



Show Rules

Miniature Goats Australia

Distinction for Show Animals

Australian Miniature Goats should display refinement and be well balanced and poised. Does should display attractive style, elegance and femininity whilst Bucks should be well muscled, spirited and masculine.

The Purebred **Australian Miniature** is hard, alert and curious and comes in all colours and colour combinations. Their conformation is similar to that of the larger breeds with all parts of the body in proportion relative to its size.

The Full blood **Pygmy goat** is a genetically small, compact, cobby, full-barreled and well-muscled animal; its frame is clearly defined. The body is large in proportion to the size of the animal with short heavy boned legs.

The purebred **Nigerian Dwarf** should be miniature in conformation of a standard height dairy goat. They should be robust, dairy type with triple dairy wedge. They should be well blended with no tendency to coarseness and well proportioned.

All animals should exhibit an alert expression and possess a friendly disposition with well-mannered behaviour.

Where all other qualities are equal preference should be given to **a smaller animal** when judging, as the purpose for breeding is to breed goats smaller than regular size.

1. Eligibility for Showing

MGA registered animals details must be entered into the MGA Database (Premium Breed) **two weeks prior to the show** so as they can be checked the Secretary / Show Manager prior to being entered into the show catalogue.

Non MGA Exhibitors:

Australian Miniatures: Animals must hold a current and up to date AABMGS, MGBA and/or other permitted groups certificate. There should be no genetic history of any breed other than Australian Miniature Goat listed in their pedigree.

Other Breeds: Animals must hold a current and up to date AABMGS MGBA and/or other permitted groups certificate which clearly identifies the animal as a Pygmy or Pygmy derivative.

All non MGA members animals turning 3 years of age must submit their height upgrade documentation to the registrar no later than **two weeks prior to a show**.

MGA registered animals must hold a current and up to date MGA registration certificate unless the animal is being height certified at the show, in which case;

- the appropriate documentation must be available for signing and a copy of original certificate sighted with all information correct.
- Certification of heights must be conducted in accordance with height certification rules and the official MGA form and measuring tool must be used.

- If the animal has been entered in the show but their height is measured as 'over' show height on the day the animal will be withdrawn from all classes.
- 1.2. Animals under a lease agreement are subject to rule 1.1 and permitted to show under the lessees name. The lease must be registered with MGA (or AABMGS/MGBA if applicable) no later than **two weeks prior to each show.**
 - 1.3. Heights have been set as follows for each section.
 - Birth – up to but not to exceed 1 year**
Does – not to exceed 53cm
Bucks & Wethers – not to exceed 53cm
 - Over 1 year but not exceeding 2 years**
Does – not to exceed 57.0cm
Bucks & Wethers – not to exceed 57.0cm
 - Over 2 years – but not exceeding 3 years**
Does – not to exceed 57.0cm
Bucks & Wethers – not to exceed 60.0cm
 - Over 3 years but not exceeding 5 years**
Does – not to exceed 57.0cm
Bucks & Wethers – not to exceed 60.0cm
 - Over 5 years**
Senior Does – not to exceed 57.0cm
Senior Bucks & Wethers – not to exceed 60.0cm

[Animals who have their birthday on show day are deemed to be in the lower height class.](#)

- 1.4. **Identification** by way of an ear tag placed in the animals ear is a mandatory requirement unless a current written exemption applies from DPI.
Ear tag and PIC numbers should correspond with the numbers listed on your animal's registration certificate which will be checked prior to the commencement of the show.
Ear tags with Stud names printed on them must be covered up by tape.
Exhibitors are required to have a correctly completed waybill made out to the show grounds which may be inspected on show day.
- 1.5. **Exhibitors** must be current financial members of a recognised Miniature Goat Association prior to close of entries. Proof of membership may be required.
- 1.6. It is a **condition of entry** into a Miniature Goats Australia (MGA) Show that all Champion, Reserve Champion, Best in Show, Supreme, Champion of Champions and Grand Champion winning exhibits are required to stand their goats for photographing at the request of the steward.
Photographs remain the property of MGA for promotion purposes and may be passed onto a third party for their records and/or promotion.
Failure to have winning animals photographed may result in refusal of further show entries and/or loss of points awarded.

2. General

- 2.1. **Show Criteria** - Three individual registered studs must be entered for a show to be scheduled. There must also be a **minimum of 15 goats** who must be registered with a recognised Miniature Goat Association entered in the show to initiate a show event.
- 2.2. **Entry Forms** must be filled in correctly and signed by the owner or leasee of the animal. Correct fees must be paid prior to the commencement of the show. Ear tag numbers

must correlate to the catalogue.

