

*NATIONAL YOUTH SHOW*

*BOER GOAT  
KNOWLEDGE MANUAL*

*2006*



## **Preparation for the show**

### **1.1 Nutrition**

An animal in poor condition is not a good advertisement for the farmer. Due to the fact that feeding animals for a show is expensive, the farmer should choose phenotypically correct animals that conform to the breed standards. The feed and balanced rations should begin ± 5 months before the show

### **1.2 Preparation of the animal**

This process should be done on the farm where the animal is used to the surroundings. At a show there are strange noises, animals and people which added to the transport to the show, can stress the animal. Prevent any additional stress as this can cause the loss of the kid in a pregnant animal

#### **Horns**

These must be sanded smoothly. Furniture oil can be used just before judging for further finishing off

#### **Washing**

Wash the animal with a soapy mixture that is not too strong to avoid irritation of the skin. Let the animal dry off in the sun.

<b>NB Don't wash off the wax layer in the ears. It forms a natural protection</b>
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#### **Trimming coat**

Trim the hair on the forehead by the crown to ensure a nicely rounded shape to the head

#### **Tail**

Cut the hair evenly so that the brush shows nicely

#### **Feet**

Hooves should be trimmed neatly as well as the hair around the hoof so that it looks neatly finished off

#### **Brush**

Brush your goat regularly with an ordinary scrubbing brush or a dog brush

#### **1.1. Items to go to the show with you**

- Brushes and soap to wash the animal
- Medicine, syringes and needles
- Cuvadel to stop diarrhea (caused by stress)
- Feed dishes and water buckets, and enough feed as this is always short at a show
- Brooms to sweep in front of the stalls

## **Boer Goat Breed Standards**

## **CONFORMATION:**

### **Head**

A strong head with large soft brown eyes and without an untamed look. A strong slightly curved nose, wide nostrils, strong well-formed mouth with well-fitted jaws. The forehead must be prominently curved linking up with the curve of nose and horns. Horns should be strong, of moderate length and placed moderately apart with a gradual backward curve. Horns have to be as round and solid as possible and coloured darkly. Ears are to be broad, smooth and of medium length hanging downwards from the head. Too short ears are undesirable. The head should be red with a blaze

### **Neck and Forequarter**

A neck of moderate length in proportion to the length of the body, full and well fleshed and well-joined with the forequarter is essential. The breastbone should be broad with a deep and broad brisket. The shoulder should be fleshy, in proportion to the body and be well-fitted to the withers. The withers should be as broad and as well-filled as possible (not sharp). The front legs should be of medium length and in proportion to the depth of the body. The legs should be strong and well placed, with strong pastern joints and well-formed hoofs which are as dark as possible

### **Barrel**

The ideal is a long, deep broad barrel. The ribs must be well sprung and fleshed, and the loins as well fitted as possible. The goat should have a broad, fairly straight back and must not be pinched behind the shoulders

### **Hindquarters**

The Boer Goat should have a broad and long rump, not sloping too much, well fleshed buttocks which are not too flat, and have fully fleshed thighs. The tail must be straight where it grows out of the dock and then swing to either side.

### **Legs**

Emphasis should be placed on the legs which should be strong (of good texture) and well placed. Too fleshy legs are undesirable. Strong legs imply hardiness and a strong constitution, which are absolutely essential characteristics of the Boer Goat

## **2.2 SIZE**

A big heavy goat with maximum meat production is ideal. There should be a good relationship between the length of the leg and depth of the body at all growth stages

### **Skin and Coverings**

A loose supple skin with sufficient chest and neck folds, especially in the case of rams, is essential. Eyelids and hairless parts must be pigmented. The hairless skin under the tail

should have 75 % pigmentation for stud purposes with 100% pigmentation the ideal. Short, glossy hair is desirable. A limited amount of fur will be tolerated during winter months

### **Sexual organs**

Ewes: Well-formed udder firmly attached with no more than two functional teats on a side.

