



American Savanna

HISTORY

The Savanna goat from South Africa was originally developed from the goats of South Africa with goat meat production in mind. They were bred for outstanding maternal instincts, low maintenance input and delicious meat. There are no percentage breed up programs or purebred goats in South Africa. They judge their goats at a year old and determine if they meet their breed standard. They use goats designated as “flock” animals which may not meet the ideal standards of the breed but are top performers and are used to grow and develop their registered herds. American Savanna breeders find value in this strategy and have developed a classification system that allows the breeder to implement a strategy similar to the South African flock designation. This was developed in order to take advantage of outstanding performing goats in our American habitats that may not meet every criteria of the South African breed standard, without sacrificing genetic material and to further develop this breed.

BREED STANDARDS

GENERAL

The American Savanna meat goat is being developed as a meat goat focused on performance before form goat. **It must meet** the “performance traits” before considering the “form” aspects of the animal.

The American Savanna meat Goat shall be a strong, virile, functionally efficient goat, with a lively but not wild carriage. The does must be of a medium size but should appear refined and feminine.

Does with kids at foot shall have good mothering ability and should aggressively defend their kids against all threats.

Bucks must be masculine, proud, robust and well-muscled.

The American Savanna meat goat is being developed as a low maintenance, hardy meat goat with muscle definition that can withstand unfavorable environmental conditions in America’s diverse climates. The breed should move easily, and be able travel for water and forage.

The American Savanna should be able to utilize a wide range of vegetation and forage.

American Savanna breeders must classify and register their full blood American Savanna goats as American Traditional (AT), American Performance (AP) or American Noble (AN) and the goats must originate from documented Savanna blood.



PERFORMANCE BREED TRAITS

- American Savannas must be; Strong, Virile and Functionally efficient
- American Savannas must be able to utilize a wide range of vegetation.
- American Savannas must maintain their body condition with proper nutrition management.
- Bucks must be Aggressive breeders with an even temperament.
- Does must be fertile and prolific, normally kidding twins or more.
- Does under normal conditions must kid naturally without intervention.
- Under normal conditions does that walk away from or do not clean up and/or fail to stimulate their kids to nurse must be culled.
- Does must raise their kids from birth to weaning.

CHARACTERISTIC BREED TRAITS

- Lively appearance
- A balanced conformation.
- The American Savanna should have strong jaws and strong, long lasting well developed teeth.

APPEARANCE AND BALANCE

Masculinity: The Buck must be masculine. Heavy in front and not as heavy in the back.

Femininity: Wide and deep in the hindquarter and light and feminine front end.

COLOR, PIGMENTATION AND HAIR

The full blood American Savanna Goat is white. A limited number of red and black hair permissible. Red and black spots on the ears are allowed when the Savanna are older. Most of the time they are born with white ears and light pigment after a several weeks the spots become visible as well as the pigment in many cases.



THE HEAD

The Savanna has a fairly long, slightly curved head and must be fairly broad and not sharp.

The mouth must be reasonably wide with well-muscled jaws. The upper and lower lips must be well muscled and mobile.

The teeth of young and mature goats in bucks as well as does, must bite solidly and correctly on the gums of the upper jaws.

The eyes must be lively, and must be protected by well-developed eyebrows.

The ears must be fairly big, of oval shape and hang down next to the head. Not too short or stiff. The ears should be well pigmented and mobile in order to protect the goat against external parasites and other insect pests.

The horns grow backwards from the crown of the head. The horns must be strong and oval. The horns should not grow wild or be too long. Bucks should have slightly stronger and heavier horns than does.

Does as well as Bucks must be able to use their horns to protect themselves as well as their kids.

NECK, FOREQUARTERS, LEGS AND HOOVES

The neck is well muscled and reasonably long so that the goat can easily reach as high as possible to browse.

The forequarters are well muscled and of medium width. The front legs are well placed and straight. The cannon bone of both the front and hind legs should be short and strong. The pasterns of the front and hind legs must be strong and springy and slightly sloping. The hooves of both front and hind legs must be strong, hard and reasonably big. The two sections of each hoof must be close to each other.

The shoulder blades must be strongly attached to the forequarter and withers.

The withers should be somewhat higher than the back and rump.

The hooves of both front and hind legs must be strong, hard and in proportion with the rest of the goat.



BACK AND CENTER PIECE

The center piece should be reasonably long and deep on the goat and must possess enough capacity to eat sufficient roughage and to convert it into meat and energy.

The back and eye muscle (*musculus longissimus dorsi*) must be very strong and wide and should not be weak.

The center piece of older animals should be oval shaped not be cylindrical or lack depth.

The American Savanna goat has well spring ribs and an oval respiratory center piece.

HINDQUARTERS AND HIND LEGS

The hindquarters should be wide and the hind legs must be well apart and straight.

The rump must show a reasonably slope.

The hindquarters must be well muscled and carry a lot of meat.

The hocks must be strong and muscular and the tendons of the hocks must be prominent and easily seen. The hocks should not turn in (cow hocked) or out (bandy legs). It must not be sickle hocked or post legged hocks. The goat must be able to stand easily on its hind legs.

SEXUAL ORGANS

DOES: Well-formed udder firmly attached. Two functional teats are ideal. Fish teats are not acceptable. The maximum teats on a side are 3: 2 functional and 1 small and blind, OR 1 functional and 2 small and blind. Functional teats with a small blind teat are acceptable. ALL TEATS MUST BE SEPERATE FROM EACH OTHER.

BUCKS: Two well-formed, healthy and equal sized testes in one scrotum. The scrotum must be at least 10.25" in circumference. A twisted scrotum, or a scrotum of which the point are twisted, is a cull defect.

CULL DEFECTS

- Overshot jaw.
Undershot jaw.
- Knock knees, bandy legs, cow hocked or post legged or sickle hocked. Legs too thin or too fleshy. Weak pasterns and hoofs pointing outwards or inwards.
- Any deviation from the normal body structure that will harm the functional effectiveness of the Savanna.



All full blood American Savannas will be classified and registered under one of the following three categories.

(AP) American Performance Savanna - To obtain this classification the full blood savanna goat must meet the performance breed traits. This **white** goat may have limited red, blue or black “roaning”, it may have multiple functional teats, and light pigment. Full blood Savannas that do not meet all the American Traditional (AT) breed standard yet, is a performer in breeding and raising offspring has a home in the (AP) category.

(AN) American Noble Savanna - To obtain this classification the full blood American Savanna goat must meet the performance breed traits and they display any type of solid color including paints, red heads and black heads etc.

(AT) American Traditional Savanna- To obtain this classification the goat must meet the performance traits and **all the ideal characteristics in the South African breed standard**. Examples are; a totally **white** goat, the pigmentation must be complete, pink skin is a not permitted, horns are dark and oval and not wild in appearance. The nose should have a slight curvature. Only Savannas that meet all the ideal criteria will receive a (AT) classification.

Percentage and Purebred American Savannas

Percentage and purebred American Savannas follow the breed standard above with the exception of color, pigmentation and hair.

B. Purebred — All male and female Savannas designated as Purebred must be at least 15/16 (94%-rounded up) Savanna blood. The exact breed purity of the sire and dam will be used when calculating the breed purity of offspring.

C. Percentage — All goats with a breed purity of 93% or less will be registered as a Percentage goat. The exact breed purity of the sire and dam will be used when calculating the breed purity of offspring.