

MINIATURE GOATS IN AUSTRALIA

Australian Miniature Goats are genetically small animals. They are a "Designer Breed" predominantly based on ear structure and shape and fleece type in the case of the Sheltie. Although they are not scaled down versions of their larger counterparts, their conformation is similar to that of the larger breeds, with all parts of the body in balanced proportion relative to their size. They are hardy, alert animals with impeccable temperaments that come in all colours and colour combinations.

An Australian Miniature Goat is considered to be; an Australian bred animal, not exceeding 53.3cm (21") in height (ideally), that meets the breed standard requirements and has at least 5 generations of "miniature" breeding behind it. Such an animal would qualify as a Herd book purebred having two parents that would qualify for purebred status. An animal meeting all the requirements is technically an Australian Miniature Goat (as described in MGBA Rules) regardless of its registration status.

Many long standing, MGBA Breeders have been producing quality animals that are meeting the requirements of each new generation. Occasionally an animal will grow taller than expected, but this is to be expected at such an early stage in the Breeds development, especially when larger animals are being used to bring in the required types and when using animals with unknown backgrounds. Creation of the Australian Miniature Goat using MGBA standards is obtainable.

Standards were created and modified with the help of many reputable Foundation Breeders to promote the development of the Breed. The aim was to create standards that any knowledgeable person could easily follow, using animals that were not unobtainable and to develop a Grading system similar to other accepted livestock grading up systems, that would continually support a breeding program in which each new generation would meet the steadily reducing height requirements.

BREED TYPES

The Miniature Goat Breeders Association of Australia recognises 4 breed types

You can view more information and photos on the individual Breed Pages by clicking on the link on the breed circle above to the right.

ELF - Short ear

PIXIE - Upright ear

MUNCHKIN - Folded ear

NUWBY- Pendulous ears

Each breed has it's own unique characteristics that differentiates it from the next. Although each Breed is predominantly based on ear type, they are slightly different in body shape and length of leg. Facial profile is also slightly different when compared.

THE BREED STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Each Goat is Classified for Breed Type when it reaches 3yrs of age, using photographs sent in with it's registration application (or 3yr adult registration). Classification also takes into account the parents of an animal (when registered), with offspring expected to show similar characteristics to their parent/s.

When an animal is produced that has characteristics that cannot be accredited to either parent, i.e. polled offspring from two naturally horned parents, blue eyed offspring from two normal eyed parents, elf ears from two Nuwby parents, then the grandparents are considered. If the Breeder runs more than one buck on the property, especially one of the type produced, then DNA may be required to confirm the listed parentage.

It is recommended that Miniature Goat Breeders choose the type that they would like to breed, then carefully select animals with the characteristics that they need to produce animals meeting the Breed Standard of Excellence for that type.

Sometimes, however, it is necessary to cross the different breed types, or use animals with less than perfect characteristics, to introduce or strengthen conformation, round off or compact body shape, breed in or out hair, 'perfect' temperament or height, in a line of animals. Crossing of types, if necessary, should be done in the lower Grades to reduce the chances of "throw-backs" being produced in the higher Grades.

ELF BREED

ELF conformation is similar to that of the larger breeds, with all parts of the body in balanced proportion relative to its size. Promoted predominantly as pets and kept in smaller areas than “commercial” goats, it is highly preferred that animals do not have **horns**: naturally polled, neatly dehorned or disbudded. A good **temperament** is one of the utmost importance, they should be tractable, alert, curious, intelligent, co-operative and friendly.

To be classified as an Elf at Purebred, Bucks must not exceed 60cm, Does must not exceed 57cm and animals must conform to the ideal breed standard, and have two registered minimum Grade A Elf parents.
Distinguishing features: Ears are elf or gopher described as follows;

Elf ear: from non-existent to a maximum length of 5cm (2”) is accepted, the end of the ear should be turned up or turned down and cartilage shaping the small ear is allowed.

COLOURS (all breeds)

All coat colours and colour combinations are accepted

All eye colours are accepted.