Permissible defects:

\* If there is no indication that the teat is separating, but there are two milk openings, this is acceptable.

\* Double teats: the front 50% should be split.

Rams: Two reasonably large, well formed, healthy and equal sized testes in one scrotum. A scrotum with no larger split than 5 cm is permissible.

### **FLOCK GOAT:**

A flock goat is a Boer goat which does not comply with the stud standards, but has no cull faults. At least 50% must be red. Under the tail the flock goat must be at least 25% pigmented. Rams may not be more than 25% red.

### **General Appearance and Type:**

In appearance it is a goat with a fine head, round horns bent backwards, a loose, supple and pleated skin (especially in rams) with different body parts well fleshed in perfect balance. The ewe must be feminine, wedging slightly to the front, which is a sign of fertility. The ram, never the less, appears heavier in the head, neck and forequarters. The upgraded Boer goat is an animal with symmetry, with a strong, vigorous appearance and enough quality. In the ewe there is strong emphasis on femininity; in the ram one of masculinity.

### **Characteristic cull defects:**

Concave forehead, horns too straight or too flat, pointed jaw, ears folded (lengthwise), stiff protruding ears, too short ears, too long lower jaws, short bottom jaw and blue eyes

Too long, thin neck, too short neck, shoulders too loose, back too concave, too slab-sided, too cylindrical or pinched behind the shoulder

A rump that hangs too much or is too short. A too long shank or flat buttocks

Knock knees, bandy legs, "koeisekel of regophak". Legs too thin or too fleshy. Weak pasterns and hoofs pointing outwards or inwards.

Covering too long and coarse or too furry.

Bunched, calabash or double teats. Too small testes, a scrotum with more than a 5 cm split

### **EXPLANATION OF BREED STANDARDS:**

In applying standards, there are many aspects which cannot be fully defined. In such cases the inspector or judge must use his discretion. In spite of the breed standards being clear and to the point, it is never the less necessary to supply additional information in respect of certain descriptions. The major part of the body of the goat must be white to make it conspicuous and

to facilitate the rounding up of goats in dense terrain. A pigmented skin on the hairless parts, e.g. under the tail, round the eyelids and mouth etc., is absolutely essential, because it offers resistance to sunburn which may result in cancer. A pigmented skin is also more resistant to skin disease. A loose, supple skin is essential for adaptability to climatic conditions. In South Africa, which is a warm and sunny country, an animal with a loose skin and short hair is better adapted. In addition a skin of this kind provides additional resistance to external parasites.

## **COLOURING:**

The ideal is a white goat with a red head and ears, and fully pigmented. The blaze must be evident. Shadings between light red and dark red are permissible. The minimum requirement for a stud animal is a patch of at least 10 cm in diameter on both sides of the head, ears excluded. Both ears should have at least 75 % red colouring and the same percentage pigmentation.

*The following is permissible for stud purposes:*

### **HEAD, NECK AND FORE-QUARTERS:**

A total red colouring is permissible not further than the shoulder blade and on the shoulder it must exist not lower than level with the chest junction.

### **BARREL, HINDQUARTER AND BELLY:**

Only one patch not exceeding 10 cm in diameter is permissible.

### **LEGS:**

The term "legs" is taken to mean that portion below and imaginary line formed by the chest and the underline. Patches with maximum of 5cm in diameter are permissible.

### **TAIL:**

The tail may be red, but the red colour may not continue onto the body for more than 2,5 cm.

### **RED HAIR AND COVERING:**

Very few red hairs are permissible at the 2-tooth stage.

### **PIGMENTATION:**

Discriminate against too light pigmentation.

