

Show Rules Miniature Goats Australia

# Standard of Distinction for Show Animals

# Australian Miniatures

# 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 hardy, 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.

# Pygmy

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

# Nigerian Dwarf

# 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 breeds 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.

# Eligibility for Showing

**MGA Exhibitors**

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 by the Secretary / Show Manager prior to being entered into the show catalogue.

**Australian Miniatures:-**

Animals must hold a current and up to date MGA registration. 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 registration certificate which clearly identifies the animal as a Pygmy or Pygmy derivative, Nigerian or Nigerian derivative, etc.

# Non MGA Exhibitors:

**Australian Miniatures:** Animals must hold a current and up to date approved and recognised miniature goat group registration 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 approved and recognised miniature goat group registration certificate which clearly identifies the animal as a Pygmy or Pygmy derivative, Nigerian or Nigerian derivative, etc.

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

Animals under a lease agreement are subject to rule 2.1 and permitted to show under the lessees name. The lease must be registered with MGA or an approved and recognised miniature goat group (proof may be required), **two weeks prior to the show.**

* 1. Heights have been set as follows for each section.

**Birth – up to but not exceeding** 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 57.0cmBucks & Wethers – not to exceed 60.0cm

**Over 3years - 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 to be entered and exhibited in the lower height class.

An extra 2.5cm is allowed for all Miniature Nubian and Boer derivatives in the show ring.

* 1. **Identification** by way of an ear tag placed in the animals ear is a mandatory requirement unless a current written exemption applies from your Primary Production Department. Currently Victoria is the only State exempt from ear tagging.

Ear tag and PIC numbers should correspond with the numbers listed on your animal’s registration certificate which will be checked prior to the show.

Exhibitors are required to have a correctly completed waybill made out to the show grounds which may be inspected on show day.

* 1. **Exhibitors** must be current financial members of a recognised Miniature Goat Association prior to close of entries. Proof of membership may be required.
  2. It is a condition of entry into a Miniature Goats Australia (MGA) Show that all Champion, Reserve Champion, Supreme, Best Exhibit, 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.

# General

2.1 **Show Criteria** – Two (2) individual registered studs must enter goats in a show for the to run. There must also be a minimum of 15 Australian Miniature Goats or 15 Pygmy goats for a show to run. All goats must be registered with an approved and recognised Miniature Goat Group. Newer breeds (ie Nigerian Dwarf, Mini Nubian etc) require a minimum of Two (2) individual registered studs to run their section and a minimum of 10 goats.

**Total number of animals to run a show is 25 goats.**

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.

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 changes 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 1.1)

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 leads 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), a judge may also award extra place ribbons. 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 placings are not to be awarded.

**The judges decision is final.**

2.12 For **Championship points** to be awarded at MGA shows the Judge adjudicating must be an approved goat breed judge or a qualified MGA judge and or approved by the MGA committee.

2.13 **Show points** gained and proven prior to an animal’s registration with MGA are transferable and may be utilized towards MGA Australian Champion and Grand Champion Awards.

Animals awarded an Australian Champion Award by an approved Miniature Goat Association holds that title for life.

2.14 **Parents** must not leave children unattended at any time. Unruly behavior, yelling or squealing around the goats is not permitted.

Running and climbing are safety concerns so these activities should be discouraged.

# Exhibits

3.1 **Animals** should 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 need to 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 observe strict bio security measures to try and prevent disease and parasite infection and transfer. Testing for CAE & JD and/or vaccinating with Gudair against JD is still recommended and encouraged for all exhibitors but is no longer a mandatory requirement to enter a show. Bio security is everyone’s business and repeat offenders who do not observe the Bio security control measures may be barred from entering future events if complaints are made and proven to have credibility.

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 **An adult buck** who is wethered is permitted to be shown as a wether.

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 any time.

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.

# 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.

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 are requested to 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.

Covered in shoes or boots must be worn. Shoes or boots must be in good, clean and tidy condition (no holes).

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. .MGA members are responsible for the behaviour of their guests or helpers.

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. Exhibitorswho **remove an animal** from the show ring without the Stewards permission may be disqualified from that class and any future classes on the day.

4.7 **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 not to do so.

4.8 **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.

# 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 without prior committee approval.

Exceptions include kids 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**

5.2 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

5.3 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. Any rough handling or any animal either reported to the steward or in the opinion of the steward is not acceptable will be dealt with immediately. Exhibitor/s will be asked to retire from the class and could be barred from future events.

5.4 **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.

5.5 **Animals** who are ill or become 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.

# Disputes

6.1 **Catalogue omissions** or changes 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.

# 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 requested to read and judge according to MGA Show Rules and MGA Breed and Standards. They are requested to advise Show Manager of any remuneration or requirements on the Judges Contract and also to fill out a small report at the conclusion of the show. It is the judges responsibility to sign and return documents to the steward.

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 **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.

# Officials

8.1 A steward can be anyone over the age of 18 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** permittedto enter their animals in the show but it is recommended they 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.

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.

8.5 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)

8.6 **Photographing exhibits** is the responsibility of the Show Manager or Steward (see 1.4). 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.

8.7 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 should have the choice.

8.8 **Show Manager** is responsible for ensuring a gift is sourced for and presented to the Judge and Steward/s at all MGA shows.

8.9 **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.

