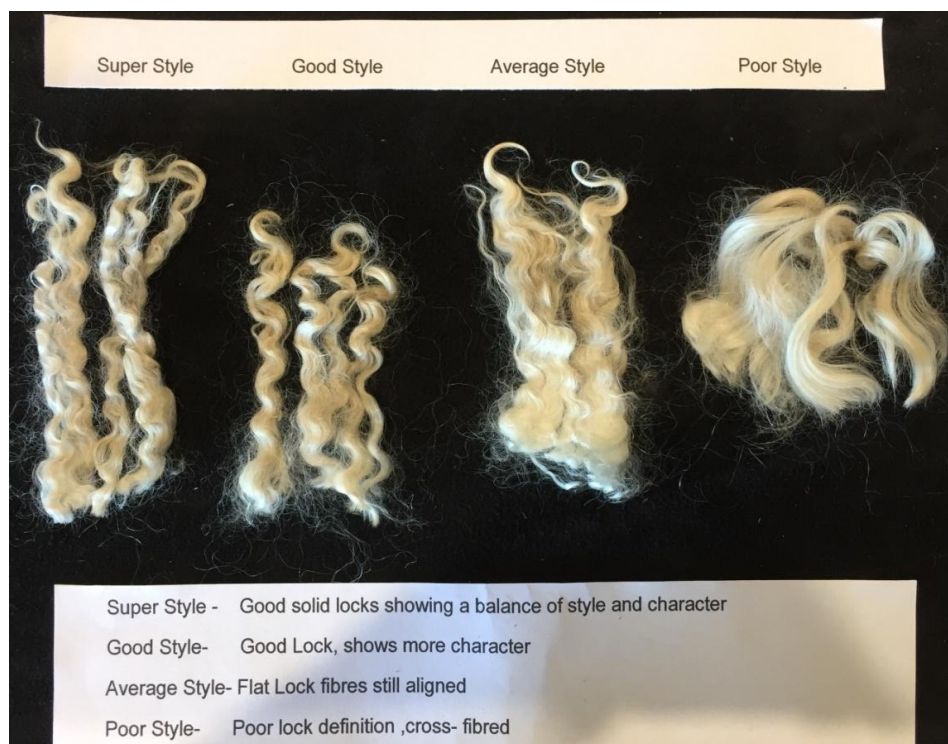
Mohair is classed as kid, young goat, fine hair and adult hair. The fibre is assessed for fineness, length, kemp levels, style and character, lustre, condition and vegetable matter content.

The style of mohair is best described as the twist of the ringlet, with good quality mohair displaying a reversal of twist. The character refers to the wave or crimp. For example, fine kid hair has a closer wave space than 'fine fine' adult hair.

Mohair characteristics include:

- evenness of fibres.
- evenness of staples from different parts of the body neck, shoulder, mid-side and breech
- workability – how a single staple will perform in the manufacturing process.
- tensile strength – lack of breakage
- length of fibre – how many of the same length in a single staple, without any short fibres visible
- fibres pulled to look for kemp and mohair top pulled to look at evenness for yarn making
- medullation and 'workability traits'.

Mohair STYLE



L Carter

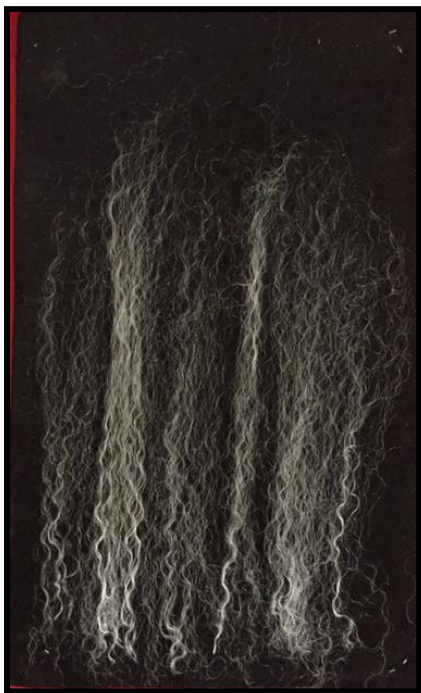
Evenness of staples from different parts of the body Neck, Shoulder, Mid side, and breech



L Carter

Mohair workability -what does it mean?

- Is how a single staple will perform in manufacturing process.
- Tensile strength- lack of breakage
- Length of fibre how many of same length in a single staple, without any short fibres visible
- Alignment of evenness of fibres.



