

DISQUALIFICATIONS

GENERAL

1. Total blindness
2. Serious emaciation
3. Permanent lameness or difficulty in walking
4. Blind or nonfunctioning half of udder
5. Blind teat
6. Double teat(s)
7. Extra teat(s) that interfere with milking
8. Active mastitis/any other cause of abnormal milk
9. Evidence of hermaphroditism or other inability to reproduce
10. Permanent physical defects, such as naval hernia
11. Crooked face on bucks
12. Extra teat(s) or teat(s) that have been cut off on bucks
13. Double orifice in teats of bucks
14. Buck with one testicle or with abnormal testicles

These structures and conditions are considered so debilitating and restrictive to functional longevity and productivity that animals may not be placed. Note that some fourth stage defects (Very Serious) in does become fifth grade (Disqualification) in bucks.

1. Total blindness can often be seen in malformation and/or discoloration of the iris. A quick, on the spot, test is to move one's hand quickly in front of the eye, without touching the eyelashes, to check for eye movement or dilation. Lack of either response indicates blindness. (Certain conjunctivitis conditions, such as clinical pinkeye, cause ulceration of the cornea and temporary blindness. Such animals ought not to be presented in the ring anyway, because of contagious health considerations.)
2. Serious emaciation can be the result of advanced degenerative health conditions, such as advanced CAE or Johnes's disease, and /or bad management, i.e., improper nutrition, housing or parasite control (worms, lice, etc.) Regardless of its origin, severely out of condition animals do not belong in the show ring and before the public's eye. This is the age of "animal rights" and dairy goat judges need to make public policy statement by disbarring emaciated animals from placement.
3. Permanent lameness or difficulty in walking is an advanced stage of condition 3 under slight to serious defect (enlarged knees, non-disabling lameness). Granting that some improperly set broken legs can cause the condition; it still does not belong in the show ring.
4. Blind or nonfunctioning half of udder obviously limits productivity, whether genetic or a result of severe mastitis. Udders that may be temporarily dry on one side due to mastitis complications do not belong in the show ring. Included here would also be does that have had mastectomy (removal of one or both halves) and does that have sloughed one half due to a severe infection of gangrene or blue bag mastitis.
5. Blind teats have no orifice and can be observed on junior does and bucks as well as senior does.

6. A double teat is a teat which has duplication of part or all of the teat structure, beyond that found in the double orifice.
7. Extra teats that interfere with milking is an advanced condition of the fourth stage defect of extra teat on does.
8. Active mastitis or any other cause of abnormal milk requires a judgment call. When drawing milk, remember a slight thickening of the first milk at the teat end is not abnormal. Chunks and/or flakes after the first squirt would be abnormal. Excessively hot and/or cold udders, inflamed and hard udders are candidates for disqualification. Such does will usually exhibit general depression, raised hair coat, irregular ear carriage, lusterless eyes, etc.
9. Evidence of hermaphroditism or other inability to reproduce can most often be observed by examination of the vulva on junior does. Abnormality in structure such as severe enlargement, upturning and prominent, protruding clitoris may be present. Conversely, underdeveloped vulva is also possible. Other physical signs in junior does can be excessively small and underdeveloped teats and “bucky” appearing heads with excessive bone structure throughout. Be very wary in calling this one. Note that Rules Governing the Conduct of Official Shows X11, G.2 prohibits exhibition of does over 24 months of age who have not freshened (i.e., given birth to a kid or fetus after at least 141 days of gestation). This disqualification applies most often to junior does. However, bucks whose penile sheath has been re-routed due to urinary calculi surgery would be covered by the statement, as well.
10. Permanent physical defect, such as navel hernia, should be cautiously evaluated. In young kids, navel ill can cause enlargement/inflammation of the navel which may decrease with time. True hernia exists when intestinal parts that are easily retractable can be pushed back through a definite opening, or break, in lower abdominal muscle layers. Tendency to herniate is considered hereditary, which is why disqualification is applicable.
11. Crooked face on bucks is a gender upgrade of the same conditions in does and considered genetic in transmission.
12. Extra teat(s) that have been cut off on bucks is another gender upgrade as in 11 prior.
13. Double orifice in teats of bucks is as 11 & 12 before.
14. Bucks with one testicle (cryptorchid) or with abnormal testicles will have lower sperm production and be lacking in reproductive efficiency, even if fertile. It is normal for testicles to hang slightly unevenly and vary moderately in size. Excessively crystalline or hard to the touch, excessively soft and spongy to the touch, and atrophied testicles should be considered abnormal.

BREED SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS

<p style="text-align: center;">Alpine Pendulous ears La Mancha type ears</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">La Mancha Anything other than gopher ears on bucks Ears other than true La Mancha type on does</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nigerian Dwarf Pendulous ears La Mancha type ears Mature does over 22.5" (57cm), Mature bucks over 23.5" (60cm) (Refer to Appendix "Measuring the Nigerian Dwarf Breed")</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nubian Anything other than pendulous ears</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Oberhasli Pendulous ears La Mancha type ears Black bucks Large white spot (1-1/2" [3.8 cm] or more in any direction) Any color other than chamoisee (or black in does)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Saanen Large dark spot in hair (1-1/2" [3.8 cm] or more in any direction) Pendulous ears La Mancha type ears</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sable Pendulous ears La Mancha type ears Solid white color Solid light cream color</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Toggenburg Tricolor or piebald Black bucks White stomachs on bucks Large white spot on bucks (1-1/2" [3.8 cm] or more in any direction) Pendulous ears La Mancha type ears</p>
<p>Recorded Grades: A doe for which the recordation certificate specifies a breed-specific type should be faulted only when the breed character defect(s) would be regarded as a disqualification. The amount of this fault to be applied to a recorded grade should be as if it were a very serious defect.</p>	

Discussion

The fifth and final stage of breed specific defects is Disqualifications, i.e., defects which disbar an animal from placement, even though all these defects are cosmetic/aesthetic. The concept is similar to a leopard without spots not looking like a leopard. Individuals of a breed need to carry the distinguishing characteristics of their breed.

Regardless of breed, ears that are not true to breed type are a disqualification. For Nubians, it is the stage beyond barely drooping or airplane ears, those that are upright. For Alpines, Nigerian Dwarfs, Oberhasli, Saanens, Sables, and Toggenburgs, pendulous ears are to be disqualified. LaManchas have a gender difference: bucks must be gopher eared, i.e., maximum length of one inch with little or no cartilage; does ears cannot be more than two inches in length.

The remaining breed specific disqualifications are color blemishes. In Oberhasli, bucks may not be black (does may be black) and any color other than chamoisee, ranging from light to a deep red bay with the latter most desirable, in bucks and does. Large white spots (1.5" in any direction) on either sex are also included. Saanens of either sex with a large dark spot in hair (1.5" in any direction) should also be disqualified. Note that this spot is to be in hair and not a pigment factor on the skin. Large black or dark spots are common skin pigmentation on Saanens, particularly those frequently exposed to much sunlight. Sables may be any color or combination of colors except solid white or solid light cream. Toggenburgs of either sex that are tri-colored (i.e., black, brown & white) or piebald (white splashing on face and nose beyond normal stripes on sides of nose to muzzle) are disqualified. Additionally, disqualification applies to Toggenburg bucks that are black, have white stomachs or have a large white spot (1.5" or more in any direction). For Nigerian Dwarfs, does over 22.5" in height are disqualified as well as bucks over 23.5" in height.