



# PYGMY BREED STANDARD

## The Pygmy Breed History

The pygmy goat was originally called the Cameroon Dwarf Goat, which originated in the former French Cameroon area, and was mostly restricted to West African countries. Similar breeds of pygmy goats also be found in most other parts of Africa.

The Cameroon Dwarf goats were exported from Africa to zoos in Sweden and Germany where they were on display as exotic animals. In 1959 and 1960, the Rhue family in California and the Catskill Game Farm in New York, received the first documented shipments of pygmy goats from mainland Europe. Offspring of these animals, as well as earlier imports, were sold to zoos, medical research institutions, and to some private individuals; eventually making their way to England, Canada and other parts of the USA; places where they can all be found today.

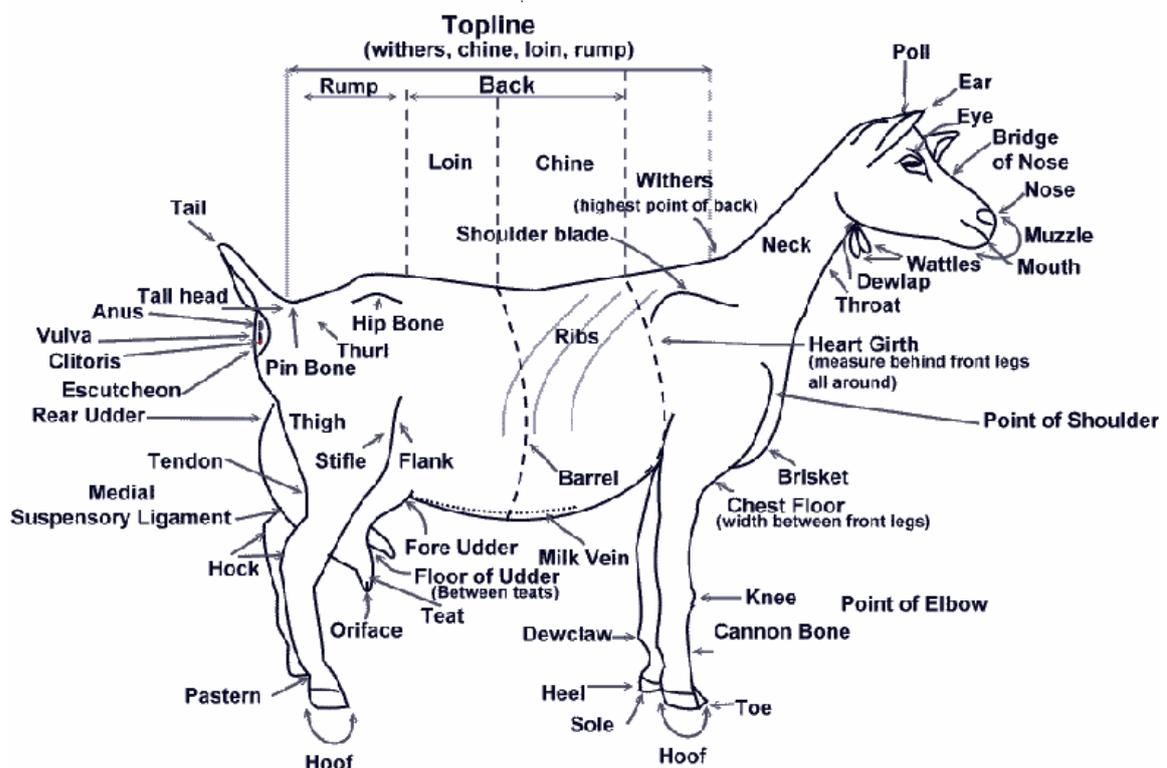
They are not generally bred for milking but will produce enough milk to feed their young and depending on the animals used in cross breeding them they may give more.

Pygmy goat genetics were imported into Australia 2013 via semen.

Miniature Goats Australia Association Inc. (MGA) approves the entry of full blood Pygmys (proof of parentage may be required), as well as cross bred Pygmy goats into our group.

