



# The Miniature Goat Registry

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## BREED STANDARD – MINI LAMANCHA

The Mini LaMancha is a miniature breed of dairy goat, with average weights for fully mature, lactating does fall between 90 and 120 pounds. Mini LaManchas tend to exhibit long, level lactations with strong persistence, a good let down response, good teat size and udder capacity, and a strong will to milk. Their milk is richer than that of standard dairy goats, and they tend to have calm manners on the milk stand. Mini LaManchas also carry more flesh than standard dairy goats, so that wethers or cull does can make excellent meat animals.

In addition, Mini LaManchas possess a quiet, personable temperament, making them well-suited for the urban dairy. Their tiny ears and straight profile give them a sophisticated look, the perfect cover for their inquisitive, playful nature. Mini LaManchas draw their unique blend of characteristics from the two foundation breeds, Nigerian Dwarf and Standard LaMancha. The Standard LaMancha breed contributes improved udder conformation and milk production, lactation length and persistence, good butterfat percentages, and a quiet, friendly temperament, while the Nigerian Dwarf breed contributes smaller size, improved hardiness, higher levels of butterfat and protein production, increased ability to hold condition during heavy lactation periods, and, frequently, aseasonal breeding. The Mini LaMancha is an optimal blend of these sought-after qualities.

### General Appearance

Mini LaManchas are usually heavier and wider than their Swiss counterparts. They are usually shorter in stature, with more substantial bone and a deeper body. They are elegant and exhibit dairy character by virtue of fine skin, open ribbing and depth of body. They have an alert expression and stance, combined with a docile engaging temperament. Does are feminine; bucks are obviously more masculine in appearance. Any color is acceptable in Miniature LaManchas, and blue eyes are allowed.

### Head

The facial profile is straight with a deep, wide jaw. Animals are polled or neatly disbudded. Eyes are full and set well apart.

Ears are the defining characteristic of Mini LaMancha goats. They may be gopher or elf on does or Experimental bucks. Only gopher ears are acceptable on American or Purebred bucks. Correct gopher ears are tight against the head with very little or no cartilage, and a maximum length of one inch. They should be barely visible viewed from the front. Elf ears have cartilage and a tip which turns up or down, with a maximum length of 1.5 inches. Ears may be measured, if necessary, from the base of the skull to the ear tip, without stretching or manipulation.

Necks blend smoothly into the shoulder. Does necks are long and fine, bucks are strong, but not coarse.

**Body**

The back is strong, straight, wide, and level.

Withers are moderate, blending smoothly into shoulders. Chest is wide and deep in bucks, medium width and depth in does, never coarse. Shoulders should be laid tightly alongside the ribcage.

The Mini LaMancha body is long, deep, and wedge shaped, with well sprung ribs with good capacity and carrying depth back through the flank.

Rump is long from hips to pins and slope at approximately 20 degrees or less downward toward the pins. Rump is broad between hips, thurls, and pins when viewed from above, and flat from thurl to thurl.

Legs are strong, but not coarse or heavily muscled. Front legs are straight, parallel, and perpendicular to the ground when viewed from front and side. Hocks are neither overly straight, nor sickle hocked when viewed from the side. Pasterns are fairly short and strong. Hooves are sound and well-shaped with tight toes.

**Udder**

Fore udder attachment is carried well forward and blends smoothly into the abdomen. Medial suspensory ligament is evident from the rear and at the bottom of the udder and blends smoothly into the abdomen. Udder is not pendulous or overly divided and shows good capacity.

Escutcheon is high, arched, and wide from side to side.

**Testicles**

Scrotum is relatively even and not divided or split.

**Teats**

Teats are of adequate size for ease of hand milking, well attached and distinct from the udder. Centered directly below the udder half when viewed from the rear, pointing slightly forward and down, not outward.

**Size (American and Purebred)**

Ideal size range in does: 24-26 inches

Ideal size range in bucks: 24-28 inches

**Minimum Heights (American and Purebred):**

23" for does and 23" for bucks

**Maximum Height (American and Purebred):**

27" for does and 29" for bucks

**Disqualifications**

Shorter or taller than Breed Standard allows. (American and Purebred)

Anything other than gopher or correct elf ears on Purebred or American does. Anything other than gopher ears on Purebred or American bucks.