

Canadian Savannah Breed Standards

Explanation of Savannah Breed Standards

The goal of the CMGA Savannah Breed Standards is to improve the breed and to increase productivity by identifying what the Savannah committee of the Association has deemed the ideal Canadian Savannah Goat. In recognizing the correlation between physical traits and efficient production, the Standards of this breed provide a guideline for producers to follow when selecting breeding stock and herd replacements.

General

- The Savannah Goat should be a strong, powerful, functionally efficient goat, with a lively but not wild carriage.
- The does must be of a medium size but should appear refined and feminine.
- Does with kids at foot should have good mothering ability and should aggressively defend their kids against dogs and other predators.
- Bucks must be masculine, proud, robust, and well muscled.
- The Savannah Goat was developed under very unfavourable environmental conditions and must be able to easily endure unfavourable conditions such as heat, intense sunshine, cold, snow and rain.
- Animals of the breed move easily and can, if necessary, travel long distances in search of fodder and water.
- The Savannah Goat should also be able to utilize a wide range of vegetation, such as trees, shrubs and small as well as big bushes which are hard and even unpalatable to other farm animals.
- The Savannah must have a long breeding season and should be sexually active and able to breed at any time of the year.

Cull Defects

- Any deviation from the normal body structure that will harm the functional effectiveness of the Savannah.

Characteristic Breed Traits

- Lively appearance
- Symmetrical conformation, with legs and body not too long or too short.
- Short white hair. During the winter months the goats develop extra fluffy cashmere hair for protection.

- The goats have strong jaws and strong long-lasting well-developed teeth.
- Long, productive life.

Head

- The Savannah has a fairly long, slightly curved head. The head and nose must be fairly broad.
- The mouth must be reasonably wide with well muscled jaws. The upper and lower lips must be well muscled and mobile.
- Lower teeth of young as well as mature goats in the case of bucks, as well as does, must bite solidly and correctly on the dental pad of the upper jaw. A 5 mm protrusion is tolerated on animals with adult teeth.
- The eyes must be lively and surrounded by black pigmented eyelids, and skin must be protected by well developed eyebrow ridges.
- The ears must be fairly big, of oval shape and hang down next to the head. The ears must be well pigmented and mobile in order to protect the goat against insect pests.
- The horns are charcoal gray (medium to charcoal gray or brown is acceptable) and grow backwards from the crown of the head. The horns must be strong and oval shaped and must not press against the neck. The horns should not grow wild or be too long. Bucks have slightly stronger, heavier horns than does. At the base there should be a reasonable width between the horns.
- Does as well as bucks must be able to use their horns to protect themselves as well as their kids.

Undesirable Characteristics:

- Neck that is too long, short, or thin
- Vertically folded ears
- Dish face
- Total blindness
- Non-symmetrical horns or facial features

Cull Defects

- Misalignment of jaws overshot or undershot more than 5mm (1/5th of an inch)
- Disfiguring malocclusion (very crooked teeth)
- Crooked face (wry face)
- Helicopter, gopher, elf, or erect ears
- Sharp head

Neck, Forequarters, Legs and Hooves

- The neck is well muscled and reasonably long so that the goat can easily reach as high as possible to browse on branches various types of trees.
- The forequarter is well muscled and of medium width

- The front legs are well placed and straight
- The cannon bone should be short and strong
- The pasterns must be strong and springy and must be slightly sloping.
- The hooves must be strong, hard, charcoal gray/black, and reasonably big. The two sections of each hoof must be close to each other.
- The scapulae or shoulder-blades must be strongly attached to the forequarter and withers.
- The processes spinous and withers should be somewhat higher than the back and rump. In the case of older bucks, medium sized skinfolds are found on the forequarter.

Undesirable Characteristics:

- Shoulders too loose
- Narrow or a very wide forequarter
- Lameness

Cull Defects

- Legs too thin.
- Strait pasterns
- Weak pasterns
- Hoofs pointing outwards or inwards
- Feet that don't grow evenly

Back and center piece

- The center piece should be reasonably long and deep, and must possess enough capacity to eat sufficient roughage and to convert it into muscle and energy.
- The back and eye muscle (musculus longissimus dorsi) must be strong and wide.
- The ribs are well sprung, and the respiratory centre piece has an oval shape.

Undesirable Characteristics:

- Narrow heart girth
- Slab sided body
- Pinched behind shoulders
- Weak in the chine area (sway back)
- Cylindrical body
- Lack of depth in the body

Hindquarters and Hindlegs

- The hindquarters should be wide and the hindlegs must be well apart and straight.
- The rump must show a moderate slope.
- The hindquarters must be well muscled and carry a lot of meat.

- The hocks must be strong and muscular, and the tendons of the hocks must be prominent and easily seen.
- The goat must be able to stand easily on its hindlegs.
- The cannon bone should be short and strong
- The pasterns must be strong, springy, and slightly sloping.
- The hooves must be strong, hard, charcoal gray/black, and reasonably big. The two sections of each hoof must be close to each other.
- The tail Goat must be straight up and be well covered with hair and should be very mobile. The bare skin of the tail should also be covered with charcoal gray to black pigmentation.

Undesirable Characteristics

- Lameness
- Cow hocked or post legged or sickle hocked.

Cull Defects

- Knock knees
- Bandy legs
- Legs too thin
- Weak pasterns
- Hoofs pointing outwards or inwards
- Feet that don't grow evenly
- Pigeon toed or splay footed

Color, Pigmentation and Hair

- The Savannah Goat is totally white. A limited amount of black and red hair is acceptable.
- Older animals may exhibit some roan coloration.
- Pigmentation must be charcoal grey to black. Light spots may not appear on Fullblood does and bucks.