FAULTS, Undershot or overshot jaw, snippy muzzle, roman nose, small, round or protruding eyes, ears without ends turned over, ears over 5cm but not exceeding 7.5cm, horns, large scurs or stubs, lameness, crooked or malformed feet, feet turned out, pasterns too long or soft, enlarged knees, bowed front legs, buck kneed, close in hocks, hind legs close, legs too long, loose, winged, or heavy shoulders, narrow chest or pinched heart girth, short, shallow, or narrow body, shallow or weak thighs, low (swayed) back, steep rump, rump too long, **TEATS**: bulbous, extremely large or small, uneven in size, pointed sideways, not clearly delineated, extra teat on doe, double orifice in teat on doe, blind teat, double teat (fused), extra teat that interferes with milking (supernumerary), extra teat on buck (supernumerary), **UDDER**: lacking in attachment, too much or too little division between halves, pocket in fore udder, blind (non-functioning) udder half, udder distended below level of hock. Bucks with divided scrotum, more than 5cm, scrotum small for age of animal. Wry or broken tail.

DISQUALIFYING BREED FAULTS, Nasty Temperament; Serious emaciation; Crooked face; Undershot / overshot jaw (more than 5mm); Evidence of hermaphroditism or any inability to reproduce (excludes wethers); Anything other than two normal, fully descended testicles in bucks; Permanent physical defect, such as naval hernia; Ears too long, exceeding 7.5cm in length.

Notes

PIXIE BREED

PIXIE conformation is similar to that of the larger breeds, with all parts of the body in balanced proportion relative to its size. Promoted predominantly as pets and kept in smaller areas than “commercial” goats, it is highly preferred that animals are naturally polled or neatly dehorned or disbudded. A good **temperament** is one of the utmost importance, they should be tractable, alert, curious, intelligent, co-operative and friendly.

To be classified as a Pixie at Purebred, Bucks must not exceed 60cm, Does must not exceed 57cm and animals must conform to the ideal breed standard, and have two registered minimum Grade A Pixie parents.

The Pixie goat may be of any breed type/s as long as the goat looks like a Pixie and has ears as described;

Pixie ears: Medium in length, rigid, open, upright held even with or above the level of the eye, tubular in appearance and are held out from the head.

COLOURS (all breeds)

All coat colours and colour combinations are accepted

All eye colours are accepted.



FAULTS, Undershot or overshot jaw, snippy muzzle, roman nose, small, round or protruding eyes, ears flat at ends but not folded, ears short but not less than 7.5cm, ears upright but overly long, ears upright but pointing forward, pinched ears, horns, large scurs or stubs, lameness, crooked or malformed feet, feet turned out, pasterns too long or soft, enlarged knees, bowed front legs, buck kneed, close in hocks, hind legs close, legs too long, loose, winged, or heavy shoulders, narrow chest or pinched heart girth, short, shallow, or narrow body, shallow or weak thighs, low (swayed) back, steep rump, rump too long, **TEATS:** bulbous, extremely large or small, uneven in size, pointed sideways, not clearly delineated, extra teat on doe, double orifice in teat on doe, blind teat, double teat (fused), extra teat that interferes with milking (supernumerary), extra teat on buck (supernumerary), **UDDER:** lacking in attachment, too much or too little division between halves, pocket in fore udder, blind (non-functioning) udder half, udder distended below level of hock. Bucks with divided scrotum, more than 5cm, scrotum small for age of animal. Wry or broken tail.

DISQUALIFYING BREED FAULTS, Nasty Temperament; Serious emaciation; Crooked face; Undershot / overshot jaw (more than 5mm); Evidence of hermaphroditism or any inability to reproduce (excludes wethers); Anything other than two normal, fully descended testicles in bucks; Permanent physical defect, such as naval hernia; Ears non-existent, too small or too long, pointing down, flat or pendulous.

Notes

MUNCHKIN BREED

MUNCHKIN conformation similar to that of the larger breeds, with all parts of the body in balanced proportion relative to its size. Promoted predominantly as pets and kept in smaller areas than “commercial” goats, it is highly preferred that animals are naturally polled or neatly dehorned or disbudded. A good **temperament** is one of the utmost importance, they should be tractable, alert, curious, intelligent, co-operative and friendly.