# MARKETING AND VALUE OF THE BOERGOAT

## **General:**

Economical farming implies profitable farming, in other words the more profit you make out of your farming enterprise, the more economical or profitable it is. The livelihood of the farmer thus depends on his farming with that animal or crop which will ensure that he receives the highest possible yield and profit in the climatic and soil conditions applicable to his circumstances. He also depends on optimal utilisation of each natural source, in such a way that the resource in question will not deteriorate as result, but will rather be improved over the long term. The Boer goat fulfils the above aims in the following ways in terms of its characteristic features:

## **Products of the Boer goats:**

### **Meat:**

Considered in the light of the health-consciousness that prevails on a worldwide basis, the Boer goat yields lean meat of a high quality, particularly during the young stage. The meat is flavoursome, succulent, tender, extremely attractive and very tasty. Currently, the meat is much sought after for barbecue and spit roasting purposes. For this reason, goats should be marketed between the ages of 6 and 15 months, and carcasses should weigh no more than 23 kg. Older goats in good condition yield biltong (dried meat) and dried sausage of very good quality, which can definitely compete with the very best on the market. In the light of the predilection for the Boer goat meat displayed by certain consumers in South Africa and the rest of the world, along with the characteristics required for the right type of meat for the health-conscious sector of consumers worldwide, one cannot do otherwise than predict a rosy future for Boer goat meat originating from goats of a high quality. The best marketable live mass for goats is 40 – 50 kgs. Goats are usually sold directly off the farm

### **Pelts:**

The pelt of the Boer goat has a higher leather value in comparison with that of other small stock breeds. An endeavour should be made to breed goats with short, smooth hair, since this increases the quality of the pelt. The pelts of Boer goats are used for making the uppers of shoes, as well as for gloves and the covers of books.

## **CHARACTERISTICS: Hardy And Adaptable**

The Boer goat is undoubtedly one of the hardiest small stock breeds on earth, with a great capacity for adoption. It is therefore encountered in a great variety of climatic - and pasture - conditions and is consequently fit for conditions varying from extensive to intensive. The Boer goat is an excellent walker, has sturdy legs and moves easily in rugged mountainous areas and through dense bush.

During drought conditions, the Boer goat probably survives longer than most other animals without supplementary feeding or feed.

The Boer goat also has an exceptional ability to withstand and resist diseases such as blue tongue, prussic acid poisoning and, to a lesser extent, enterotoxaemia (pulpy kidney). As far as is known, Boer goats do not contract blue tongue at all. Their grazing habits also make them less susceptible to infection caused by internal parasites, since Boer goats prefer to graze above the ground, if such grazing is available. Such as bushveld or scrub vegetation.

The Boer goat is able to maintain economic production up to the age of approximately 10 years. This implies that the percentage of young replacement ewes which have to be withheld, is very low.

### **GRAZING HABITS**

Goats prefer small trees and shrubs as their basic diet, but their exceptional economic value lies precisely in the fact that they are able to utilise certain plants which are less appetising to other stock breeds.

Experiments undertaken at Omatjenne Experimental Farm in Namibia have proved that a Boer goat consumes 74 % leaves and 26% grass. As a result, it is possible to farm with cattle and Boer goats simultaneously without their being in competition with each other to any great extent, so that a maximum number of kilograms of meat per hectare can be produced. As a result of the grazing habits of the Boer goat, it can be successfully incorporated in this way in order to utilise bushes and shrubs, and thus to assist in controlling encroachment.

The statement that is made often about goats destroying grazing, is to a certain extent true where goats are enclosed. This points a finger to the farmer as a poor manager.

### **FERTILITY AND KIDDING PERCENTAGE**

The Boer goat is very fertile (over 90%) and is not seasonally bound. Furthermore, multiple births are the rule rather than the exception, with an average kidding percentage of 180.

These two important economic characteristics have made the Boer goat very popular for the following reasons:

- Because the Boer goat is not seasonally bound, the kidding season can be selected to fit in with the period when food is most plentiful; or, under intensive conditions, kidding can occur every 7-8 months.

