



# The Miniature Goat Registry

PO Box 310, Ione CA 95640

(619) 417-0989

TMGRoffice@gmail.com | TMGRonline.com

## BREED STANDARD – MINI NUBIAN

The Mini Nubian is a medium sized dairy goat of mixed Asian, African and European ancestry, the result of the careful crossing of the Anglo Nubian and Nigerian Dwarf breeds. They are known for high quality, high butterfat milk production, and can carry more muscling than dairy goats of Swiss origin. Any color or color combination is accepted including frosted nose and ears. Blue eyes are allowed.

The head is the most distinctive breed characteristic of the Mini Nubian and one of the most challenging aspects of breeding Mini Nubians. Goats do not upgrade into the American and Purebred Herdbooks based on generation alone. The minimum standards for each herdbook must be met.

### Nose

The preferred profile of the Mini Nubian is convex. Please note noses just after birth are scrunched up, and profiles can improve dramatically as the goat ages. For better accuracy we judge breed characteristics and assign a herdbook after one year of age. The following are terms we use to describe and evaluate the nose or profile of the Mini Nubian:

Concave (dished) – This term describes the nose of the goat when viewed in profile. The Nigerian Dwarf has a concave or straight profile, while the Nubian has a convex profile. Concave profiles are undesirable in the Mini Nubian and allowed in the Experimental Herdbook only.

Straight Nose – A straight profile is preferred over a concave profile. More often the nose is actually a very slight concave or convex. Straight noses are allowed in the Experimental and American Herdbooks.

Convex (Roman) – Convex is the profile of a purebred Nubian. Convex noses are preferred. To be placed in the Purebred Herdbook, Mini Nubians must have clearly convex noses. Convex noses can be found in every generation and not just those individuals with higher percentage Nubian.

### Ears

The second defining characteristic of the Mini Nubian head is its ears. Wide, pendulous ears that flare forward at the ends creating the characteristic “bell shape” are preferred. The ears of the Mini Nubian are judged *at rest*, and the breeder is advised to take the time to obtain photographs of the ears at rest when registering his/her goat. The following terms are used to describe the ears of the Mini Nubian:

Control – Nubians and Mini Nubians alike demonstrate varying levels of control over their ears. Some individuals have near total control and are able to raise their ears very high. Other individuals have almost no control. Nubians and Mini Nubians with **curtain** ears have very

soft ears that dangle down beside their heads at all times. Curtain ears may be preferred by some breeders. They are not, however, shown preference in the Breed Standard.

Airplane – Airplane ears extend straight out from the head like the wings of an airplane. These ears are fairly common in first generation crosses. They are accepted in the Experimental Herdbook only.

Dropped – The terms 2/3rds and 3/4ths dropped ears have been used for years to describe ears that are closer to pendulous than airplane ears are. These terms, however, are not well defined. They do not mean the same thing to all breeders and are confusing to new breeders. To simplify matters, we will refer to all ears that are neither airplane nor pendulous as “dropped”. This applies to ears that are set close to the head but are too short, as well as ears that lack the close set to the head. The later type of ear tends to come out from the head, and then drop down, or be set higher on the head. Dropped ears are allowed in the Experimental and American Herdbooks only.

Pendulous – Pendulous refers to ears that are long and set close to the side of the head. Pendulous ears in does extend to the tip of the nose or beyond when held alongside the head. Pendulous ears in bucks will approach the tip of the nose. Ears in bucks that extend to or beyond the tip of the nose are preferred. Ears are best judged pendulous at maturity. Ears shall be judged to be pendulous or not while they are in a relaxed position. Pendulous ears are strongly preferred and are the only ears accepted into the Purebred Herdbook.

Bell Shaped – The third defining characteristic of the Mini Nubian ear is its shape. The shape should be wide with a round tip and a flare at the end. Some pendulous ears may be too stiff or narrow to host this shape. Bell shaped ears are strongly preferred and are the only ears accepted into the Purebred Herdbook.

Experimental Mini Nubians –

Can be any generation. They can have any type of profile and any type of ear

American Mini Nubians –

Must be third generation or higher. They must have straight or convex noses, with convex noses strongly preferred. They must have dropped or pendulous ears, with bell shaped pendulous ears strongly preferred.

Purebred Mini Nubians –

Must be sixth generation or higher. They must have clearly convex noses. They must have pendulous, bell-shaped ears.

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

22” for does and 23” for bucks

**Maximum Height:**

Experimentals - 32” for does and 34” for bucks.

Americans - 31” for does and 33” for bucks.

Purebreds - 30” for does and 32” for bucks.