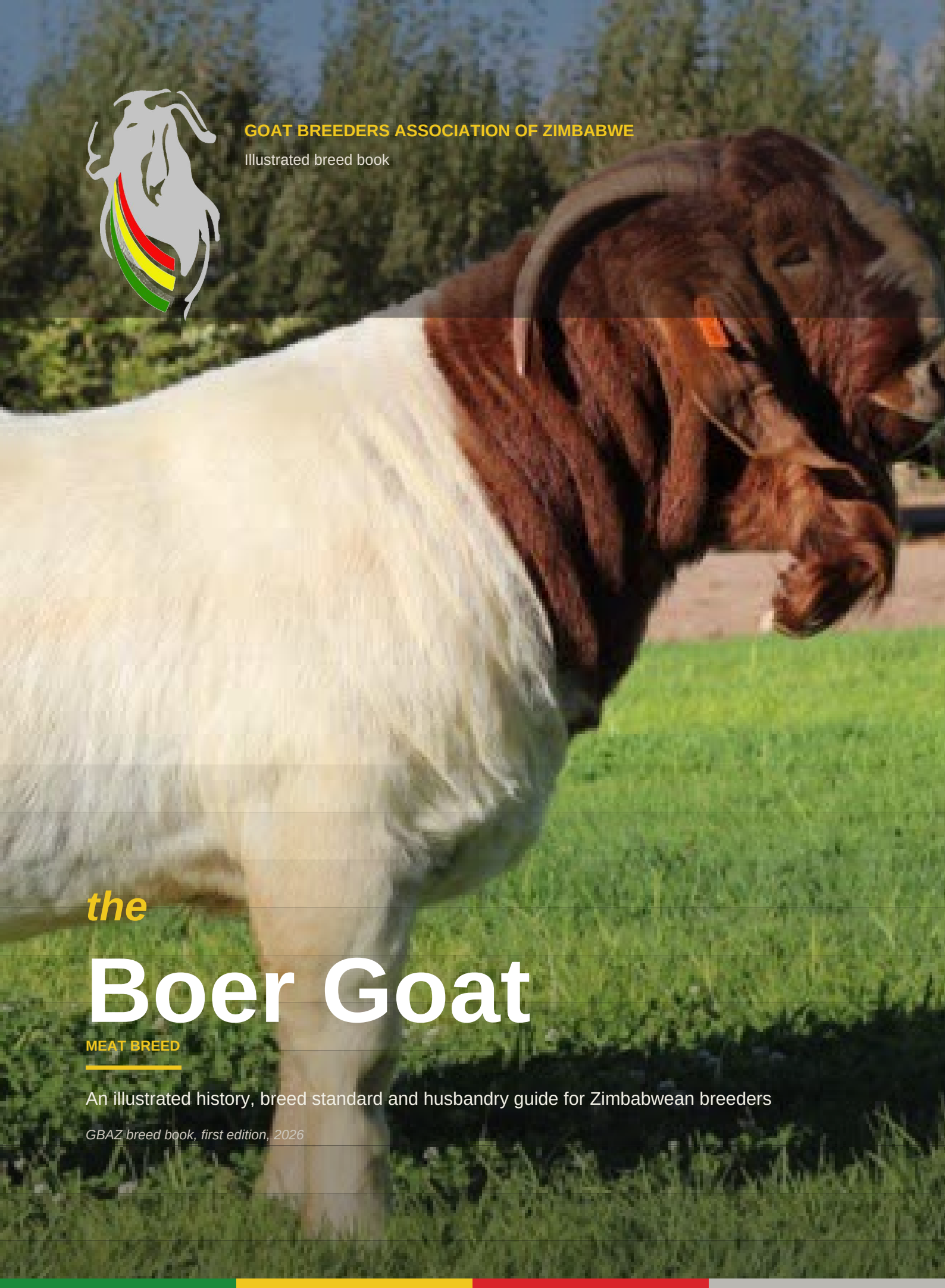


GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE

Illustrated breed book

the

Boer Goat

MEAT BREED

An illustrated history, breed standard and husbandry guide for Zimbabwean breeders

GBAZ breed book, first edition, 2026

GOAT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF ZIMBABWE | WhatsApp +263 77 196 7856 | zhb-sec@lit.co.zw

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KEY FACTS

Type	Meat breed, lop-eared, horned
Origin	Eastern Cape, southern Africa, early 1900s; society and standard 1959
Mature does	70 to 100 kg
Mature bucks	110 to 140 kg
Height at withers	75 to 80 cm (does) to 90 cm plus (bucks)
Litter size	1.6 to 1.9 kids; 150 to 200 percent kidding in stud flocks
Growth	175 g per day on veld, over 200 g per day fed
Zimbabwe	Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe, a GBAZ chapter; registrar: Zimbabwe Herd Book