- Its exceptionally high kidding percentage implies that the Boer goat cannot be surpassed with regard to the percentage of meat per kilogram per ewe or per hectare. This factor places the Boer goat very high on the ranking list with regard to intensive farming.

### **Abundance of milk**

Growth rate is linked to sufficient milk production and good nurturing instincts in ewes with regard to their young.

A well bred ewe should have enough milk to raise two kids rapidly. Usually the ewe has too much milk initially for the kid's needs, and needs to be watched for udder infections. Ewes with small kids must receive sufficient good grazing to ensure enough milk

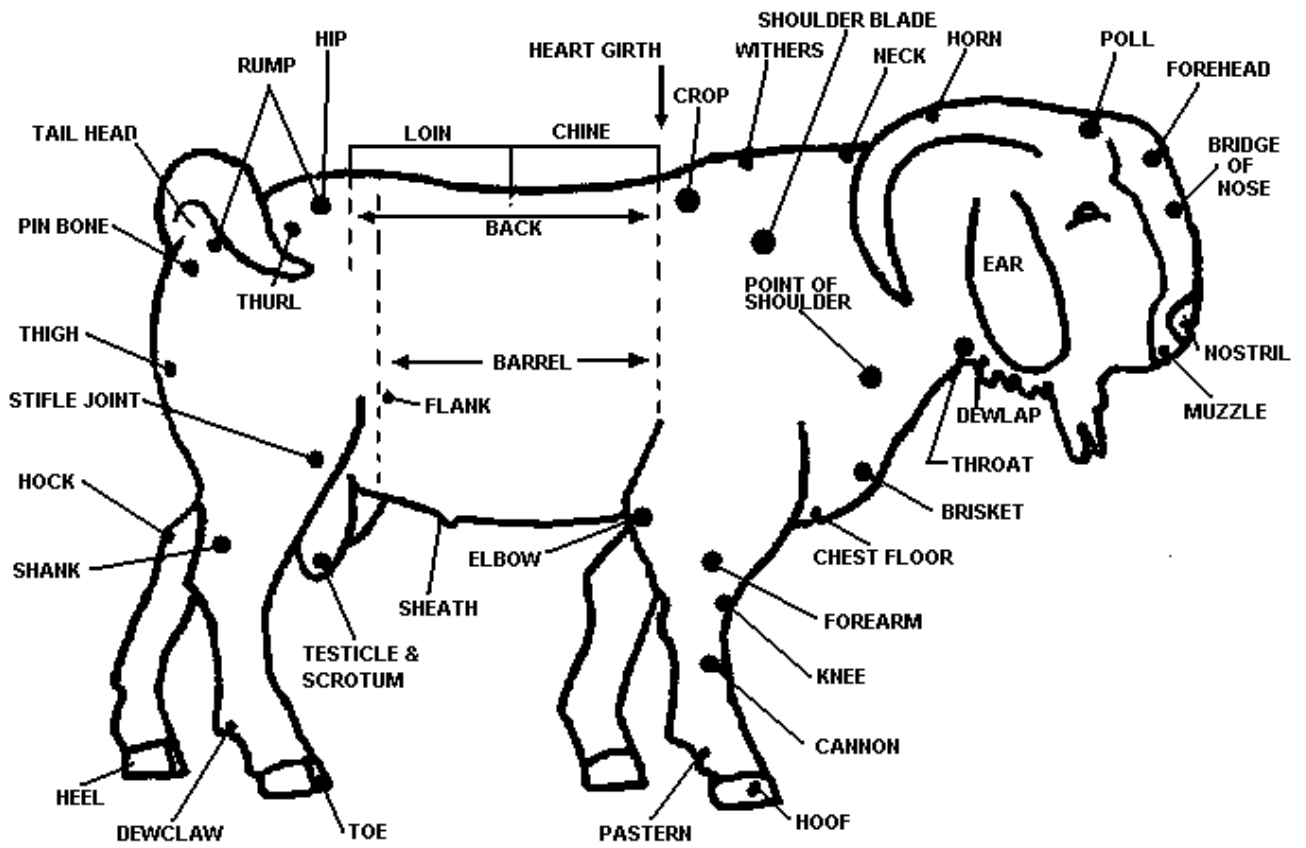
### **Meat Production**

As mentioned above, the meat produced by these goats is the main source of income. It is a good source of meat for the lower income groups and is a favoured slaughter animal on the farms. Boer goats that are slaughtered between 6 – 15 months provide meat that is tender and tasty. In contrast the meat from an older goat is tough and sometimes has an unpleasant flavour. The carcass should not weigh more than 23 kgs at slaughter.

### **Potential**

Considering the fact that a great future for meat is being forecast in our country, there should be no need to expand on the potential for farming with Boer goats. There is a positive potential market for the meat, and the goat has a role to play in cultural ceremonies as well.

# PARTS OF A BOER GOAT



## **DISEASES FOUND IN BOER GOATS**

1. Pulpy kidney
2. Blue Udder
3. Pasteurella
4. Brucellosis
5. Enzootic abortion
6. Corynebacterium (Contagious Abscesses)
7. Tetanus
8. Blackquarter (Sponssiekte)
9. Orf (Vuilbek)
10. Diarrhoea in suckling kids
11. Foot rot

For all the above diseases, there are either inoculations available, or they may be treated with antibiotics

## **INTERNAL PARASITES**

1. Tape worm
2. Nasal worms
3. Roundworm
4. Liver flukes

All parasites can be dosed for

