Evaluate Your Goat

Below are some points to look for when evaluating any goat. Consider them carefully when you are choosing a goat to show or to purchase. It is important to put your hands on any animal and feel the parts that you are judging.

- **Straight, level topline**
  - Enables goat to carry internal organs without undue stress
  - helps goat to walk easily and without pain
  - allows goat to stand comfortably to eat

- **Strong legs and good feet**
  - enables goat to walk easily and without pain
  - allows goat to stand comfortably to eat
  - helps doe to carry kids, especially multiples
  - helps buck to stand and mount doe for breeding

- **Ample body depth for size**
  - provides space for internal organs
  - good lung capacity
  - adequate room for doe to carry kids
  - space for full rumen and digestive system

- **Udder type, shape, attachment**
  - front attachment tightly forward without “pocket”
  - high, wide rear attachment
  - straight teats of medium size
  - soft, pliable texture
  - milks out completely
  - side view with 1/3 behind leg, 1/3 hidden, 1/3 in front of leg
  - globular shape

- **Broad, deep chest floor**
  - room for muscles that support front end assembly
  - allows for walking ease
  - carries and supports shoulders, neck, head

- **Skeletal system**
  - strong bones
  - good curve to rear leg set
  - no swellings on knees
  - high, sharp withers on dairy doe
  - wide, flat hips
  - minimal slope from hips to pin bones
  - wide spring of ribs with flat bones spaced widely
  - relatively long neck either feminine or masculine for doe or buck
• wide, straight muzzle and jaw
  - holds and anchors teeth
  - has strength to bite and tear off forage

• good breed characteristics for the goat
  - color and patterns
  - head shape
  - ear type