Pygmy cross bred animals will be graded up 5 generations using Pygmy cross bred animals of the same grading or higher including full blood animals to Purebred.

MGA will insist that grades and potential grades be noted on pedigree certificates when animals are offered for sale or when they are being promoted.



## Basic Goat Body Parts



# PYGMY BREED STANDARD

## Height Information

Heights accepted for showing and breeding (see 1.4 MGA Show Rules) and MGA Grading Chart. Measuring device as adopted by Miniature Goats Australia Association Inc. must be used for show and breed heighting. (see example 1.0).

Animals should all be measured at the same location and measured on a solid and level surface. If a measurement is in doubt the animal may be re measured and if at a show at the stewards' discretion.

Animal is measured standing upright with all four feet set squarely underneath.

Height is measured from the top of the wither perpendicular to the front leg, no further back than the point of the elbow.

To measure correctly, the animals head should be up in a relaxed position (see example 2.0).

## Temperament

- ❖ It is imperative that animals are good tempered.
- ❖ Animals should be alert and curious with a sociable, friendly and approachable disposition.
- ❖ Animals should be well mannered.
- ❖ Animals should be able to be lead.

## Show Points and Breed Characteristics

### General Appearance – 10 points

The Full blood Pygmy goat is a genetically small, 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.

Coat is full, straight, medium length hair that varies in density with seasons and climate. Does may have non existent or sparse beards whilst on adults bucks abundant hair growth is desirable; the beard should be full, long and flowing with a copious mane draping across the shoulders.

All colour combinations are acceptable to up to but not including Purebred animals.

Purebred animals and full blood animals will need to conform to true Pygmy colours as set out in the USA breed specifications. (see below)

### Full blood and Purebred colours are:-

#### **Solid Black**

##### **Body Colours:**

All body hairs black in colour. No other solid colours are acceptable.

##### **Required markings:**

None

##### **Optional markings:**

white patches or belly bands anywhere on barrel between point of elbow and stifle joint.

#### **Black**

##### **Body Colours:**

All body hairs black in colour. No other solid colours are acceptable.

##### **Required markings:**

muzzle, crown, eyes and ears distinctly accented in white.

##### **Optional markings:**

a) white patches or bellybands anywhere on barrel between point of elbow and stifle joint. b) tail accented in white



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

### Agouti

#### Body Colours:

Black Agouti and Grey Agouti - black and white hairs melded, producing an appearance ranging from highly blended to nearly solid.

#### Required markings:

- a) muzzle, crown, eyes and ears distinctly accented in white and may be melded with hairs the same colour as the body.
- b) hooves, face and forehead distinctly darker than, but of the same colour as, the main body colour,
- c) All agoutis have solid stockings (black on the Black Agouti and Grey Agouti, brown on the Brown Agouti), stockings are defined as being from the knee down on the front legs and from the top of the hocks down on the rear legs.

#### Optional Markings:

- a) white patches or belly bands anywhere on the barrel between the point of elbow and stifle joint,
- b) dorsal stripe darker than, but of the same colour as the main body colour,
- c) varying degrees of blend on areas of the body (such as the chest, shoulders, mane, and tail).

### Caramel

#### Body Colours:

**Caramel with black markings:** Any shade of white through dark tan.

#### Required markings:

- a) muzzle, crown, eyes and ears distinctly accented in white and may be melded with hairs and same colour as body.
- b) Vertical stripes on centre front of socks same colour as body;
- c) sides and rear of socks, dorsal stripe and martingale accented in black;
- d) Face: accented in black. Amount ranges from partial to complete according to age and gender.

**Optional markings:** white patches or belly bands anywhere on barrel between point of elbow and stifle joint.

### Caramel with brown markings

#### Body Colours:

Any shade of white through dark tan.

#### Required markings:

- a) muzzle, crown, eyes and ears distinctly accented in white and may be melded with hairs and same colour as body.
- b) Vertical stripes on centre front of socks same colour as body;
- c) sides and rear of socks, dorsal stripe and martingale accented in brown;
- d) Face: accented in brown. Amount ranges from partial to complete according to age and gender.