## **EXTERNAL PARASITES**

1. Tick
2. Blue louse

**Animal may be dipped or medicines applied for these**

Ram kids are castrated at  $\pm$  4 weeks with a knife, burdizzo or elastic bands

## **WASHING AND PREPARATION**

You will need:

- Medium scissors
  - Small scissors
  - File
  - Towel
  - Washcloth
  - Shampoo
  - Small cloth
  - Raw Linseed Oil
  - Sand paper
  - Hoof shears or pruning shears
  - Halter or nylon rope
  - Brush
  - Bucket
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- a) Tie up the goat securely – relatively short and fill bucket with water
  - b) Attach the hose pipe and open the tap, the stream must be steady but not too hard
  - c) Start to wet the goat from behind the head over the body and legs
  - d) Apply shampoo from behind the head to the rump. Remember that the face and ears may not come into contact with the water or the shampoo. The chemicals in the shampoo may burn the eyes, nose and mouth.
  - e) Start washing the goat on the left hand side over the back to tail. Use your hands to rub in the shampoo. Now wash on the right side to in front of the chest. Wash against the grain of the hair
  - f) The belly is washed last as all the dirt runs of into this area. Lastly wash the legs and scrub the hooves with the brush
  - g) Take the hosepipe and rinse off all the soap. Spray against the grain of the hair. Remember that no foam may remain, especially on the belly and legs
  - h) Take the brush and brush the hair evenly from front to back
  - i) Dry off with the towel
  - j) Take the washcloth, make it damp and wipe off the face, around the mouth, nostrils and eye sockets. Use the washcloth to gently wipe the ears without disturbing the wax layer

### **PREPARATION:**

The goat is now dry.

- a) Use the medium scissors and trim the fringe, as well as in front of the chest and next to the belly
- b) Trim tail hairs on both sides of the tail for  $\pm 1$  cm from the skin. Do not cut off the tip of the tail.