CHAPTER 1

Origin and history

The Boer Goat is the most widely kept improved meat goat in the world, and its story begins with the ordinary lop-eared goats of southern Africa. Those goats were themselves descended from animals that had moved south with pastoral peoples over many centuries, carrying the loose skin, drooping ears and hardy constitution that still mark the breed today. Historians of the breed also point to a smaller contribution from European and Indian goats that reached the Cape through trade in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



A mature Boer buck showing the classic white body, red head and broad pendulous ears.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery



Boer does: a long, deep barrel on strong legs is the type the 1959 standard set out to fix.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery

In the early 1900s farmers in the Eastern Cape, and especially around Somerset East, began to select deliberately among these goats for meat. The Boer Goat Journal 2025 records that they wanted animals with good muscling, fertility, strong mothering ability and the capacity to thrive in a harsh, semi-arid climate, and that indigenous types such as the Namaqua and San goats were crossed with imported European and Indian stock to get there. The result was a goat that grew fast, carried muscle, resisted disease and lived off thorn veld. By the 1930s a recognisable improved type existed, usually white with a red head, and farmers were already comparing animals at local shows.

The decisive step came in 1959. Encouraged by Theunis Kruger of Dirkskraal and a group of Somerset East and Middelburg farmers, a founding meeting of a breeders' association was advertised and held at Somerset East on 4 July 1959. Sixteen people attended and a committee was appointed to write breed standards and a constitution; both were approved on 16 October 1959, with T B Jordaan of Buffelsfontein as first chairman. The standard fixed the colour pattern, the strong muscular build and the calm temperament that define the breed, and organised breeding, inspection and auctions followed quickly (Boer Goat Journal 2025).

The first national sale was held at Somerset East in 1960, where 54 bucks were offered and 22 sold at an average of R135, and the first South African championships followed in 1962. From that base the breed spread through the continent and beyond. By the 1980s and 1990s breeders in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and many African countries were importing Boer genetics, and the journal notes that the breed is now exported to more than 30 countries; the FAO breed database lists it in more than 70. Through embryo and semen exports from the 1990s the Boer became the reference meat goat against which others are measured.

Today the breed society that began with sixteen farmers administers a World Show every second year, a national auction, inspection and judging courses and a quarterly newsletter, and its standard of excellence is applied, with local adaptation, by Boer goat societies across the world, including the Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe.

CHAPTER 2

Breed standard

The Boer Goat standard describes a functional meat animal: a goat that can walk, browse, breed every year, raise its kids and still carry enough muscle to make a profitable carcass. Inspectors and judges are told to put functional efficiency first. Movement, muscling, vitality and visible signs of fertility are rewarded; poor movement, lack of muscle, localised fat and animals that look neither feminine nor masculine are not. The extent of a phenotypic fault, not merely its presence, decides whether an animal is disqualified (Boer Goat Journal 2025).



Head study: large soft brown eyes, a strong slightly curved nose, round dark horns curving backwards.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery



A deep, broad brisket and well-fleshed shoulder fitted to broad withers.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery

GBAZ applies the standard summarised below, which follows the standard of excellence maintained by the breed's founding society since 1959, at its inspections. The Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe, a GBAZ chapter, is responsible for the Boer standard in Zimbabwe. Animals that pass inspection may be registered with the Zimbabwe Herd Book, the statutory registrar, which issues the registration certificate.

Summarised from the standard of excellence that the breed's founding society has maintained since 1959, as applied by GBAZ and the Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe at inspections.

Head

Strong, with large soft brown eyes and a calm, not wild, expression. A strong, slightly curved nose with wide nostrils; a strong, deep, broad lower jaw with a prominent nasal bone and interlocking jaws (a protrusion of up to 6 mm is allowed from eight teeth). Forehead prominently curved, running into the nose and horn line. Horns strong, of moderate length, moderately apart, curving gradually backwards, round, solid and dark. Ears broad, smooth, of medium length and hanging. Faults: a concave forehead; horns too straight, too flat or pressing on the neck; a pointed jaw; ears folded lengthwise, stiff and protruding, or too short; over- or undershot jaw; blue eyes.

Neck and forequarter

Neck of moderate length in proportion to the body, full and well fleshed, well joined to the forequarter. A broad breastbone and a deep, broad brisket. Fleshy shoulders fitted firmly to broad withers. Front legs of medium length, strong and well placed, with strong pasterns and dark, well-formed hooves. Faults: a neck too long and thin or too short; loose shoulders; a pinched or narrow chest.

