

Mini Nubian Breed Standard

The Miniature Goat Registry

The Mini Nubian is a medium sized dairy goat of mixed Asian, African and European ancestry, the result of the careful crossing of the Anglo Nubian and Nigerian Dwarf breeds. They are known for high quality, high butterfat milk production, and can carry more muscling than dairy goats of Swiss origin. Any color or color combination is accepted including frosted nose and ears. Blue eyes are allowed.

The head is the most distinctive breed characteristic of the Mini Nubian and one of the most challenging aspects of breeding Mini Nubians. Goats do not upgrade into the American and Purebred herd books based on generation alone. The minimum standards for each of the herd books must be met.

The preferred profile of the Mini Nubian is convex. The following are terms we use to describe and evaluate the nose or profile of the Mini Nubian:

Concave (dished) – This term describes the nose of the goat when viewed in profile. The Nigerian Dwarf has a concave or straight profile, while the Nubian has a convex profile. Concave profiles are undesirable in the Mini Nubian and allowed in the Experimental herd book only.



Please note the example photograph used is of a very young kid. For better accuracy we judge breed characteristics and assign a herd book after one year of age. Noses just after birth are scrunched up, and profiles can improve dramatically as the goat ages. At the third generation goats are evaluated for entrance into the American herd book. At the sixth generation goats are evaluated for entrance into the Purebred herd book. Goats submitted before one year of age will be temporarily placed in the Experimental herd book.

Straight Nose – A straight profile is preferred over a concave profile. More often the nose is actually a very slight concave or convex. Straight noses are allowed in the Experimental and American herd books.



Convex (Roman) – Convex is the profile of a purebred Nubian. Convex noses are preferred. To be placed in the purebred herd book, Mini Nubians must have clearly convex noses. Convex noses can be found in every generation and not just those individuals with higher percentage Nubian.



The second defining characteristic of the Mini Nubian head is its ears. Wide, pendulous ears that flare forward at the ends creating the characteristic “bell shape” are preferred. The following terms are used to describe the ears of the Mini Nubian:

Control – Nubians and Mini Nubians alike demonstrate varying levels of control over their ears. Some individuals have near total control and are able to raise their ears very high. Other individuals have almost no control. Nubians and Mini Nubians with **curtain** ears have very soft ears that dangle down beside their heads at all times. Curtain ears may be preferred by some breeders. They are not, however, shown preference in the breed standard. The ears of the Mini Nubian are judged *at rest*, and the breeder is advised to take the time to obtain photographs of the ears at rest when registering his/her goat.



Airplane – Airplane ears extend straight out from the head like the wings of an airplane. These ears are fairly common in first generation crosses. They are accepted in the Experimental herd book only.



Dropped – The terms 2/3rds and 3/4ths dropped ears have been used for years to describe ears that are closer to pendulous than airplane ears are. These terms, however, are not well defined. They do not mean the same thing to all breeders and are confusing to new breeders. To simplify matters, we will refer to all ears that are neither airplane nor pendulous as “dropped”. This applies to ears that are set close to the head but are too short, as well as ears that lack the close set to the head. The later type of ear tends to come out from the head, and then drop down, or be set higher on the head. Dropped ears are allowed in the Experimental and American herd books only.



Pendulous – Pendulous refers to ears that are long, and set close to the side of the head. Pendulous ears in does extend to the tip of the nose or beyond when held alongside the head. Pendulous ears in bucks will approach the tip of the nose. Ears in bucks that extend to or beyond the tip of the nose are preferred. Ears are best judged pendulous at maturity. Ears shall be judged to be pendulous or not while they are in a relaxed position. Pendulous ears are strongly preferred and are the only ears accepted into the Purebred herd book.



Bell Shaped – The third defining characteristic of the Mini Nubian ear is its shape. The shape should be wide with a round tip and a flare at the end. Some pendulous ears may be too stiff or narrow to host this shape. Bell shaped ears are strongly preferred and are the only ears accepted into the Purebred herd book.

To recap, Mini Nubians that are eligible to upgrade into the American or Purebred herd books are judged after one year of age to determine which herd book they are eligible for. Photographs of the head need to be taken from the side and the front (straight on – not from above or below the animal) with the ears at rest. Additional photographs may be requested if necessary. The progeny of two American parents is automatically American; the progeny of two Purebred parents is automatically Purebred. The Breeder, however, can request that a throwback be moved back a herd book if breed standard is not met.

Experimental Mini Nubians – Can be any generation. They can have any type of profile and any type of ear. The maximum height is 31 inches for does and 33 inches for bucks, measured at the withers.

American Mini Nubians – Must be third generation or higher. They must have straight or convex noses, with convex noses strongly preferred. They must have dropped or pendulous ears, with bell shaped pendulous ears strongly preferred. The maximum height is 30 inches for does and 32 inches for bucks, measured at the withers.

Purebred Mini Nubians – Must be sixth generation or higher. They must have clearly convex noses. They must have pendulous, bell shaped ears. The maximum height is 29 inches for does and 31 inches for bucks, measured at the withers. The minimum height is height minimum of 23 inches for does and 23 inches for bucks.

*** Heights given are guidelines. To determine eligibility for the American or Purebred herd books, height is measured at 1 year. Animals are not fully mature at 1 year though. Animals that are over height may be disqualified from the show ring but registration will not be revoked.