- c) Use the small scissors to trim the hairs around the mouth and ears and inside the ears
- d) Trim the hairs at the base of the horns
- e) Trim the hairs around the hooves, start at the left front leg
- f) File the horns so that they are round and sand with the sand paper
- g) Trim the hooves evenly with the hoof shears
- h) Smear oil on horns and hooves with the small cloth
- i) Using a dry brush, brush the hair evenly from front to back

## **SHOWMANSHIP**

The idea is to show the animal to its best advantage, as if you were at a normal show. The only difference is that at the youth show, the handler is being judged, and not the animal. All animals are handled more or less according to the breed standards

The following must be remembered when entering the ring:

- a) Concentrate and forget everyone outside the ring
- b) Keep eye contact with the judge
- c) Never move between the judge and the animal
- d) You and the animal must be neat and tidy. No straw or dirt on the animal, and gumboots must be clean
- e) Come into the ring on the left side of the goat, with your right hand on the left horn, and your left hand under the jaw. Don't pull on both horns as they may break off
- f) Move in a clockwise direction until asked to stand by the ring steward or judge. Stay on the left side of the goat and do not cut the corners in the ring. Stand on the left hand side of the goat with your feet slightly apart. The goat's front leg must be in a straight line with your shirt buttons.
- g) When you stand the goat, make sure the front legs are square and the hind legs slightly apart and to the back. Use your shoe to push the back legs. Pick up the front of the goat and put down slowly, the front legs should now be square
- h) When you are satisfied that everything is right look up. When you look up, the judge knows you are ready to be judged
- i) The judge will now ask you to move your goat. Turn to left and right etc. in all cases you must stand still and not move your position. React quickly to instructions. Count slowly to 5. By this time, your goat should be positioned correctly. Use your one hand as a lever to move the goat. The other hand stays on the horn. You may swap hands if necessary
- j) The judge will now ask you to show your goat. Let the goat go and try to get him as close to the judge as possible without clapping hands. Keep eye contact with the judge, and if the judge moves right or left then move further around the goat away from the judge. Don't move between the judge and the goat. If the judge stands still, and the goat stands still, you must keep eye contact and stand still with your hands next to your sides
- k) On the "catch" command, corner the goat, and catch it with your right hand, by the left hind leg above the heel.

- l) Move around to your left and stand back in your place
- m) Reposition your goat and look up
- n) The judge can now ask you to turn your goat in different directions again. He may expect you to do it faster this time. Concentrate very hard as you may get caught out!
- o) You may be asked to swap your animal with another handler
- p) If the judge asks you to open the goat's mouth, use your left hand thumb and forefinger, turn the head towards the judge and use the fingers to separate the lips and show the teeth
- q) Learn to tell the different ages of the goats, as you will be asked to age the animal

## **BOER GOAT GROUPS**

- a) There are three participants in each group. Arrange them in order of height. Shortest to tallest, or tallest to shortest. The person in the middle gives the signs. Groups of the same sex are preferable but mixed groups are allowed
- b) With groups, co-operation and uniformity is very important
- c) Clothes and shoes must be the same. Watches off, and girls must have the same hair elastics. Belts must be the same. Clothes must be neat
- d) Enter the ring clockwise, with your right hand on the goat's left horn, and your left hand under the jaw.
- e) Move in a clockwise direction around the ring, maintain eye contact and the spaces between the group members, and move to the place indicated by the ring steward
- f) Position the feet correctly, wait for the last person to be ready, give the sign and look up
- g) The judge will now ask you to turn your goats, backwards, forwards, and left and right
- h) Do everything at the same time and quickly. Remember to keep the spacing between you and the railing behind you.
- i) The judge will now ask you to show your goats. Let the goats go and remain in your order while you move the goats towards the judge. Don't clap your hands. If the judge moves right or left, move further around the goats. Maintain eye contact.
- j) If the judge stands still then stand still with your hands at the sides
- k) At the command, "catch your goat" (Vang maar), herd your goat into the nearest corner. Catch it above the left heel with your right hand at the same time. Move clockwise in the correct order and return to your place
- l) Position the legs correctly and look up together
- m) The judge will now ask you to turn your goat in different directions. He will expect you to do it quicker than before. Concentrate and stay in your place