Barrel

Long, deep and broad, with well-sprung, fleshed ribs, a well-filled loin and a broad, fairly straight back. The animal must not be pinched behind the shoulders. Faults: a concave back, slab sides, a cylindrical body or a body pinched behind the shoulder.

Hindquarter

A broad, long rump that does not slope too much, with well-fleshed buttocks and thighs and a tail set straight at the dock. Faults: a rump that hangs or is too short; a long shank; flat buttocks.

Legs and feet

Legs strong, of good texture and well placed, neither too thin nor too fleshy, with strong pasterns and dark hooves. Faults: knock knees, bandy legs, cow hocks, post legs, sickle hocks, weak pasterns, hooves pointing in or out.

Skin and coat

Loose, supple skin with folds on the neck and chest, especially in bucks. Eyelids and hairless parts pigmented; at least 75 percent pigment under the tail for stud animals, with 100 percent ideal. Short, glossy hair; a limited amount of winter fur is tolerated. Faults: too light pigmentation; a coat that is too long, coarse or furry.

Sexual organs

Does: a well-formed udder firmly attached, with functional teats; teat types classed as flock rather than cull are excluded from shows and national auctions. Bucks: two large, well-formed, equal testes in one scrotum, with a split of no more than 5 cm and a scrotal circumference of at least 25 cm. Faults: bunched, calabash or split teats; small testes; a scrotum split of more than 5 cm; a twisted scrotum.

Colour

The ideal is a white body with a red head and ears and a white blaze, on fully pigmented skin, with red shading from light to dark permitted. Stud animals need a red patch of at least 10 cm on both sides of the head and at least 75 percent red on the ears; only one body patch of up to 10 cm is allowed on the barrel, hindquarter and underline; leg patches of 5 cm combined; the tail may be red but not more than 2.5 cm onto the body. A flock (commercial) goat may be up to 50 percent red provided it does not look motley and has at least 25 percent pigment under the tail.

Size and type

An average-sized, heavy goat with a correct ratio of leg length to body depth; kids are longer in the leg than adults. The doe is feminine and wedges slightly to the front, a sign of fertility; the buck is masculine, heavier in head, neck and forequarter. Faults: too large or too small (pony type).

Fertility rule

To be shown or offered at a protected auction, does of six teeth and older must be visibly pregnant, scanned pregnant, hold a pregnancy certificate less than a month old, or be suckling kids present on site. Bucks of two teeth and older must pass a veterinary fertility test before a national auction.

Disqualifications

Concave forehead; horns too straight, too flat or pressing on the neck; over- or undershot jaw; blue eyes; loose shoulders; concave back, slab sides or a cylindrical body; a rump that hangs or is too short; knock knees, bandy legs, cow hocks, post legs or sickle hocks; weak pasterns; hooves pointing in or out; a coat too long, coarse or furry; bunched, calabash or split teats; small testes, a scrotum split over 5 cm or a twisted scrotum; too large or too small; too light pigmentation. Other registries also disqualify a wry face

and cleft palate.

CHAPTER 3

Arrival and role in Zimbabwe

Boer goats have crossed the Limpopo for as long as farmers on both sides have traded stock, and Boer-type bucks have been used on indigenous does in the south of the country for decades. Formal stud breeding is more recent. Zimbabwe's goat flock, estimated at about five million head in 2025, is overwhelmingly made up of indigenous Mashona and Matebele goats kept by smallholders, and until 2018 there was no body to set a standard, inspect animals or register them.



Breeders and judges at a Boer goat show: Zimbabwe's inspection and judging capacity is being built with South African courses.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery



Boer-type goats at sunset. In commercial flocks the Boer is used as a sire on indigenous does.
Photo: Thato Moiketsi, Pexels

The modern chapter began when Dr Divine Simbi Ndhlukula and Anisha Cader imported stud-registered goats from South Africa and found no Zimbabwean society able to inspect or register them. After consulting the Zimbabwe Herd Book, the statutory registrar of pedigree livestock, they re-founded the Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe in June 2018 with three registered breeders. At the first Goat Indaba at Henderson Research Institute in 2019 the association drafted its breed standards for the Boer Goat, Kalahari Red and Savanna, drawing on the South African standards of excellence.