#### Optional markings:

white patches or belly bands anywhere on barrel between point of elbow and stifle joint.

### Body – 20 points

#### Body Structure

##### Head

Forehead broad, flat or concave (dished). Eyes set well apart and bright. Purebred and full blood animals must have brown eyes; prominent but not protruding. Muzzle broad, deep and strong, with even bite. Nose short, wide and flat; can be dished. Ears medium sized, firm and erect. Disbudding is desirable; horns are not permitted in the show ring.



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

### **Neck**

Well muscled and more full-throated than dairy breeds, more refined in does than in Bucks. Neck length is perceived shorter than dairy types.

### **Body Capacity**

Large in proportion to the size of the animal providing ample digestive and reproductive capacity as well as strength, vigor and stamina.

**Back** - Strong, laterally straight and level along chine and loin.

**Chine** - broad, level from withers to loin.

**Loin** - broad, strong and displaying muscular support for the barrel.

### **Forequarter (Front) and Front Legs – 20 points**

**Shoulders** - Muscular, well angulated and tightly attached.

**Wither** – Showing prominence and strength, narrowing to the peak and broadening to the chest. Shoulders must attach tightly to the wither without separation or looseness.

**Chest** – Well muscled brisket, wide floor – full at point of elbow.

**Barrel** – Broad, deep and well sprung through the ribcage– increasing in width and depth towards flank providing generous room for digestion and pregnancy.

### **Legs and Feet**

**Feet** - Well shaped, symmetrical hooves pointing towards the front. Hooves in proportion to size of the animal.

**Fore Legs** – Straight and squarely set, cannon bone short. Elbows should be close to ribs.

### **Hindquarters (Rear) and Hind Legs – 20 points**

**Flank** - Deep and set low on the barrel displaying a muscular strength.

**Thighs** – Long and wide, well muscled with legs short, heavy boned without coarseness, wide apart and well muscled.

**Rump** – showing length and width proportional to body structure – not prone to steepness. From above the structure should display a square or preferable rectangular shape, not tapering to the tail.

**Hips & Thurls** – Wide, nearly level with back.

**Pin bones** – wide apart. lower than hips and pronounced.

**Tail** - Set high, wide at the base, symmetrical and carried high.

**Hocks** – Straight, strong, even providing a base for a balanced even stance.

**Pasterns** – Short, Strong and upright.

**Hind Legs** – Hind legs straight and widely set to accommodate udder and barrel, stifle held tightly to the body when viewed from the rear. When viewed from the side, femur and tibia are proportionately longer than dairy breeds and more pronounced stifle joint.

Well-formed compact, straight, hooves, pointing forward.

Medium length, well angled, firm pasterns.

Hocks shapely and vertical from pastern with strong tendons.

Claws one each hoof should be symmetrical.

Hindquarter movement should be free and correct.



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

### Reproductive Classification – 10 points for Does and Bucks

#### Does

**Udder** – Pliable but firm, round and attaching firmly forward and evenly to the barrel and high and wide to the escutcheon with evenly balanced symmetrical halves. Smooth, free of lumps. A strong, broad medial suspensory ligament that aids the udder to be supported close to the barrel without separation of the halves.

**Rear Attachment** – Fully attached high and wide displaying support and attachment through the inside flanks and high to the escutcheon.

**Front attachment** – Tightly attached, no pocket blending smoothly into body.

**Teats** – Two of uniform length and size sufficient for milking with two fingers and thumb, symmetrical in placement and pointing straight down from the base of the udder, free of deformities (including any extra growths) or multiple orifices.

When Doe is not lactating, udder should be well contracted and balanced.

Vulva should be normally developed for age.

#### Bucks

##### Reproductive System (Bucks)

**Testicles** – Two, full descended of equal size.

**Teats** - Two of uniform length and size, symmetrical in placement, free of deformities (including any extra growths) or multiple orifices.