To be classified as a Munchkin at Purebred, Bucks must not exceed 60cm, Does must not exceed 57cm and animals must conform to the ideal breed standard, and have two registered minimum Grade A Munchkin parents.

Munchkin ears: are flat along majority of length and fold downwards. Tip should sit between eye level and mid-muzzle (as pictured above).

COLOURS (all breeds)

All coat colours and colour combinations are accepted

All eye colours are accepted.



FAULTS, Undershot or overshot jaw, snippy muzzle, roman nose, small, round or protruding eyes, flat ears without fold, ears with too much structure, aeroplane ears, ears longer than mid-muzzle but not below corner of nostril horns, ears folded length wise, large scurs or stubs, lameness, crooked or malformed feet, feet turned out, pasterns too long or soft, enlarged knees, bowed front legs, buck kneed, close in hocks, hind legs close, legs too long, loose, winged, or heavy shoulders, narrow chest or pinched heart girth, short, shallow, or narrow body, shallow or weak thighs, low (swayed) back, steep rump, rump too long, **TEATS:** bulbous, extremely large or small, uneven in size, pointed sideways, not clearly delineated, extra teat on doe, double orifice in teat on doe, blind teat, double teat (fused), extra teat that interferes with milking (supernumerary), extra teat on buck (supernumerary), **UDDER:** lacking in attachment, too much or too little division between halves, pocket in fore udder, blind (non-functioning) udder half, udder distended below level of hock. Bucks with divided scrotum, more than 5cm, scrotum small for age of animal. Wry or broken tail.

DISQUALIFYING BREED FAULTS, Nasty Temperament; Serious emaciation; Crooked face; Undershot / overshot jaw (more than 5mm); Evidence of hermaphroditism or any inability to reproduce (excludes wethers); Anything other than two normal, fully descended testicles in bucks; Permanent physical defect, such as naval hernia; Ears non-existent, too structured or too long, upright ears.

Notes

NUWBY BREED

NUWBY conformation is similar to that of the larger breeds, with all parts of the body in balanced proportion relative to its size. Promoted predominantly as pets and kept in smaller areas than “commercial” goats, it is highly preferred that animals are naturally polled or neatly dehorned or disbudded. A good **temperament** is one of the utmost importance, they should be tractable, alert, curious, intelligent, co-operative and friendly.

To be classified as a Nuwby at Purebred, Bucks must not exceed 62.2cm, Does must not exceed 57cm and animals must conform to the ideal breed standard, and have two registered minimum Grade A Nuwby parents.

Nuwby ears: Pendulous and the ideal length should be longer than the tip of the muzzle. Profile is usually straight but a slight arch is desirable.

COLOURS (all breeds)

All coat colours and colour combinations are accepted

All eye colours are accepted.



FAULTS, Undershot or overshot jaw, dished nose, small, round or protruding eyes, ears above end of muzzle but not above corner of nostril, ears folded lengthwise, horns, large scurs or stubs, lameness, crooked or malformed feet, feet turned out, pasterns too long or soft, enlarged knees, bowed front legs, buck kneed, close in hocks, hind legs close, legs too long, loose, winged, or heavy shoulders, narrow chest or pinched heart girth, short, shallow, or narrow body, shallow or weak thighs, low (swayed) back, steep rump, rump too long, **TEATS:** bulbous, extremely large or small, uneven in size, pointed sideways, not clearly delineated, extra teat on doe, double orifice in teat on doe, blind teat, double teat (fused), extra teat that interferes with milking (supernumerary), extra teat on buck (supernumerary), **UDDER:** lacking in attachment, too much or too little division between halves, pocket in fore udder, blind (non-functioning) udder half, udder distended below level of hock. Bucks with divided scrotum, more than 5cm, scrotum small for age of animal. Wry or broken tail.

DISQUALIFYING BREED FAULTS, Nasty Temperament; Serious emaciation; Crooked face; Undershot / overshot jaw (more than 5mm); Evidence of hermaphroditism or any inability to reproduce (excludes wethers); Anything other than two normal, fully descended testicles in bucks; Permanent physical defect, such as naval hernia; Ears above corner of nostril, upright ears.

Notes