Pulled fibres looking for kemp and medullation and “workability traits”



Mohair Top pulled for evenness for yarn making

Photos L Carter

Technique for judging mohair: (L Carter)

Using the mohair judging card you should look for

- Weight/ Condition
- Length -evenness
- Freedom from Kemp
- Fineness
- Handle
- Style and Character
- Freedom from Stain and Vegetable matter

The **weight** of the fleece varies with mohair quality and type kid types will be of less weight than that of young goat or adult type, according to the **condition** of the fleece and vegetable matter due to seasonal factors, being weather it is winter or summer fleece, will influence the weight and condition of the fleece

Pick up the fleece in your forearms to measure weight if the weights are not written down next to the fleece



L Carter

Length: When assessing kid mohair, you need to look at **length**, which refers to the uniformity of length throughout the fleece and the fibres within the staple. It is the average length of all staples within a fleece that is important. Weak or tender fibre will break during processing and is a fault.

An even covering with the same characteristics displayed in all areas of the fleece is also important. Some animals tend to 'run-off' at the breech and this can be observed on the fleece on the table.

To look for evenness and **length**, pick out five or six locks from various places in the fleece. Place them on the table and compare them for the qualities of length and evenness. Look at the balance of style and character of the individual locks or ringlets of mohair fibre. They can be pencil-width or thicker and chunky, depending on the type of mohair you are judging.



Length of staple for 6 month growth L Carter

Table 1. Mohair types and symbols used for classing mohair for sale

First shearing – SAFK = super style fine kid: 120mm–160mm+ kemp free	Fine kid (FKid) – kid
Second shearing – BFKid = good style fine kid: 100mm–120mm	Kid – strong kid (SKid)
Third shearing – AYGK=average good style young goat: 130-160mm light kemp	Strong kid – young goat (YG)
Fourth shearing – BFH=good style fine hair: 110mm-130mm	Young goat – fine-fine hair (FFH)
Fifth and sixth shearing	Fine hair (FH) – hair (H)

Courtesy of AMMO website

Freedom from kemp

Look for freedom from kemp. Kemp is a short, brittle, chalky, white medullated fibre that has a hollow core. Good mohair is free from medullated fibre. Short medullated fibre (kemp) and long medullated fibre are considered to be serious faults and fleeces with this should be downgraded.

To look for kemp, pick up a staple and gently fan it out to expose the end of the staple that come off the skin. Pull carefully to see if any short fibre springs out. Place on a dark piece of cloth and observe any short or thicker fibres. These are kemp and medullation

Downgrade that fleece in your place order if this is observed.



Looking for kemp



Breakage in staple is a fault

(L Carter)

Fineness refers to the measurement in microns of the fibre diameter.

The smaller the micron, the finer the fibre.

This is often considered to be the most important characteristic to be evaluated.

Microns may not be available, so it is up to you as the judge to determine if one fleece is finer than another. When you are pulling fibres to look for the kemp and medulation factor, you can also observe the width of individual fibres. The finer the single fibre the less micron it could be.

Table 2.

Mohair type	Micron range
Fine kid lines	Generally less than 25 microns
Kid lines	25–27 microns
Strong kid lines	27–29.5 microns
Young goat lines	29.5–32 microns

Fine fine hair	32–34 microns
Fine hair	34–36 microns
Hair	36 microns and above

Courtesy of AMMO website

Handle refers to the degree of softness of the fibres. Good mohair should feel cool, clean, firm, solid and silky. The amount and type of grease, as well as the dirt content, will have a bearing on the handle of a fleece. Judging handle is important. To feel the mohair, place your open hand into the fleece and close your eyes if you are unable to feel the softness.

Lustre is the silky satin sheen or degree of brightness of the fibre. Top-quality mohair should have a bright lustre that gives good light refraction. Dull fibre is an indication of poorer quality mohair and may contain kemp.

Style is the spiral twist of the staple, while **character** is the crimp or wave within and along the staple. Uniformity of style and character give a natural elasticity to the fleece. These characteristics of mohair are important for the balance of fibre



L Carter

Mohair staple showing STYLE (the twist) , The WAVE (the Character)

Freedom from stain and vegetable matter is important in a fleece. Stain is the discolouration of mohair from urine or other impurities, and must be less than 1% visible in a skirted fleece. Vegetable matter refers to any burrs, hay, sticks or other foreign matter. It must have less than 1% visible in a skirted fleece.



