

BREED SPECIFIC DEFECTS - Discussion

The second major category of defects is breed specific. At times parallelism does not exist in the grading of such defect from breed to breed. For example, in the color set breeds. Oberhasli, Saanen and Toggenburg, most all minor color blemishes are of the same stage. Gender upgrade in severity usually, but not always, applies to males. The varying wishes of breed promotional clubs and their adopted breed standards within the larger ADGA structure are the source of these diversities in breed specific defect. Keep in mind that breed specific defects are largely of an aesthetic nature and do not impact productive longevity, exempting minimum height and weight standards. The stage of a defect is not greater or lesser for being breed specific or general category.

There is no first stage, i.e., slight breed specific defects.

Minimum height and weight standards, gender raised for males, comprise the bulk of second stage, i.e., moderate, breed specific defect. Height is measured at the wither perpendicular from the ground. Weight varies greatly by season; females heaviest in late pregnancy and males out of rut. Remember that moderate stage defect has only a minor impact on placing and as well that animals ought not to be penalized for deficient height or weight until full productive maturity is reached at four years of age. Very few animals in the population fail to achieve their minimal standards at maturity. In judging, a free moving, structurally sound individual meeting minimal breed standards often can and should be placed over much larger individuals who do not move as soundly and display structural incorrectness. There is no ceiling put on height and weight for the standard breeds as size and strength are to be encouraged as long as the animal remains balanced and sound in structure and motion throughout. Excessively large animals in the general population tend to be genetically self-limiting anyway due to reproductive complications.

Alpines, Nubians, Saanens, and Sables have uniform minimum standards: does - height 30", weight 135 lbs.; bucks - height 32", weight 170 lbs. Toggenburgs are allowed to be smallest of the standard breeds: does - height 26", weight 120 lbs.; bucks - height 28", weight 150 lbs. LaManchas and Oberhasli are intermediate, but not identical. LaManchas: does - height 28", weight 130 lbs.; bucks - height 30", weight 160 lbs.; Oberhasli: does - height 28", weight 120 lbs.; bucks - height 30", weight 150 lbs. Note that the range difference in minimum height across all seven standard breeds is 4" for each gender; range difference on weight across all seven standard breeds is 15 lbs. for females and 20 lbs. for males. The height for Nigerian Dwarfs a minimum of 17". Such analysis demonstrates that breed specific variations in minimum heights/weights are rather modest and emphasizes that breed specific defect in these two areas is a moderate stage defect and usually will have little impact on placing.

Other moderate stage breed specific defects vary in nature but are all aesthetic. Alpine females, while not a color set breed, are preferred not to look like Toggenburgs or Saanens. This does not necessarily indicate does with such color are severely penalized; rather that if all else is equal in judging a pair of Alpine does, the white or Toggenburg colored one could be second. I suppose however, that the color correct doe has very bulbous teats, a slight to serious defect under general category defects. In such a case, the non-preferred colored doe could equally be first. Toggenburg does with a few small white spots in their hair are similarly evaluated. In both breeds, males are to be evaluated more harshly for such color defect. A

final moderate defect is a straight face in Nubians, i.e., lack of convex nose bridge structure. This defect is not gender specific and clearly cosmetic.

The next stage of breed specific defect requires a subjective judgment call as to degree. Roman noses, i.e., convex, arched nose bridge structure, can vary greatly in degree in the seven breeds other than Nubians. The defect is moderate to serious depending on degree. Roman noses on breeds other than a Nubian are the only moderate to serious stage breed specific defects.

A third stage of breed specific defects are considered serious, i.e., ought to be reflected in placing, and all relate to color blemishes, an aesthetic consideration. These include:

1. Alpine bucks with Toggenburg color and markings or white bucks. (Note that cream color is not itemized here.)
2. Oberhasli does with small white spots in hair.
3. Saanens of dark cream color or with several small dark spots in hair, whether bucks or does-not gender specific.
4. Toggenburg does who are black, with white stomach with a large white spot (1.5" or more in any direction), and bucks with a few small white spots in hair.

A fourth stage of breed specific defects is Very Serious defects and ought to be reflected in a placing, even though each is cosmetic. These three include 1) Nubians with a dished face, or concave nose bridge structure; 2) Nubians with barely drooping ears, often called "airplane ears" and held straight out; and 3) Oberhasli bucks with small white spots in hair.