- 2.3. **The Steward** and/or Show Manager have the authority to make rulings on behalf of MGA on show day. They must act in the best interests of the Association, its members and exhibitors. They must act with integrity, fairness, respect and follow the rules.
 - 2.4. **Exhibitors** are responsible for checking their own entries prior to the commencement of the show and relay any errors to the Steward.
 - 2.5. **Entry fees** will not be refunded under any circumstances.
Entry fees must be paid even if the exhibitor withdraws for any reason.
 - 2.6. **An animal's age** will be determined from date of birth listed on their registration certificate or on registration paperwork as submitted to registrar.
 - 2.7. **Any animal** over current show heights will not be permitted to enter a show. (see 1.3)
 - 2.8. **Bucks over 6 months** of age should be handled by an exhibitor with sufficient control and physical strength to control the animal. The Steward should be mindful of this.
 - 2.9. **Halters, collars** or slip chains are permitted items of control and must be adequate for the animal that is wearing them.
 - 2.10. **Signs** to advertise your stud at MGA exhibitions are permitted.
Please note:- Stewards have the authority to request signage to be removed if, in their opinion signs are not appropriate. Stud business cards can be displayed on a communal table set up for this purpose along with MGA advertising material/s or handed out direct on the day.
 - 2.11. **Ribbons** should be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners at an MGA show (where three or more goats are exhibited in a class as required by the class entered). Alternative and additional awards can be provided either by the judge, MGA or the show committee where appropriate.
The judge may decide if ribbons for these placings are not awarded.
The judges decision is final.
 - 2.12. For **Championship points** to be awarded at MGA shows the Judges adjudicating must be approved goat breed judge/s or a qualified MGA judge/s.
 - 2.13. **Show points** gained and proven prior to an animal's registration with MGA are transferable and may be utilised towards MGA Australian Champion and Grand Champion Awards.
Animals awarded an Australian Champion Award by an approved Miniature Goat Association hold that title for life.
 - 2.14. **Show points** gained from other Miniature Goat Associations, if proven may be accepted towards an Australian Champion Title.
 - 2.15. **Parents** must not leave children unattended at any time. Unruly behaviour, yelling or squealing around the goats is not permitted.
Running and climbing are safety concerns so these activities should be discouraged.
3. **Exhibits**
- 3.1. **Animals** must be shown at their best, this includes body condition not just their coat. To this end it is up to the owner to choose how to present their goat at its best. Neatly shaved, clipped, long brushed or trimmed and brushed are all acceptable presentations for showing. All animals must be clean with neatly trimmed hooves and be free of parasites. Face should be free of fleece.
 - 3.2. **Animals** entered into any MGA show or in attendance at the show (conditions apply, see Breed and Show Standard) must have been tested negative for (Johnes and CAE). All MGA shows are 'tested' shows. Evidence of testing is required and should be forwarded to MGA Secretary. Testing date must be within the 12 months preceding the date of the

event. Sire and Dam of animals entered under 1 year need to be submitted. **The goats and their tag number should be listed. The vet needs to sign the list preferably on the veterinarians letterhead. The list should be forwarded to the MGA Secretary with the laboratory results.**

- 3.3. **Surgical procedures** of any kind to cover a fault in any way will not be tolerated and will lead to disqualification.
- 3.4. **Wattles** are accepted as a part of the goat and are not penalised in any way.
- 3.5. If a **wether** was registered and shown as a buck prior to being shown as a wether, points awarded are transferable to the wethers' title.
- 3.6. **Fancy dress classes** are the only class where ribbons, bows or other costumes will be permitted. This class may be offered at selected shows.
- 3.7. **Goats** with horns are not permitted in MGA show rings.
- 3.8. Exhibits are to behave quietly in and out of the show ring and **display good manners. Unruly animals** may be removed from the ring.
- 3.9. **Animals** must not be left unattended at anytime.
- 3.10. Animals **must be measured** by the Steward prior to commencement of the show. The tallest animal of each group should be measured. If the Steward feels they need to measure other animals, it is their choice to do so.
- 3.11. Exhibits **should not share** feed or water with others outside your own enclosure.