Breeder training followed: junior breeder courses were run with South African instructors at the 2022 and 2023 Indabas, and members have attended senior courses in South Africa. In 2025 eleven Zimbabwean breeders were formally inspected by an inspector from the South African Boer Goat Breeders' Association, making their animals eligible for registration with the Zimbabwe Herd Book. The Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe was launched in 2025 as the first breed society under GBAZ and constituted as a GBAZ chapter in March 2026, with Xolisani Mpofu of Eland Zakithi Stud as its first executive council chairman.

The Boer's role in Zimbabwe is twofold. In stud flocks it is bred pure to the standard, inspected and registered, and sold as breeding stock: at the 2026 Bulawayo Agricultural Show top Boer bucks changed hands at more than US$2,800 each and does at about US$1,800. In commercial and smallholder flocks it is the sire breed of choice on Matebele and Mashona does, lifting weaning weight and carcass size while the indigenous dam supplies hardiness and mothering. ZimTrade's 2025 goat-meat export model, piloted in Gwanda with GBAZ, depends on exactly this kind of improved offtake.

The breed does demand more than the indigenous goat. It needs browse and supplementary feed to express its growth, routine tick and worm control, and protection from heartwater in the wetter regions. Where those are provided the Boer Goat is the most profitable meat goat in the country; where they are not, the Boer cross on an indigenous doe is the safer choice.

Milestones for the Boer Goat in Zimbabwe

Year	Event
2018	GBAZ re-founded in June after stud goats imported from South Africa could not be registered locally
2019	First Goat Indaba; GBAZ breed standards drafted for Boer, Kalahari Red and Savanna
2022 to 2023	Junior breeder courses with South African instructors at the Indabas
2024	First GBAZ goat auction at the Harare Showgrounds
2025	Eleven breeders inspected by a South African Boer Goat Breeders' Association inspector; Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe launched
2026	Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe constituted as a GBAZ chapter; Boer classes at the Bulawayo Agricultural Show

CHAPTER 4

Performance and production

Published figures for the Boer Goat vary with country, nutrition and management, and performance outside its home flocks is usually below the stud figures quoted here. The tables give the ranges reported by the FAO breed description of 1991, the breed society literature and field studies, so that Zimbabwean breeders can judge their own animals against a realistic benchmark rather than an advertisement.



Boer does with kids. Twins are the most common birth type in recorded flocks.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery

Mature Boer does weigh 70 to 100 kg and bucks 110 to 140 kg under good management, standing roughly 75 to 80 cm at the withers for does and 90 cm or more for bucks. Kids are born at 3 to 5 kg, with singles heavier than twins and triplets. On extensive sub-tropical veld growth of about 175 g per day is reported, and more than 200 g per day under intensive feeding, so that stud kids reach 25 to 33 kg at 100 days. Selection in South African flocks raised the 100-day weight of male kids from 24 to 32 kg and of female kids from 22 to 28 kg between 1970 and 1982, which shows how much is gained by recording and culling.

The doe is polyoestrous and can be bred all year, with a peak of activity in autumn. Gestation is about 148 days. Litter size in recorded flocks is about 1.64, with roughly 43 percent single, 50 percent twin and 7 percent triplet births; three kiddings in two years are possible and kidding rates of 150 to 200 percent are widely reported from stud flocks. Boer does milk 1.5 to 2.5 kg per day at about 7.7 percent fat, and it is this milk that drives weaning weight. A Namibian farm study of 1,271 kid records found an average birth weight of 4.1 kg, a weaning weight of 19.6 kg and pre-weaning gain of 151 g per day under ordinary commercial conditions, a useful reminder that the stud figures are a ceiling rather than a floor.

Carcass quality is the breed's strongest card: dressing percentages of 48 to 54 percent, a high proportion of saleable meat and low fat are the reasons the journal calls carcass quality outstanding and the reasons abattoirs pay a premium for Boer and Boer-cross kids.

Body size and weight (sources: FAO 1991; breed society literature; Boer Goat Journal 2025)