Scrotum should not be divided more than 2cm and should contain two well-formed fully descended testicles of similar size and evenness.

Scrotum should be well attached and be of relative size for the age of the animal.

Bucks should have two even teats with only one orifice per teat.

Bucks should show masculinity with a prominent neck and strong shouldering.



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

### Pygmy Breed & Show Faults

Will be judged according to breed standards and on their severity.

- ❖ Consider degree of deviation from cobby (compact) type
- ❖ Eyes protruding or set too close / far apart
- ❖ Coat too short and sparse
- ❖ Coat too long, curly or silky
- ❖ High wither with weak shoulder attachment, consider severity could be major fault
- ❖ Hooves symmetrical, pointing towards the front
- ❖ Cow or sickle hocks
- ❖ Weak pasterns
- ❖ Feet pointing in or out, splayed
- ❖ Wry tail
- ❖ Narrow or shallow muzzle
- ❖ Weak, thin neck
- ❖ Slab sided
- ❖ Shallow or narrow chest
- ❖ Weak, swayed or roached back
- ❖ Rump too short, level or too steep
- ❖ Visible scurs over 2cm
- ❖ Testicles too small for age of animal
- ❖ Split or uneven scrotum

### Major Faults (second place only)

- ❖ Multiple/Functional Teats, Bifurca Teats, Multiple Orifices
- ❖ Non functional blind teats
- ❖ Bulbous teats
- ❖ Deep Division in udder
- ❖ Weak pasterns
- ❖ Nasty temperament
- ❖ Testicle Split over 2cm

### Disqualification

- ❖ Crooked Face
- ❖ Roman Nose
- ❖ Eye Colour other than Brown in Purebred or Full blood
- ❖ Incorrect bite - Under Shot / Over shot jaw
- ❖ Ears Pendulous or Helicopter
- ❖ Color and markings other than those specified for Purebred or Full blood animals
- ❖ Retained testicle/s (Monorchid/Cryptorchid)
- ❖ Hermaphroditism (both male and female)
- ❖ Horned animals in the show ring
- ❖ Serious emaciation



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

### Classes – If Required

1. Best Presented
2. Classic Head
3. Outstanding Hindquarters
4. Superior Forequarters
5. Junior Handler / Senior Handler

### Wether Section

6. Kid Wether – Under 6mths
7. Kid Wether – 6mths not to exceed 12mths
8. Junior Wether – 12mths not to exceed 2 years
9. Junior Wether – 2 years not to exceed 3 years
10. Adult Wether – 3 years not to exceed 5 years
11. Senior Wether – 5 years and over

### Doe Section

12. Kid Doe – Under 6mths
13. Kid Doe – 6mths not to exceed 12mths
  - a. CHAMPION & RESERVE Champion Kid doe
14. Junior Doe – 12mths not to exceed 2 years
15. Junior Doe – 2 years not to exceed 3 years
  - b. CHAMPION & RESERVE Champion Junior Doe
16. Adult Doe – 3 years not to exceed 5 years
17. Senior Doe – 5 years and over
  - c) CHAMPION & RESERVE Champion Adult Doe

### Buck Section

18. Kid Buck – Under 6mths
  19. Kid Buck – 6mths not to exceed 12mths
    - d) CHAMPION & RESERVE Champion Kid Buck
  20. Junior Buck – 12mths not to exceed 2 years
  21. Junior Buck – 2 years not to exceed 3 years
    - e) CHAMPION & RESERVE Champion Junior Buck
  22. Adult Buck – 3 years not to exceed 5 years
  23. Senior Buck – 5 years and over
    - f) CHAMPION & RESERVE Champion Adult Buck
24. Best Kid in Show – Champions from a & d (Doe & Buck)
  25. Best Junior in Show – Champions from b & e (Doe & Buck)
  26. Best Adult in Show – Champions from c & f (Doe & Buck)