4. Exhibitors

- 4.1. **Identification** as to the name of the animal or the stud who bred the animal or the current owners name is not to be displayed on any person, animal or equipment once judging has commenced. The animals pen area is acceptable.
- 4.2. **Stud signs** may be displayed in or by a pen, trailer or crate. (see General 2.10) Signs should not encroach on another studs area or access.
- 4.3. Exhibitors must show themselves in **MGA polo shirt** or a neat, tidy and appropriate black shirt in the ring and for photos. Dark blue/black long pants or long (knee length) shorts to be worn. Pants and shorts must be clean, tidy and not ripped, not faded or studded and should fit well.
Participating schools - handlers are permitted to wear their school uniforms where the uniforms are preferably the same colour.
Covered in shoes or boots must be worn. Shoes or boots must be in good, clean and tidy condition (no holes) no loud colours or fluro or frayed laces.
Bare feet, crocs, moccasins, ugg boots, slippers or thongs are not permitted.
- 4.4. **Exhibitors** should not talk to the judge during the exhibition, unless the judge talks to the exhibitor. Any questions or comments should be referred to the steward who in turn will relay them to the judge.
- 4.5. **Exhibitors, their families, members and helpers** exhibiting, helping, watching and/or in attendance at the show and in the show ring are representing MGA. Exhibitors should act in accordance with their Membership Agreement and are responsible for ensuring that any person with them does the same. Exhibitors should familiarise themselves again with their Membership Agreement prior to entering a show.
Non-member exhibitors and handlers should be familiar with and sign a **Guidelines for Non Member Handlers at MGA Shows** form prior to entering the show.
- 4.6. **Exhibitors** are not permitted to withdraw an animal from a class after the show has started unless with the express permission of the Steward and only with regard to illness or injury/accident.

- 4.7. **Exhibitors** who **remove an animal** from the show ring without the Stewards permission may be disqualified from that class and any future classes on the day.
- 4.8. **Exhibitors** are not permitted to leave the show ring until after the judge has given his/her critique or under the Stewards direction. It is disrespectful to do so.
- 4.9. **Exhibitors** registered with MGA are representing MGA and are required to conduct themselves with integrity, fairness and with good sportsmanship. Unjust, bad sportsmanship, derogatory remarks, yelling, bullying or intimidation of any kind will not be tolerated and may result in being disqualified from classes, expelled from the show, refused entry to other shows, and/or further disciplinary action.
If you are disqualified or expelled from the show all points will be forfeited.

5. Welfare of Exhibits

- 5.1 **MGA** does not permit the selling of any animal at a display or a show unless at a 'for sale' event that has committee approval. No other animals except those being exhibited are permitted to be at a show venue.
Exception includes babies that cannot be left at home or their Dam is entered in show, a companion animal or an animal/s that are to be collected by new owners at the event.
Animals not entered in the show must be clearly marked at the bottom of the entry form and the Steward must be notified on the day
- 5.1. Any non-showing animals must be tested or if under the testing age of 12mths the parents have to be tested of Johnes / CAE within 12mths of the event and must be penned at all times.
Non-showing animals should be penned at all times, unless delivery to a new owner has occurred and in that instance the animal should leave the area. Animals will be health checked by the Steward prior to commencement of the show. If the Steward has any concerns about the health of an animal the issue will be passed onto the attending vet.
- 5.2. All animals are to be treated kindly with care and compassion. RSPCA regulations and the Goat Code of Practice and Welfare regulations in each state will be used as our guide should an issue arise.
- 5.3. **Animals** must be fed, watered and kept warm or cool as needed on the day. Animals must also be kept safe in a trailer, pen or in the hands of a person with sufficient control and physical strength to restrain the animal.
- 5.4. **Animals** Any animal who is ill or becomes ill at the show, including scours is not permitted to be exhibited and should be returned to the owners trailer if weather permits. If weather is too hot or cold animal should be penned in an out of way area so as the animal has the least amount of stress possible. If deemed necessary by the steward and in consultation with the owner a vet should be engaged.

6. Disputes

- 6.1. **Catalogue omissions** or errors should be relayed to the Show Manager or the Steward prior to the commencement of the show. (See 2.4)
- 6.2. **Disputes** of any kind should be relayed to the Show Manager or the Steward calmly with the facts of the matter as soon as possible before the completion of the show.
- 6.3. **If a dispute cannot be resolved** on the day a written complaint may be forwarded to the Secretary for resolution up to 14 days after the show. Email is permitted as a method of submission.
- 6.4. If the MGA committee **cannot come to a decision** with regard to a dispute, the

Committee will continue as per the Associations Model Rules.

- 6.5. If the **dispute involves another member** then the other member will be given the chance to reply by due date and by means of email, post or by arranged conference call. All disputes will be treated confidentially at all times.
- 6.6. If **disqualification from a dispute occurs**, no show points will be awarded.

