



SANTA GERTRUDIS SOCIETY SOUTH AFRICA

ANNEXURE A

MINIMUM BREED AND PRODUCTION STANDARDS

Amended 31 March 2023
Amended 30 April 2024
Amended 30 April 2025

Minimum breed and production standards, as prerequisites for registration, shall be recommended by Council from time to time to be confirmed at a General Meeting.

Basic Section (BS)

- All female animals must calve within 730 days of inspection date
- No calving interval may exceed 730 days.

Appendix A

- All female animals must calve within 730 days of the inspection date.
- No calving interval may exceed 730 days.
- If a female animal is downgraded to Appendix A, it must still comply with the standards set out above. It is undesirable for female animals (B, SP) to be downgraded to Appendix A, because she will not calve in time.

Appendix B, SP

- All female animals must calve before the age of 40 months.
- No calving interval may exceed 730 days.
- Appendix B-bulls cannot upgrade to SP animals.

BREED STANDARDS

1. HEAD

Male:

- Characteristic male Santa Gertrudis head with an intelligent and strong, robust appearance.
- Broad and straight with well-developed eyebrows, and a straight profile.
- Wide and well-attached jawbone. Large and full muzzle and nostrils.
- Eyes wide, full, and alert.
- Medium to large ears that droop slightly.
- Good balance between width and length.
- Horned or polled.

Female:

- Characteristic female Santa Gertrudis head with calm and relaxed appearance.
- Broad and straight with well-developed eyebrows, and a straight profile.
- Wide and well-attached jawbone. Large and full muzzle and nostrils.
- Eyes wide, full, and alert.
- Medium to large ears that droop slightly.
- Good balance between width and length.
- Horned or polled.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Overshot (long) lower jaw
- Undershot (short) lower jaw
- Light lower jaw
- Wry muzzle
- Wry mouth
- Twisted nose
- Too compact or too flat and long head
- Small or narrow muzzle
- Bulging eyes
- Narrow or pointed mouth
- Too heavy or too large mouth
- Deafness or blindness
- Ears too short. (Not Santa type)
- Double ears.

2. NECK AND DEWLAP

Male:

- Masculine and well-muscled.
- Neat and smooth joint between head and shoulders.
- Smooth and well-developed dewlap.

Female:

- Sleek and elegant with a smooth joint between head and shoulders.
- Smooth and well-developed dewlap with a fine texture.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Too short or too long neck
- Lack of muscling at the joint between the neck and shoulders in bulls
- Females with a prominent hump or a coarse and heavy masculine neck
- Total absence of dewlap

3. SHOULDERS AND HUMP

Male:

- Smooth and well-muscled, broad shoulders.
- Well-spaced chines that are not too prominent.
- Shoulders broad towards the top.
- Hump placed in front of the shoulders.

Female:

- Soft and well-filled between the shoulder blades with adequate width.
- Well-spaced chines that are not too prominent.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Too prominent shoulder points
- Poor muscling in male animals
- Loose shoulders
- Too prominent chines with a lack of space between them
- Lack of a hump in bulls
- Presence of a hump in females
- Over-developed and heavy shoulders

4. CHEST AND BRISKET

Male:

- Wide, round and deep chest.
- Good width in the chest floor without any prominence.
- No excess fat deposits around the brisket.

Female:

- Soft appearing brisket without any prominence or fat deposits.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Loose shoulders
- Pinched chest (Devil's grip)
- Small or shallow chest

5. BACK AND MIDDLE SECTION

Male:

- Long and broad with good muscling.
- Strong top line, straight, without any depressions, and well attached.
- Strong and wide loins with a smooth attachment between the back and the rump.
- Middle section deep and long with well-attached ribs.
- Ribs should be symmetrical and full around the barrel (well-sprung ribs).
- Under line should be clean without a deep cleft into the flanks (deep flanks).

Female:

- Long and feminine back. Straight top line with smooth attachments.
- Loins with a smooth attachment between the back and the rump.
- Middle section deep with a clear wedge shape – heavier to the rear.
- Ribs should be well-attached, symmetrical and full around the barrel (well sprung ribs).
- The flanks should be deep and prominent without excessive fleshiness.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Flat with ribs that are not well-sprung
- Devil's grip – pinched behind the shoulders
- Sagging back
- Bent back (Scoliosis)
- Lack of depth – sausage shaped body
- Too narrow or too heavy top line
- Excessive cleft into the flanks
- Short and shallow ribs
- Crooked or hunched back
- 'Roofy' behind the shoulders

6. HINDQUARTERS

Male:

- Rump with good length between the hip- and pin bones, and good width between the thurls, hip bones and pin bones.
- Slight slope from the hip bones to the pin bones.
- Neat tail setting – not too high or too deep.
- Long tail with a neat switch.
- Hips should be wide apart.
- Inner- and outer thighs should be well-muscled, full and deep.
- Outer thighs should be filled out, forming a "turtle muscle" in good bulls.
- Seen from behind, the twist should be full and deep.