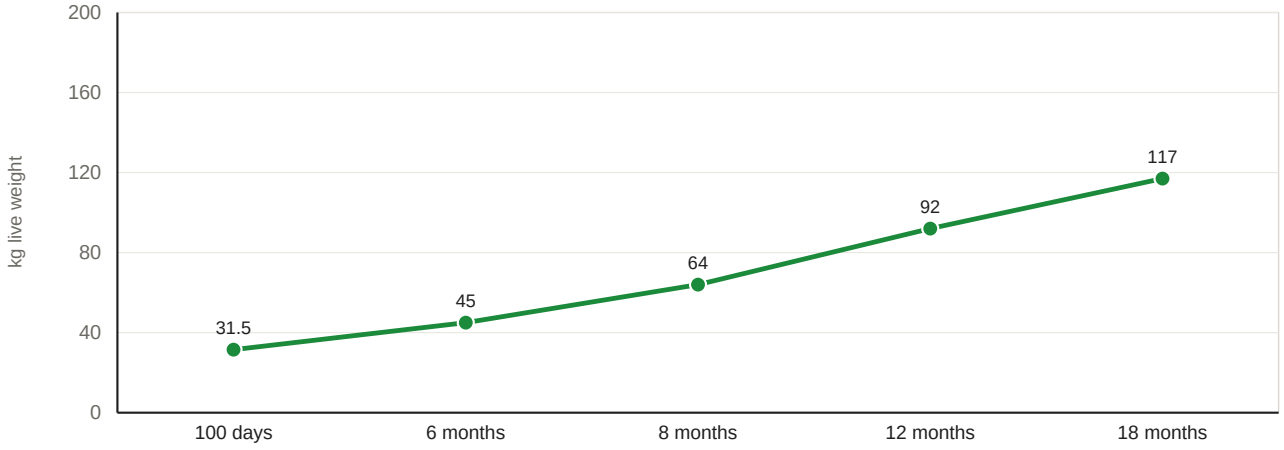
Measure	Does	Bucks	Note
Mature live weight	70 to 100 kg	110 to 140 kg	FAO gives 70 to 90 kg and 120 to 140 kg
Height at withers	75 to 80 cm	90 cm and more	Survey average 78 cm and 94 cm

Measure	Does	Bucks	Note
Birth weight	3.0 to 5.0 kg	3.0 to 5.0 kg	Singles 4.5 kg, twins 3.9 kg, triplets 3.5 kg
100-day weight (stud)	22 to 28 kg	24 to 33 kg	Improved flocks, 1970 to 1982 trend
Growth, extensive veld	about 175 g per day	about 175 g per day	Kids to weaning
Growth, intensive	over 200 g per day	over 200 g per day	Feedlot or creep fed
Milk yield	1.5 to 2.5 kg per day		About 7.7 percent fat

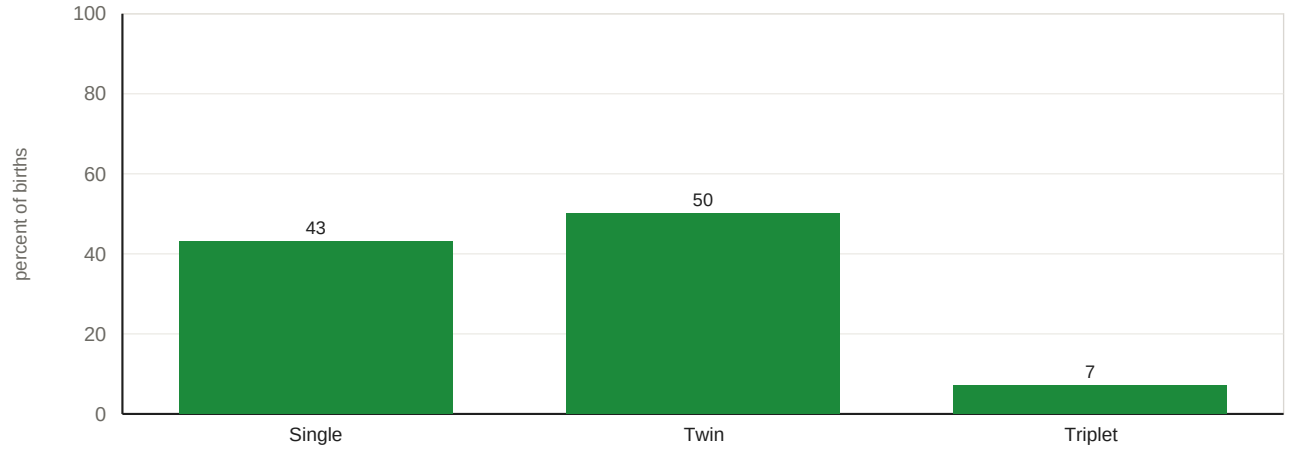
Reproduction (sources: FAO 1991; Casey and Van Niekerk 1988; Erasmus 2000)

Trait	Value
Breeding season	All year, peak in autumn
Gestation	About 148 days
Age at first kidding	About 12 months when well grown
Kidding interval	About 12 months; three kiddings in two years possible
Litter size	1.64 (43 percent single, 50 percent twin, 7 percent triplet)
Kidding rate, stud flocks	150 to 200 percent
Artificial insemination	71 percent of does pregnant, 1.9 kids per birth