Stain

Vegetable matter

L Carter

Young Judges:

When you have finished Judging Animals and Mohair in the Young Judges competition the organisers crunch the Numbers and select for the regional and state finalist up to 10 competitors to speak about their placing of Animals OR Fleeces.

You can mark your choice on both the Judging cards.

National Finalist representing your State will be required to speak about both Animals and Fleeces

Oral Class Guidelines:

You are allowed 2 minutes to line up the animals or fleeces and to clearly express your views to the judge and spectators on why you placed the animals or fleeces in that particular order of merit.

You may place the ribbons on your selection of animals or fleeces or this may be done by the steward under your direction.

Have your reasons organized and emphasize the most important points you wish to make.

The main objective, when giving your reasons, is to inform the judge what you observed, comparing each animal/fleece in the class.

It is important that you make appropriate comparisons between animals/fleeces rather than describe individual animals/fleeces

Mention major faults if any. This demonstrates to the judge the accuracy of your priorities.

Remember to:

- Be concise
- Show conviction in your placings
- Give most important reasons first
- Use comparative terms (appropriate terminology to compare exhibits)

DRESS: Competitors must be neatly and suitably attired. Ideally, competitors should wear a tie or scarf. Points will be deducted for poor presentation. Shorts and thongs are not permitted.

Oral Presentation: Things to remember that could be a part of the oral presentation:

Briefly:

- Thank the show organizers e.g. The RAS or show organizers for facilitating the competition and giving you the opportunity to partake in the Judging Competition
- Thank the Over-Judge/s by name
- Thank the exhibitors for the use of their Animals and Fleeces
- Be clear and concise in the comparisons between your placings
- Use appropriate terminology in describing the placings of the animal/fleeces
- **National Competitors** are acknowledged to have the experience of making their Oral presentation superior to that of a State final.
- **National Competitors** are required to speak on both their animal and mohair fleece placing.
- **National Competitors** can speak on the meat qualities, fat score and body confirmation of angora goats refer to Assessing skills for Meat Goats (2020)
- In the National Final, the Oral presentation is worth additional points in comparison to the State competition.

(Mohair Australia Ltd revised 2020)

Oral presentation Animal judging 1 (L Carter)

Simple Example

I have place no 2 first today as the Buck/ doe has the qualities of the finest animal in the group

His/her body confirmation is sound and well grown for the age group. His/her head has the masculinity/femineity of a buck/doe

The stance of this animal is correct.

The length of body is important, ideal buck/doe kid, yearling, adult

The muscling of this animal is evident to the feel and the fat score is 3-4

The mohair quality that this animal is displaying of fineness, a well balanced of staple structure, Handle and lustre is that of better-quality than that of the other animals in the ring today, Even balance of style and Character. The lack of kemp/medullation has place him/her in this position of first place today *{make your oral about your first place getter longer than the other animal placing}*

The animal in second place Buck/doe has similar qualities of body confirmation of that of the first place getter but on the day I found a slight unevenness of mohair on the breech and the fibre is not as solid as the first –place getter

In third place is a close behind the second animal is the buck/doe but has the similar attributes of body confirmation of a ideal doe/buck and the mohair qualities are just lacking in*give reason why.*

The doe/buck in fourth place no.... ? Has.....*give reason why*

Therefore I have place this class of *buck and doe kids, yearlings adults* in this order today

Thank you

Oral presentation Mohair fleece 2

Simple Example:

I have place the 3rd fleece in first today because it has all the qualities of that of a fine , well balanced in style & character, lustre & handle is superb ,evenness throughout the fleece and no visible kemp.

The workability of this fleece I have placed in first place displays the qualities of excellent manufacture requirements of mohair The length for grow rate is exceptional and would produce a great end merchandise as well.

The second place fleece no 2 has also good properties of the first but had an unevenness of length and the fineness was not as visible as the first. Overall, the fleece has good handle & lustre and well balance of staple.

The third placed fleece is dull in the lustre and has more kemp fibres visible on inspection. The handle was not as soft the other two fleeces placed first and second.

The fleece in fourth place still has the evenness of staple and length, but was slightly tender on pulling the staple. It showed medullation as well as stain and vegetable fault in the fleece today, Therefore I have place it fourth today.

These reasons I have placed the *kid/ strong kid/young goat fleeces* in that order today

Thank you

Acknowledgements:

Australian Mohair Marketing Organisation