



# The Miniature Goat Registry

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## BREED STANDARD – MINI OBERHASLI

Mini Oberhasli draw their unique blend of characteristics from the two foundation breeds, Nigerian Dwarf and Standard Oberhasli. The Standard Oberhasli is a medium sized goat (typically 2 inches smaller than other standard sized breeds) with a proportionally wider body. It is known for its deep, rich, red bay color and chamoisee pattern. Additionally, standard Oberhasli have a distinctive short, wide head, with deep jaw and broad muzzle with a wide forehead and prominent eyes. The Oberhasli ear tends to be shorter than other Swiss breeds, set lower, and pointed forward. Nigerian Dwarf goats are known for short stature, high percentage of butterfat and protein in their milk, aseasonal breeding, improved hardiness. Nigerian Dwarfs are easy to keep and maintain body condition. The Mini Oberhasli is expected to be a blending of these two breeds.

The average weight for fully mature, lactating doe Mini Oberhasli ranges between 80 and 120 pounds. Standard Oberhasli are known for their sweet nature, and this calm, quiet, gentleness is carried through into the Mini Oberhasli who also demonstrate a quiet, docile, friendly temperament. Mini Oberhasli are alert and inquisitive. Does can be pushy at feeding time, and in mixed breed herds, Mini Oberhasli will likely become herd queens.

Mini Oberhasli tend to exhibit long, level lactations, large teat size, and good udder capacity with a strong will to milk. Standard Oberhasli, while not particularly high in butterfat, are known for sweet, fine-flavored milk. The crossing of the standard Oberhasli with the Nigerian Dwarf results in the Mini Oberhasli having richer milk (>5% butter fat) than that of standard dairy goats (~3% butter fat) while maintaining the sweet, delicate fine-flavored milk. While the Nigerian Dwarf breed contributes the increase in milk components, the Standard Oberhasli breed contributes improved udder capacity and milk production, lactation length and persistence, body depth and width found in the Mini Oberhasli.

Mini Oberhasli are a color-based breed. Its color is chamoisee – red bay with black facial markings, black legs from the knees and hocks down, black belly and a black dorsal of various width. The preferred color is a deep, dark red bay, but lighter color or less red (i.e., more brown) is acceptable. Black facial markings can vary from refined thin lines from the eyes towards the muzzle to thick lines to a mostly black face. Similarly, there are black markings, with various degrees of thickness, going from the base of each ear towards the poll where the dorsal strip begins. All black facial markings within this range are accepted with no one marking being preferred over the others. Interior of the ears are black. Does have udders that are grey to black in color. Blue eyes are allowed.

Frosted ears or muzzle are not accepted in the American or Purebred Herdbooks.

A few white hairs throughout the coat are acceptable for purebred registry, but the amount of white hairs cannot reach the level of “roaning”. Mini Oberhaslis in the American Herdbook are allowed to have white markings, provided no white spot in over 2 inches in any direction. No white spots are allowed for purebred status.

Bucks tend to have more black on the head than does. Bucks can have black hair along the shoulder, underside of the neck, and lower chest. The black dorsal marking on bucks tends to also be wider than on does.

### **Black Coloring**

Occasionally, Oberhasli are born all black. This coloration is not the typical recessive black seen in other goat breeds, where breeding two black goats guarantees the result in black offspring. Originally thought to follow this pattern, black Oberhasli bucks cannot be registered with AGS and are only registered in the ADGA Experimental Herdbook. These registration decisions are to protect the chamoisee coloring and prevent the breed from becoming all black. Because breeding two black Mini Oberhasli together does not result in 100% black offspring and are just as likely to produce bay chamoisee offspring, we find no reason to exclude black bucks from the registry. Black does are allowed in all 3 herdbooks and black bucks are allowed in the Experimental Herdbook only. Black does are not allowed to have any white hairs on the nose, ears, or body to be accepted into the Purebred Herdbook.

### **Allowable Exceptions for Individuals Registered in the Experimental Herdbook**

Any goat produced by breeding a standard Oberhasli and a Nigerian Dwarf or breeding any generation Mini Oberhasli can be registered in the Experimental Herdbook regardless of correct Oberhasli coloring or color pattern. Frosted ears and muzzles are only allowed in the Experimental Herdbook.

Goats in the Experimental Herdbook may have any amount of white markings (recognizing that white overlays are very common in Nigerian Dwarf goats). But caution is recommended, as breeding white out can be very difficult and white markings can remain genetically, even if not expressed in a given goats phenotype.

### **General Appearance**

Mini Oberhasli are wider than their Swiss counterparts but retain minimal fleshing associated with most dairy breeds. They are usually shorter in stature, with a wider and 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.

### **Head**

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

Ears are erect, short, set low, and pointed forward. Ears of a Mini Oberhasli should be smaller than ears of other mini-Swiss breeds.

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 Oberhasli body is deep, and wedge shaped, with well sprung ribs with good capacity and carrying depth back through the flank. It is known for its wider body type.

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 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):**

28" for does and 30" for bucks

### **Disqualifications**

Roman (convex) nose

Anything other than erect ears.

Anything other than correct coloring. (American or Purebred)

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