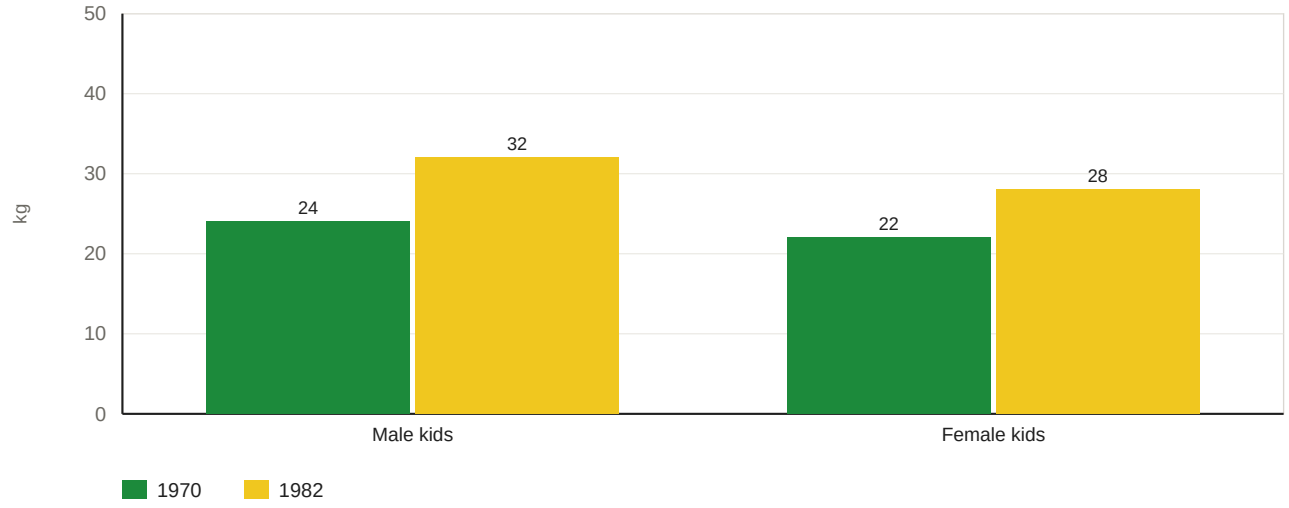
Growth of Boer male kids under good management (FAO 1991)



Birth type in recorded Boer flocks (FAO 1991)



100-day weight of Boer kids in improved South African flocks, 1970 and 1982



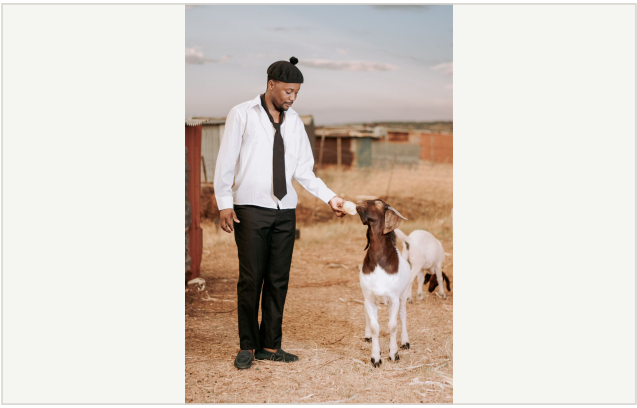
CHAPTER 5

Adaptation and husbandry in Zimbabwean conditions

The Boer Goat was made for semi-arid thorn veld, and in Natural Regions III to V of Zimbabwe it is at home. Its pigmented skin resists sunburn and skin cancer, the loose supple skin and short hair shed heat, and its wide mouth and strong jaws let it strip browse that cattle cannot use. The breed's standard explains the white body as a practical choice too: a white goat is easy to see and round up in dense bush, while the red head keeps the pigment where the sun strikes hardest.



Boer goats on dry veld. Pigmented skin, loose folds and short hair are adaptations to heat and sun.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery



Supplementary feeding in the dry season is what separates stud-weight kids from veld-weight kids.
Photo: Thato Moiketsi, Pexels

Three things limit the Boer in Zimbabwe. The first is nutrition: a 100 kg doe needs more feed than a 35 kg indigenous doe, and without browse, a dry-season protein lick and, in stud flocks, a measure of concentrate, Boer kids will not reach the weights quoted in this book. The second is disease. Boer goats are more susceptible than indigenous goats to heartwater, to internal parasites and to tick-borne infection in the wetter north and east, so routine dipping or pour-on treatment, strategic deworming guided by FAMACHA scoring and a heartwater plan are essential. The third is the kid itself: with twins common and kids born at 4 kg, does need a clean kidding pen, colostrum within the first hours and protection from cold and predators.

