



Show Rules

Miniature Goats Australia Incorporated

Exhibition of the miniature goat breeds connects exhibitors, enthusiasts and spectators alike. They serve to encourage breeders to produce animals of the highest standard and to learn new skills by interacting with others.

It is a condition of entry that anyone participating in an MGA event adhere to the MGA show rules and regulations and any amendments.

MGA shows are open for all registered miniature goats. You are not required to be a member of Miniature Goats Australia Association Inc. to exhibit at our shows.

Standard of Distinction for Show Animals

Australian Miniature Goats

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. All body and eye colours are acceptable.

Pygmy Goats

The Full blood Pygmy goat is a compact, cobby, full-barrelled 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. All Pygmy bred animals should display typical Pygmy qualities and colour.

Nigerian Dwarf

Body parts should be proportion to the size of the goat, balanced, long bodied, wide but refined. The nose is straight, although there may be a small break or stop at the level of the eyes. The ears are upright. The coat is soft with short to medium hair. Any color or combination of colors is acceptable.

Other breeds to be added here...

All animals should exhibit an alert expression and possess a friendly disposition with impeccable manners.

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

1. Eligibility for Showing

- 1.1. Animals turning 3 years of age must submit their height upgrade documentation to the registrar prior to close of entries where practicable or prior to the day of the show.

For MGA open shows Australian Miniature Goats must hold a current and up to date registration certificate with no genetic history of any breed other than Australian Miniature Goats listed in their pedigrees.

Animals entering other breed classes must have their breed clearly marked on the registration certificates.

Other breeds with Australian Miniature in their pedigree are not eligible to show in Australian Miniature Goats Classes.

Animals must hold a current and up to date registration certificate unless the animal is being height certified at the show, in which case; the appropriate documentation must be available for signing on the day 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 the show entered proof of lease agreement is required if the lease is with another miniature goat group.
- 1.3. All Animals will be measured prior to the commencement of judging and the stewards sheet will be signed a steward on the day. Height is measured at the highest point of the wither to the ground with the animal standing square on all four feet with head in relaxed upright position (see exception). MGA official measuring tool is placed over the wither while the animal is standing correctly on a solid surface OR (exception) the animal is permitted to walk under the bar if the correct stance cannot be achieved. No pressure is to be applied to hold the measuring tool down on the wither and if the bar lifts at all on any part of the animal it will be deemed over its show section height. If a solid surface is not possible the Steward shall use his/her discretion to choose a suitable surface free of height altering material where possible. Where practicable all animals should be measured on or about the same area. The measuring tool should be measured for correctness prior to the show by a Foundation Member, two MGA Members or a Committee nominated person. Animals should be approached carefully and will be permitted three attempts to measure under the correct show height. The Stewards decision is final; no further measurement will be considered. The appointed Steward is the MGA representative in charge of the ring on the day. The Steward is not permitted to measure his/her own animals. Another member(s) and/or Steward should measure the Stewards animals and complete the Stewards sheet.
- 1.4. Animals waiting for the confirmation of their DNA prior to their registration applications being submitted are permitted to be shown up to 6months of age providing a copy of both Parents registration certificates are forwarded with entries or are available for viewing on the day of the show. Where DNA results do not confirm the breed/pedigree the animal will forfeit all awards and any points gained at any show entered. If the animal's registration is not processed/completed for any other reason the animal will forfeit all award and any points gained at any show entered. There will be no refund of funds. The Show Manager will amend all show results to reflect the forfeiture.

MGA prefer that Pygmy and Nigerian Dwarf animals have parent DNA verification or animals shown have DNA verification for themselves.

- 1.5. The following height restrictions have been set for the purpose of showing:

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.

- 1.6. **Identification** by way of an ear tag placed in the animals ear is a mandatory requirement by law 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.
- 1.7. **Exhibitors** must be current financial members of a recognised Miniature Goat Association prior to close of entries. Proof of membership should be forwarded with entries.
- 1.8. 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.

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.
Pygmy and Nigerian Dwarf entries – 10 goats and three registered studs until numbers increase. (Rule as at 2020)
- 2.2. **Entry Forms** must be filled in correctly and signed by the owner or lessee of the animal. Correct entry fees should be paid prior to the commencement of the show into MGA bank account. CAE/Johnes test results must be forwarded to the Show Manager with entries. If this cannot be achieved a copy must be available for the Steward to sight on the day.
- 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 and respect to all members, officials, judges and the general public.
- 2.4. **Exhibitors** are responsible for checking their own entries prior to the commencement of the show and relay any errors to the Steward. Exhibitors are responsible for any errors that occur on entry forms or illegible hand writing
- 2.5. **Entry fees** will not be refunded under any circumstances.
Entry fees must be paid even if the exhibitor withdraws for any reason, failure to do so may jeopardise acceptance of future show entries.
- 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 the 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.
- 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 can be handed out direct on the day after the show.
- 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 **MGA Championship points** to be awarded the animal must be registered in MGA's database or be pending with a registrar and the owner must be a current financial member of Miniature Goats Australia Association Inc.

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 or received through another miniature goat group 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. **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. **All 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 neatly blended or shaved.

- 3.2. **Animals** entered into any MGA show must have been tested negative for (Johnes and CAE) as all MGA shows are '**tested**' shows. Evidence of testing is required and should be forwarded with show entries. Testing date must be within the 12 months preceding the date of the event. Test results of Sire and Dam of animals entered under 1 year of age need to be submitted in lieu of their own test results. A list of each goat and their tag number should accompany laboratory results on your vet or laboratories letterhead.

- 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 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.

- 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 grey 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 and the miniature breeds. Exhibitors should act in accordance with their Membership Agreement and/or Codes of conduct and are responsible for ensuring that any person with them does the same.
- 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.
- 4.9. **Exhibitors** 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 approved prior to the event by the committee. Animals may be picked up from the display or show only if prior arrangements have been made and the animal meets MGA's testing requirements.
- 5.2. **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 where possible.
- 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.
- 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** that fall ill at a show must be given veterinary assistance immediately and adhere to the veterinary advice given.

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. Disputes should not be discussed with anyone other than the alleged complainant and alleged offender and should be discussed in confidence. If the Show Manager is not in attendance he/she can be telephoned for advice if required.
- 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.
- 7.2. **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.
- 7.3. **Judges are asked not to open the mouths of animals** instead to ask the exhibitor for them to open the animals mouth so inspection of the teeth can occur. This is for biosecurity purposes.
- 7.4. Judges are also asked to **wash hands regularly** throughout the day.
- 7.5. **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 1.8). 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.