Female:

- Rump with good length between the hip- and pin bones, and good width between the thurls, hip bones and pin bones.
- Slight slope from the hip bones to the pin bones.
- Neat tail setting – not too high or too deep.
- Long tail with a neat switch.
- The anus should not be placed too forward.
- Hips should be wide apart.
- Thurls should be wide apart.
- Inner- and outer thighs should be well-filled but feminine.
- Seen from behind, the escutcheon should be well-defined with clear milk pleats in the udder.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Females with a narrow pelvis
- Tail setting too high or prominent (baboon tail)
- Congenital kink in the upper part of the tail
- Narrow or shallow thighs
- Escutcheon / twist is cut up too high or is too narrow
- Rump too flat
- Rump excessively sloped (hanging)
- Rump too "roofy"
- Too narrow pin bones
- Double muscling / excessively round buttock
- Flat through the thighs

7. LEGS

Male:

- Front legs strong and straight with good length.
- Well-muscled forearm.
- Bone – not too thick or too thin.
- Animal should be squarely placed on all four legs. Seen from the side, the pattern should not be too weak or too upright.
- Pasterns should be strong but flexible to ensure an easy gait.

Female:

- Front legs strong and straight with good length.
- Forearm should be feminine without excessive muscling.
- Bone – not too thick or too thin.
- Animal should be squarely placed on all four legs. Seen from the side, the pattern should not be too weak or too upright.
- Pasterns should be strong but flexible to ensure an easy gait.
- Uniform dew claws.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Absence of dew claws
- Pigeon-toed
- Erratic / uncomfortable gait
- Too fine (thin) or coarse (thick) bone

Front legs

- Cross-legged (X-legged)
- Bandy legs
- Knock knees
- Knees bending backwards
- Front legs treading outwards (alignment)

Hind legs

- Hocks too straight
- Excessive cow hocks
- Excessive sickle hocks
- Bandy legs
- Short steps

Pasterns

- Upright / straight pasterns
- Spongy / weak pasterns (treading trough)

8. CLAWS & PAWS**Male and female:**

- Hooves should be pigmented, dense, oval-shaped and of adequate size.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Split hooves
- Shallow hooves
- Claws of unequal length
- Grown-out claws
- Claws growing inwards
- Excessively splayed hooves
- Too little depth of heel
- Claws differ in size

9. REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Male:

- Two well-balanced testes of the same size. The sheath should have a small opening and should not hang below the hocks.
- The sheath pipe should be thin and fine without any fleshiness.
- The penis should not hang downward more than 45° and the prepuce should be controllable.
- Navel skin should be of appropriate size and should not hang too low.

Female:

- Well-developed vulva.
- Well-developed udder with four well-placed teats of adequate size.
- A moderate to small navel skin is desirable.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Scrotum and testes

- Scrotum twisted more than 45°
 - Testes too small
 - Testes too big
- Testes misshaped or twisted in scrotum
- Cryptorchidism
- Cutting between the testis no more than 2cm.

Sheath

- Sheath too long or fleshy
- Excessive prolapse of the prepuce
- Too large opening on the sheath

Female reproductive organs

- Under-developed genitals
- Exterior part of genitals (vulva) tends towards horizontal

Udder and teats

- Under-developed udder
- Under-developed or misshapen teats

10. TAIL

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Wry tail (attachment)
- Excessive baboon tail

11. COLOUR

- The Santa Gertrudis cattle are red.
- Not more than 50% of white is allowable on the underline and no white is allowed above the underline.
- Short and smooth hair coat with a vascular and motile skin.

Santa Gertrudis cattle has a solid cherry red colour that can vary from dark to light. Dilution of the colour is undesirable and should be avoided in purebred cattle. Colour patterns / spots and brindle pattern are not allowable. Greater emphasis is placed on the colour characteristics of male animals as they may have a much bigger impact on the population through breeding.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- No white above the underline
- A typical Santa Gertrudis colour, e.g. light yellow
- Black colour
- Brindle colour pattern
- Hair coat: Long, curly or woolly haircoat

12. SKIN

Skin should be pigmented, of medium thickness, loose and pliable. The skin should have a large area with moderate pleats on the neck and navel.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

- Tight, thin skin or excessive loose skin and navel skin
- Long, curly or woolly haircoat

13. GENERAL REASONS FOR REJECTION

Gender

- Ox-like appearance
- Lack of femininity (too masculine) for females
- Lack of masculinity (too feminine) for bulls

Temperament

- Wild or temperamental

General conformation and constitution

- A typical Santa Gertrudis
- Poor muscling
- Poor balance (height : length)
- Poor balance (fore quarter : hind quarter)
- Weak constitution or adaptability
- Pony-type
- Too big – late developing
- Too heavy bone structure
- Too fine bone structure
- Lack of depth
- Poorly sprung ribs

14. TRACTABILITY

14.1 Docile

Good disposition, easy to manage. Stand and move slowly when handled; calm; somewhat lethargic; no tramping and butting in the chute / head clamp; leaves the chute / head clamp calmly.

14.2 Restless

Calmer than average but somewhat restless. May be headstrong when handled; may retreat in the chute; pulls back on the head clamp; switches tail somewhat; leaves the chute / head clamp promptly.

14.3 Nervous

Typical disposition / temperament. Manageable but nervous and impatient; moderate struggling in the chute / head clamp; noticeable tail switching; pulling on the head clamp, struggling; lively exit from the chute / head clamp.

14.4 Temperamental

Nervous and out of control. Severe struggling in the chute / head clamp; constant tail switching; defecation and urination while handled; frantic running along fences and may jump when cornered; maintains long distances from potential handlers; storms from the chute / head clamp.

14.5 Aggressive

Same symptoms as in 14.4 above, but with added aggressiveness. Frantic, very restless and impatient; jumps and bellows in the chute / head clamp; leaves the chute / head clamp in a rage and may attack when handled alone.