A practical year for a Zimbabwean Boer flock runs with the rains. Mating in April and May gives kidding in September and October, when browse is flushing and the worst of the cold is over, and weaning at about 100 days in January. A second mating of early-kidding does in October is possible under good feeding but should not be forced in Natural Region V. Bucks should be put to no more than 30 to 40 does and checked for scrotal circumference, teeth and feet before each season. Hoof trimming twice a year, a clostridial vaccination programme, and clean water within walking distance of the browse complete the routine.

Housing need not be elaborate. A dry, well-ventilated kraal with a roofed section for kidding, raised slatted sleeping areas where termites and mud are a problem, and a crush for inspection and treatment will serve a stud flock. Records are the other half of husbandry: tag every kid at birth, record dam, sire, birth type, birth weight and 100-day weight, and cull does that fail to kid in two consecutive seasons. The GBAZ farm record templates on this website are designed for exactly this.

A seasonal calendar for a Boer stud flock in Natural Regions III to IV

Month	Flock task	Health task
March	Condition-score does; cull non-breeders	Clostridial booster; trim feet
April to May	Mating, 1 buck to 30 to 40 does; flush does on green browse or lick	Buck fertility check; dip or pour-on against ticks

Month	Flock task	Health task
June to August	Dry-season protein lick; separate pregnant does	FAMACHA check monthly; deworm only animals that need it
September to October	Kidding in clean pens; colostrum within 6 hours; tag and weigh kids	Navel treatment; watch for heartwater in wet areas
November to December	Creep feed kids; record growth	Tick control as rains begin; coccidiosis watch in kids
January	Wean at about 100 days; weigh and record	Deworm weaners strategically; vaccinate
February	Select replacement doelings and bucks for inspection	Trim feet; treat for external parasites

CHAPTER 6

Breeding and selection

The founding society's breeding policy puts reproduction first, production second and conformation third, and that order is a good guide for Zimbabwean breeders. Reproduction means a net reproduction rate above one, a kidding interval under a year, fertile bucks and does that milk well and mother their kids. Production means weaning weight and post-weaning growth measured on the veld, not only in a feedlot; the journal warns that selecting breeding animals under feedlot conditions alone hides the hardiness that the breed must keep. Conformation, the standard of excellence, comes third because a beautiful goat that kids every other year is a loss.



A stud buck. Scrotal circumference of at least 25 cm, a split of no more than 5 cm and correct legs are checked at inspection.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery



Young Boer animals being compared. Kids are longer in the leg than adults; the body deepens with age.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery

In a pure stud flock, selection starts with the record book. Doelings are chosen from does that kid early in the season, raise twins and wean heavy kids, and from sires whose daughters do the same. Bucks are selected on their own 100-day and 12-month weights, scrotal circumference, structural correctness and the performance of their dams. Inspection then classes each animal as stud, flock or cull against the standard, and only stud-class animals are registered. Line breeding within a stud is acceptable when it is deliberate and recorded; mating close relatives by accident is not, which is one reason the Zimbabwe Herd Book insists on sire and dam identification.

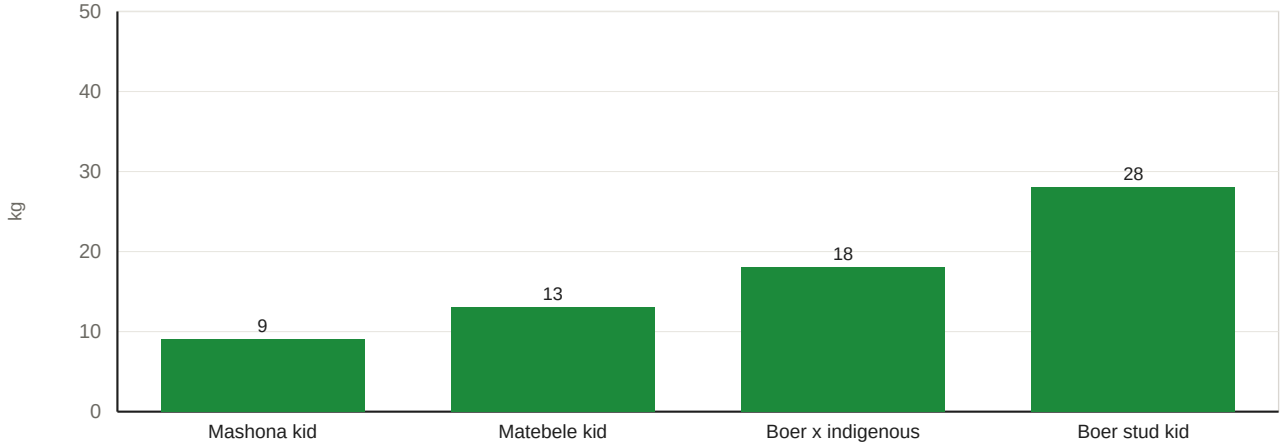
For the commercial and smallholder flock the Boer's greatest contribution is as a terminal or improver sire on indigenous does. A Boer buck on a Matebele or Mashona doe produces a first cross that weans heavier and dresses out better than the pure indigenous kid, while the dam contributes tick and heartwater tolerance, mothering and the ability to walk far for browse. Research on crossbreeding in Binga and the experience of cooperatives in Matabeleland South both point the same way. Two cautions apply: Mashona does are small and should be mated to younger, lighter Boer bucks to avoid kidding difficulty, and the first cross should be the end product for meat; backcrossing to Boer again increases the kid's need for feed and health care with each generation.