27. Best of Breed Pygmy Goat – Champions from classes 24, 25 & 26

28. Supreme Goat in Show – (from All Best of Breed Winners)



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

### Progeny and Breeders Section

29. Sire OR Dam and one progeny (See Progeny Classes Rule)
30. Breeders Pair (See Breeders Pair Rule)

**For points to be awarded at an MGA show at least the following must be offered:-  
Kid, Junior and Adult classes for Does and Bucks)**

### Awards

**Champion Award** – At the completion of judging the age classes for each sex eg: Kid Doe 12&13 Junior Doe 14&15, Adult/Senior Doe 16&17, Kid Buck 18&19 Junior Buck 20&21, Adult/Senior Buck 22&23 first place winners from each return to the ring. The judge will select the champion animal from the first place winner/s.

**Reserve Champion Award** – When the champion is chosen the steward will recall the second place winner to the champion from that age class. The second place winner will be judged with the remaining first class winner for the Reserve Champion Title.

**Best In Show Awards** - At the completion of judging the age classes all the Champions animals from each category eg: Kid Doe & Kid Buck, Junior Doe & Junior Buck and Adult Doe and Adult Buck will compete for Best in Show Kid, Best in Show Junior and Best in Show Adult.

**Best of Breed Award** – At the completion of judging Best In Show categories all the Best in Show animals, will compete for the Best of Breed Award, within their individual breed.  
Eg: Best Kid, Best Junior & Best Adult – one of these 3 animals will be the Best of its breed.

**Supreme Miniature in Show Award** – At the completion of judging Best of Breed across all breeds represented at the show all the Best of breed winners will compete for the Supreme In show Award.  
Eg: Best Australian Miniature, Best Pygmy, Best Nigerian Dwarf will be Supreme

### Other Classes –If Required

#### Best Presented – Class 1

Animals are judged on their cleanliness. Clean ears, teeth, eyes, nostrils, feet, under tail and coat. Coat can be neatly trimmed, shaved or groomed. Feet should be trimmed well.

#### Classic Head – Class 2

Heads are judged according to MGA breed standards. Head should be in proportion to the body and be feminine for females and masculine for males.

#### Outstanding Hindquarters – Class 3

Animals are judged according to MGA breed standards for the hindquarters and are assessed against each other animal in the class to discover the most outstanding on show day.

#### Superior Forequarters – Class 4

Animals are judged according to MGA breed standards for the forequarters and are assessed against each other animal in the class to discover the most outstanding on show day.



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

### **Junior Handler Class – Class 5**

This class is to encourage Junior's into the show ring whilst teaching them show etiquette. Judges are encouraged to talk to Junior's and inspire their techniques.

### **Best in Show Classes**

All winning age champions in each category of kids, juniors and adults of both Does and Bucks, (wethers excluded) are judged for the best of their group in the show. I.e: Best in Show Kid, Best in Show Junior, Best in Show Adult.

**Progeny Classes - Classes 28** must be progeny of the same Sire OR Dam and animals must be owned by the same person/stud. More than one set of entries per Sire OR Dam may be entered in the same class. Judging is on improvement and refined characteristics passed down to kid/s from Sire OR Dam.

### **Breeders Pair – Class 29**

Must be animals that have been bred by the same Stud, same stud name and same owner. Judging is on overall breed standards highlighting likeness, quality, conformation and consistency of being bred by the stud.

### **Champion of Champions**

This class is for animals who have obtained the Australian Champion title after attaining 100 points to continue to show towards Australian Grand Champion. Animals will be judged on conformation, temperament and breed characteristics. This class will only be offered if two or more animals are entered.

### **Australian Grand Champion**

This class is for animals who have obtained the Australian Champion title and have continued to be shown in the Champion of Champions Class and have attained 300 points. This class will only be offered if two or more animals are entered.

### **Other Classes**

The MGA may offer other classes from time to time.

### **Australian Champion and Australian Grand Champion Titles**

Only animals registered and owners who are current financial members of MGA are eligible to apply for these awards. Points awarded from shows conducted by other miniature goat associations, which can be substantiated and were awarded by approved or qualified goat judges, may be included for these awards on application.