7. Judging

- 7.1. **All judges** must be approved and be a **qualified** goat breed judge or qualified MGA judge/s to officiate at an MGA show/s, unless otherwise approved by MGA Committee.
- 7.2. Judges are asked to agree to a reimbursement fee and agree to read and judge according to MGA Show Rules and MGA Breed and Show Standard. It is the judges responsibility to sign and return the document prior to show day.
- 7.3. **The judges' decision will be final.** Disputes regarding placing's are not to be discussed with the judge unless the judge invites this discussion after the show has ended.
- 7.4. **Judges** are asked not to open the mouths of animals on exhibition but to ask the exhibitor for them to inspect the teeth. This is for biosecurity purposes.
- 7.5. Judges are also asked to **wash hands regularly** throughout the day.
- 7.6. **In classes** where there is no competition, placement shall be made by the judge according to the quality of the animal. A judge may withhold placement in any class if, in the judge's opinion, the animal does not meet the breed requirements.

8. Officials

- 8.1. A steward can be anyone who has a **sound knowledge** of conducting an exhibition, providing guidance for exhibitors, promoting a level of involvement that educates and includes all aspects of the show and the promotion of MGA and its values.
- 8.2. **Officials** at MGA shows should delegate where needed. Small shows may need only one official where larger shows may need tasks to be separated between a number of different stewards.
- 8.3. **MGA shows** must showcase the Society and stewards should view their position as a promoter of MGA ideals as well as conducting the exhibition.
- 8.4. The Show Manager and Ring Steward **are permitted** to enter their animals in the show but they are to be handled by others who should not alert the judge through voice or gesture as to who the owner of the animal/s is/are.
- 8.5. If the Show Manager **is not** also the Ring Steward they are permitted to show their own animals in the ring. Show Managers and Stewards are responsible for the smooth running of the show.
- 8.6. Show Managers and Stewards have the authority **to act as stated throughout these show rules and take directions from the judge in the ring.** (see 2.3)
- 8.7. **Photographing exhibits** is the responsibility of the Show Manager or Steward (see 1.6). The photographer and location of photos to be taken should be decided prior to the show. The Show Manager or Steward should relay this information to exhibitors when opening the show.
- 8.8. **Stewards** are tasked with keeping the area free of goat faeces, rubbish, stray animals and people where possible. The Show Manager / Steward is responsible for organizing to have a tool ringside fit for purpose.
- 8.9. Where only one animal is entered in the ring the Steward should take out 1st and 2nd ribbon and hand to the judge. The Judge must have the choice.
- 8.10. Show Manager is responsible for ensuring a gift is sourced for and presented to the

Judge and Steward/s at all MGA shows.

- 8.11. The Show Manager is responsible to ensure exhibitors have correct directions to the show and information pertaining to the show including, but not limited to start times, parking, time of leaving the show, where toilets and water are located, break times and any other pertinent information to ensure the show runs smoothly.

9. Bio-Hazard Prevention

- 9.1. Stewards and Officials will assess the number of goats entered by each exhibitor and set up pens to house those exhibits comfortably (this would be determined by the size of pens). Pens would be isolated 1.5 metres from any other exhibitor. Officials and Stewards should plan the penning arrangements and location prior to the exhibitors arriving (preferably the day before or early in show day before the exhibitors arrive). Clear numbering or stud names are to be attached to the pens to avoid confusion.
- 9.2. Stewards and Officials should brief the exhibitors of their requirements to avoid contamination. Parading and lining up of stock should always be well spaced with a recommended 1.5metre gap (in judging this allows the judge room to move about freely and view the exhibit from all angles). Stewards and officials should be mindful of this and seek to provide a ring that will house the biggest class with easy spacing. If a class or classes have numbers that would severely crowd the ring, in consultation with the judge, the class should be split with the judge selecting the three best animals from each class to be returned for the ribbon class where the first, second and third ribbons would be handed out. The separation of the class would be arranged by the steward (or officials) and be split by age.
- 9.3 The Ring Steward must provide as part of the show material, disinfectant hand cloths and a bucket to dispose of the cloths. Prior to the show the Steward would brief the judge that between handling any animal, they must use the wipes and dispose of the cloth. This hand disinfecting would only be required between handling of animals. Stewards must be on hand to provide the disinfectant cloths and disposal bucket.
- 9.4 Pen security is an exhibitor responsibility and whether show pens or private enclosures are being used, the individual exhibits must be contained securely within these pens. If a goat escapes from an enclosure or pen, then the steward will have the right to require the goat is confined to their stock trailer.
- 9.5 Exhibitors should also seek to maintain hand hygiene and be encouraged by the stewards to either wash their hands regularly throughout the show or have hand sterilizers and a part of their show equipment.

As a member of the