Undesirable Characteristics:

- Red or black hair must be eliminated.

Cull Defects

- Colored heads or spots
- Incomplete or too light skin pigmentation in the low hair and/or hairless areas under the tail, around the eyelids and mouth.
- Any shade of pink

Sexual Organs

- Bucks: Two reasonably large, well-formed, healthy, and equal sized testes in one scrotum. A scrotum with a split no larger than 2 cm is permissible. The scrotum in mature bucks must be at least 26 cm in circumference.

Cull Defects

- Faulty sexual organs (hermaphroditism, etc.)
- Twisted scrotum, or a scrotum of which the points are twisted
- Bucks with only one testicle or abnormal testicles

Udder and Teats

- Bucks: One teat on each side of the scrotum is ideal; two well separated on a side is acceptable
- Does:
 - Well-formed udder firmly attached
 - 2 Functional teats are ideal.
 - One teat with 2 wholes is acceptable but must be eliminated.
 - Maximum teats on a side are 3: 2 functional and one small and blind, OR 1 functional and 2 small and blind.
 - Functional teats with a small blind teat are acceptable.
 - ALL TEATS MUST BE SEPARATE FROM EACH OTHER.
- Udder attachment
 - In the fore area the udder should be carried well forward, tightly attached, blending smoothly into the body.
 - In the rear area the udder should be high, wide, and strong with udder halves evenly divided and symmetrical with a strong medial suspensory ligament.

Undesirable Characteristics:

- Teats too large (calabash teats)
- Teats too small for effective nursing
- One teat with 2 wholes





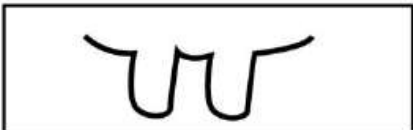



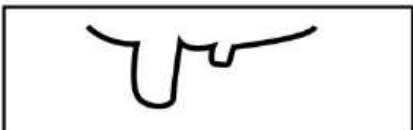

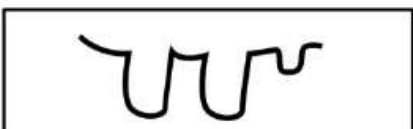

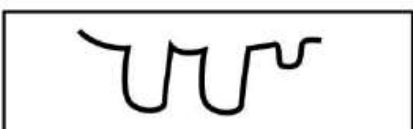
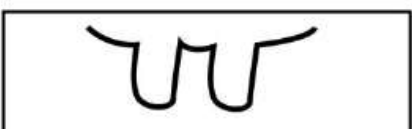
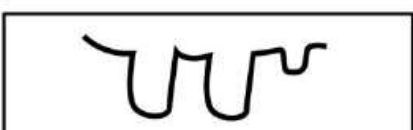
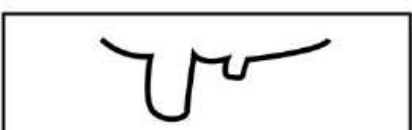
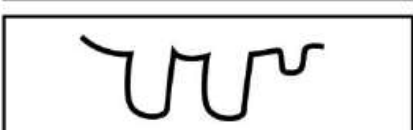
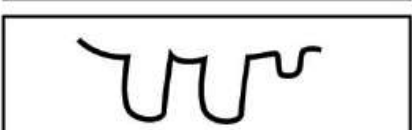

Cull Defects










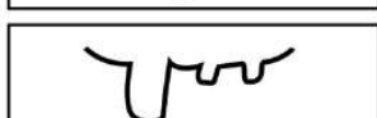
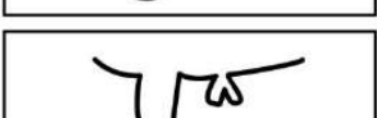

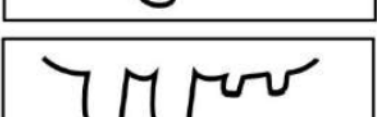
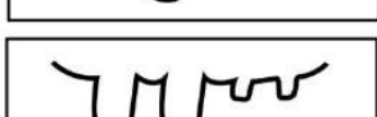




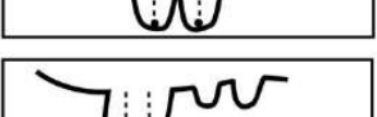







- Poorly attached udder
- Teats that are joined or partially joined, including double teats, fish teats and cluster teats

Appendix 1: Teats' drawings

To better visualize the combinations of ideal, acceptable or teats to be discarded, refer to the drawings below.

Source: *New Zealand Boer Goat Association Breed Standard, 2018*

		IDEAL
		IDEAL
		IDEAL
		ACCEPTABLE
		ACCEPTABLE
		ACCEPTABLE
		ACCEPTABLE
		ACCEPTABLE
		ACCEPTABLE
	plus any teat from above	ACCEPTABLE

		ACCEPTABLE BUT LESS DESIRABLE
		ACCEPTABLE BUT LESS DESIRABLE
		ACCEPTABLE BUT LESS DESIRABLE
		ACCEPTABLE BUT LESS DESIRABLE
		ACCEPTABLE BUT LESS DESIRABLE
		ACCEPTABLE BUT LESS DESIRABLE
		CULL
		CULL
		CULL
		CULL
		CULL Lactating teat
		CULL Lactating teat
		CULL Lactating teat