Animals that are awarded an Australian Champion Title upon application and approval, will have Aust Ch added to their name permanently for the life of the animal.

Animals that are awarded a Grand Australian Champion Title upon application and approval, will have G Aust Ch added to their name permanently for the life of the animal.

Points awarded to individual animals remain with that animal and are not transferrable to other animals.



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

It is the owner's responsibility to calculate and record points correctly for submission to MGA for consideration of title.

There is no time limit for submissions but once an animal has reached a maximum 110 points cannot be shown in MGA shows unless title has been applied for and approved. Animals can then be shown in the Champion of Champions class.

Points can only be gained at approved MGA shows using approved MGA judge/s or qualified goat breed judge/s or other approved events. Entrants must be a financial member of MGA to receive points and/or to be awarded an Australian Miniature Goat Champion title.



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

### Points for Champion Award

- An animal must accrue a minimum of 100 points.
- 25 points is the maximum amount of points that can be gained at any one MGA 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 totalling 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 and a Best of Breed (individual goat breed) by two different MGA Judges or approved or qualified goat breed judges, at two separate events.**
- 20 points may be gained from 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).
- **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
- Champion Miniature Kid Buck - 6 points and 1 point for every other buck under 12 months
  
- Champion Miniature Junior Doe - 6 points and 1 point for every other doe 12 months but not exceeding 36 months (3 years)
- Champion Miniature Junior Buck - 6 points and 1 point for every other buck 12 months but not exceeding 36 months (3 years)
  
- Champion Miniature Adult Doe - 6 points and 1 point for every other doe over 3 years
- Champion Miniature Adult Buck - 6 points and 1 point for every other buck over 3 years
  
- 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
  
- Best of Breed (each breed) – 6 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)
- Grand Champion – 6 points for your animal plus 1 point for every other animal in the class up to a maximum of 10 points per show. (100 points plus 100 points)

### Progeny Points



## **PYGMY BREED STANDARD**

- 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 of Breed
- 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
- 5 points for the sire and dam of progeny that are titled Australian Grand Champion

Changes to points 23 August 2019 due to the addition of the Pygmy breed and provision for other breeds as required.



## PYGMY BREED STANDARD

**Example 1.0** – Official MGA Measuring Device



**Example 2.0** - Correct measuring stance





# PYGMY BREED STANDARD

## Size & Grading

### Purebred Animals

Does must not exceed 57cm at 3 years.

Bucks & Wethers must not exceed 60cm at 3 years.

Purebred and Full blood heights are also the maximum show heights.

### A Grade Animals

(A Grade) = over 75%

to grade up to PB =

A to A or any grade higher than A or FB (Full blood)

Animal must be under height set for A grade at 3 years

Does must not exceed 58cm.

Bucks & Wethers must not exceed 61cm.

### B Grade

(B Grade) = over 50% up to 75%

To grade up to A grade =

B to B OR any grade higher than B or FB

Animal must be under height set for B grade at 3 years

Does must not exceed 58.5cm.

Bucks & Wethers must not exceed 61.5cm.

### C Grade

(C Grade) = over 25% up to 50%

To grade up to B grade =

C to C OR any grade higher than C or FB

Animal must be under height set for C grade at 3 years

Does must not exceed 59.0cm.

Bucks & Wethers must not exceed 62.0cm.

### Entry Level – D Grade

This grade is the MGA entrance level and so the following will apply:-

(D Grade) = Under 25% cross

To grade up to C grade =

D to D OR any grade higher than D or FB

Animal must be under height set for D Grade at 3 years

Does must not exceed 59.5cm in height

Adult Bucks & Wethers must not exceed 62.5cm height

Animals already registered with MGA potentially eligible for a higher grade where a parent dies and grade cannot be established or paperwork is not obtainable for one parent, may have the animal graded on the generations of graded parentage. Where possible MGA will not penalise an animal because a parent is not graded.

Conditions apply, application for grading must be submitted to Committee in writing for consideration.

Animals must have two registered, certified, parents.