# Bio-Hazard Prevention

9.1 **Stewards and / or Officials** will assess the number of goats entered by each exhibitor and the set up of 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 if they are being supplied by the venue. Care should be taken where opening gates are set to ensure that the 1.5metre distance is observed at all times. Tarps are recommended on the floor of pens to avoid direct contact with the soil also but will not be enforced. Feed should not be placed on the ground.

Where exhibitors are using their **own pens** the above should also be observed.

9.2 Each exhibitor is to provide a **bottle of hand sanitizer** at their pens and it is highly recommended anyone touching the animals or pens themselves, including the general public are advised to use the hand sanitizer prior to touching. Exhibitors & judges need to use sanitizer and or antibacterial wipes prior to handling each individual studs animals both in and outside of the ring.

9.3 **1.5 metre distances** need to be observed between each stud both inside and outside of the ring, stewards will be enforcing this control measure. Do not allow your animals mouth to come in contact with the ground especially where fecal matter is present, or with another studs exhibits. **You** must be in control of your animal at all times. Ensure the 1.5 metre rule is given whilst waiting to enter the ring, during parading and in the line up.

9.4 **Do not walk** into a fellow exhibitors pens without checking and cleaning off all organic matter from the bottom of your shoes, this is particularly important for the steward during pre show checks.

9.5 **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 also). 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 best animals from each class to be returned for the ribbon class where the first, second and third ribbons would be handed out.

9.6 **The Ring Steward** should obtain, 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.

9.7 **Pen security** is the exhibitors 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 be either tethered in the pen or be confined to their stock trailer.

9.8 **Judge** should be instructed not to open any goats mouth to view teeth. Judge should ask the exhibitor to open the goats mouth only. If the exhibitor is not the owner it is up to the owner to have instructed the handler to use hand sanitizer between animals. Judge should clean hands well between classes. Judge should also not express any milk from the udder.

9.9 **Exhibitors** should also seek to maintain hand hygiene and be encouraged by the stewards to either wash their hands regularly throughout the show or use hand sanitizer.

9.10 **Stewards** are tasked with keeping the area as free of goat faeces, rubbish, stray animals and people where possible. The Show Manager / Steward is responsible for organising to have a tool ringside fit for purpose.

9.11 **Any animal** who continually coughs, or bucks who continually sneeze may need to be removed from the show area to their trailer or be sectioned away from other animals. Bucks should be confined to their individual stud area when continually peeing and may need to be lined up away from others. This will be up to the stewards discretion.

**Show Points Schedule – See Over**

## Points for Champion Awards

* An animal must accrue a minimum of 100 points for the title of Australian Champion Goat.
* An animal who has gained the title of Australian Miniature Goat must accrue a minimum of 100 points to be awarded the Grand Champion Title.
* 25 points is the maximum amount of points that can be gained at any one MGA ordinary show.   
  ie: animal wins 27pts at a show but can only use 25 pts from that show towards the title.
* 30 points is the maximum amount of points that can be gained at any one MGA double points show.  
  ie: animal wins 36pts at a double points show but can only use 30 pts from that show towards the title.
* **Points totaling 100 must be awarded by three different MGA Judges or approved or qualified goat breed judges and the animal must have been awarded a Supreme in Show Award by two different MGA Judges or approved or qualified goat breed judges, at two separate events.**
* 20 points may be gained from the animals progeny for each Champion Title Awarded to the progeny.
* A maximum of 50 points may be accrued from junior classes (3years and under), the balance must be accrued from adult classes (over 3 years of age).
* A maximum of 10 points may be accrued from Reserve Challenge Points
* Points awarded under approved or qualified goat breed judges from registration with other miniature association/s may be transferable to MGA Australian Champion titles if substantiated and the Association rules fit within MGA guidelines.

Points towards championship title can be accumulated at any age and are awarded as follows:-

* Champion Miniature Kid Doe – 6 points and 1 point for every other doe under 12 months
* Reserve Champion Miniature Kid Doe – 2points
* Champion Miniature Kid Buck - 6 points and 1 point for every other buck under 12 months
* Reserve Champion Miniature Kid Buck – 2points
* Champion Miniature Junior Doe - 6 points and 1 point for every other doe 12 months but not exceeding 36 months (3 years)
* Reserve Champion Miniature Junior Doe – 2points
* Champion Miniature Junior Buck - 6 points and 1 point for every other buck 12 months but not exceeding 36 months (3 years)
* Reserve Champion Miniature Junior Buck – 2points
* Champion Miniature Adult Doe - 6 points and 1 point for every other doe over 3 years
* Reserve Champion Miniature Adult Doe – 2points
* Champion Miniature Adult Buck - 6 points and 1 point for every other buck over 3 years
* Reserve Champion Miniature Adult Buck – 2points
* Best in Show Kid – 3 points for your animal
* Best in Show Junior - 3 points for your animal
* Best in Show Adult – 3 points for your animal
* Supreme Champion – 6 points for your animal plus 1 point for every other opposite sex in age class at the show, up to a maximum of 25 points per show.
* Champion of Champions – 6 points for your animal plus 1 point for every other animal in the class up to a maximum of 10 points per show. (conditions apply to run this class – must be two animals to run)

Progeny Points

* 2 points for the sire and dam of progeny that are awarded Champion of sex in age classes
* 3 points for the sire and dam of progeny that are awarded Best In Show
* 3 points for the sire and dam of progeny that are awarded Supreme Champion
* 3 points for the sire and dam of progeny that are awarded Champion of Champions

**Best Exhibit in Show –** Judges choice to award a ribbon to the goat they feel is the best on the day – judged from Supreme Breed Winners.