

II. BREED STANDARDS

When it comes to the basic body structure of a dairy goat, form follows function. The principles of good body structure for any dairy breed are, in general, the same. Solid underlying structure allows for long, productive lives. Thus, the first section under Breed Standards describes the structure and form for a good miniature dairy goat and follows with breed specific standards for each recognized breed of miniature dairy goats.

WHAT CONSTITUTES GOOD DAIRY GOAT CONFORMATION

Dairy goats are long in the body, with smooth blending, and are slightly taller at the withers than the hips. Does are feminine; bucks are obviously more masculine in appearance. Miniature dairy goats are elegant and exhibit dairy character by virtue of fine, thin, loose, pliable skin, open ribbing and depth of body. In general, most dairy goat breeds retain minimal fleshing and put their energy into producing milk instead of maintaining a larger, thicker, more muscled body.

A dairy goat's head starts with a broad, deep muzzle with large nostrils. The face structure is clean cut, with a deep, wide jaw. Eyes are full, prominent, and set well apart. Animals are generally polled or neatly disbudded; horned individuals are allowed.

The neck blends smoothly into the shoulder. Does' necks are long and fine. Bucks' necks are strong, but not coarse. Withers are moderate, blending smoothly into shoulders. Shoulders should be laid tightly alongside the ribcage, while at rest and in motion. Chest is wide and deep in bucks, medium width and depth in does, never coarse, nor narrow or shallow.

The body is long, deep, and wedge shaped, with well sprung ribs with good capacity and carrying depth back through the flank, which is free of excessive fleshing. The back is strong, straight, wide, and level. 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. Bones are flat and strong, not thin or frail. 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.

The udder is strongly attached, elastic, and well balanced. 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. Teats are of adequate size for ease of hand milking, well attached and distinct from the udder. They are centered directly below the udder half when viewed from the rear, pointing slightly forward and down, not outward.

On bucks, the scrotum is relatively even and not excessively divided or split.

Weight:

Most mini dairy goats have adult does weighing between 80 -120 pounds.
Bucks can weigh as much as 180 pounds, but typically are 145-165 pounds.

Height:

Miniature dairy goats are bred to be mid-sized dairy goats in between the Nigerian Dwarf and Standard breed heights. All mini dairy breeds should not cross below the Nigerian maximum allowable heights and should be well under standard breed minimum heights.

MINI ALPINE

Mini Alpines are lean and refined with erect ears and a straight face. All colors and combinations are allowed with frosted ears and nose permitted. Blue eyes are allowed.

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 must not exceed 30" for does and 32" for bucks

MINI GUERNSEY

Mini Guernseys tend to be smaller than other mini breeds. Ears are erect and set lower than other Swiss breeds. Ear can be carried in a bonnet position, being forward swept and with ear tips slightly turned up. The face is dished or straight.

They may be any shade of cream to gold, ranging from a pale flaxen to deep bronze or russet gold. The body should be clearly gold, with no preference on shade. Partial to full roaning is allowed. White patches, face, and star/blaze are allowed.

Hair may be short or long and flowing or both. A long curtain, skirt, and/or dorsal fringe is desirable, but not required to meet Breed Standard. Skin must display gold tone, ranging from peachy-flesh to orange gold in one or more of these locations on the animal: muzzle, ears, ears, under tail, mammary or scrotum. Frosted ears and muzzle will be accepted. Blue eyes are allowed.

Minimum Heights (American and Purebred):

22" for does and 23" for bucks

Maximum Height:

Experimentals - 28" for does and 30" for bucks.

Americans - 27" for does and 29" for bucks.

Purebreds - 26" for does and 28" for bucks.

Faults:

Moderate To Serious: (depending upon degree)

Roman nose

Very Serious Defects:

Black hairs in the coat

Dominantly white coat on mature does.

Disqualifications:

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

No gold tone to skin found on muzzle, ears, eyes, under tail, mammary or scrotum.

Swiss facial stripes and/or rump marking (as on Toggenburg or Oberhasli breeds)

Black markings or spots in the hair over 1-1/2 (3.8 cm) in any direction

Pendulous ears

LaMancha type ears

All white coat on mature does

All white or dominantly white coat on bucks

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.

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.

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)

MINI SAANEN

Mini Saanens are a heavier-boned breed, carrying more substance than the other Swiss breeds. The ears are erect, and the face is straight or dished. They must be solid white for acceptance in the Purebred registry. Blue eyes are allowed.

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 must not exceed 30" for does and 32" for bucks

MINI SABLE

Mini Sables are a heavier boned breed, carrying more substance than the other swiss breeds, and they are the colored version of the Mini Saanen breed. The ears are erect, and the face is straight or dished. The Sable may be any color or combination of colors, solid or patterned, EXCEPT solid white or solid cream. Blue eyes are allowed.

Mini Sables can be the offspring of Mini Sables or Mini Saanens

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 must not exceed 30" for does and 32" for bucks

MINI TOGGENBURG

Mini Toggenburgs tend to be smaller and more angular than the other breeds. Ears are erect and the face is dished. They may be any shade of brown, with white on edge of ears, facial stripe, lower legs and triangle at base of tail. Frosted ears and muzzle will be accepted. Blue eyes are allowed.

Minimum Heights (American and Purebred):

22" for does and 23" for bucks

Maximum Height:

Experimentals -- 28" for does and 30" for bucks.

Americans -- 27" for does and 29" for bucks

Purebreds must not exceed 26" for does and 28" for bucks