Breeders who want to grade up a flock towards registered Boer status should keep the cross records that the Herd Book requires for foundation animals and present the females for inspection. GBAZ can advise on the grading rules that apply.

Selection priorities for a Boer stud flock (after the founding society's breeding policy)

Priority	Trait group	What to measure
1	Reproduction	Kids weaned per doe per year; kidding interval; buck fertility; milk and mothering
2	Production	100-day weaning weight; post-weaning gain on veld; hardiness and adaptability
3	Conformation	Breed standard: functional efficiency, muscling, movement; degree of fault decides disqualification
4	Recording	Tag, parentage, birth type and weights recorded; inspected animals registered with the Zimbabwe Herd Book

Typical 100-day weights: pure indigenous kid, Boer cross and pure Boer stud kid (indicative ranges from the sources in this book)



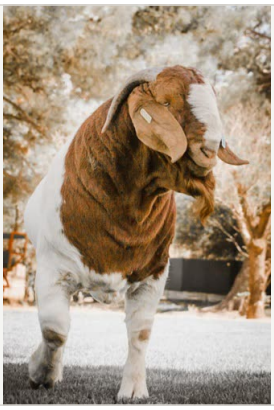
CHAPTER 7

Shows, judging and registration

Shows and auctions have been part of the Boer Goat since 1960, and the rules that grew up around them are designed to protect the buyer. In the founding society's system a World Show is held every second year and a national show in the alternate year; regional championships are open to club members; and no animal under ten months old or lighter than 40 kg may be offered at a protected auction. Does of six teeth and older must be visibly pregnant, scanned pregnant or suckling kids to be shown or sold, and bucks of two teeth and older must pass a veterinary fertility test before a national auction. Any manipulation of an animal, from pressing jaws to colouring pigment or pulling red hairs, is grounds for suspension. These are the conventions that GBAZ and the Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe adopt for their own events (Boer Goat Journal 2025).



In the ring: a Boer buck presented for judging.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery



A champion doe. Six-tooth and older does must be pregnant or suckling to be shown.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery

In Zimbabwe the show season runs from the Bulawayo Agricultural Show in April, which in 2026 judged Boer buck and doe classes alongside Kalahari Red, Savanna, Saanen and indigenous goat classes, through the provincial shows to the Harare Agricultural Show and the GBAZ Goat Indaba in October or November, where the association's auction is held. GBAZ's first auction took place at the Harare Showgrounds in 2024. Judging follows the breed standard: animals are handled for muscling, mouths are checked for bite and age, legs and feet are examined on the move, and the sexual organs are inspected. Judges' courses with the South African society are the route to accreditation while Zimbabwe builds its own panel.

Registration is a three-step process. First the breeder joins GBAZ as a stud breeder member and applies for a stud prefix. Second, a GBAZ inspection classes the animals against the standard and records the inspected stock in the GBAZ register; the association issues a Livestock Record Certificate for each recorded animal. Third, the stud breeder applies to the Zimbabwe Herd Book, the statutory registrar under the Registration of Pedigree Farm Livestock Act, which registers the pedigree and issues the registration certificate. GBAZ sets the standard and inspects; the Herd Book registers. The two roles are separate and the association does not issue pedigree certificates itself.

Animals recorded by GBAZ carry an ear tag with the stud number and the animal number, and parentage is recorded at birth notification. Buyers of registered stock should ask for the Herd Book certificate and the GBAZ inspection class, and can verify any GBAZ certificate serial on this website.

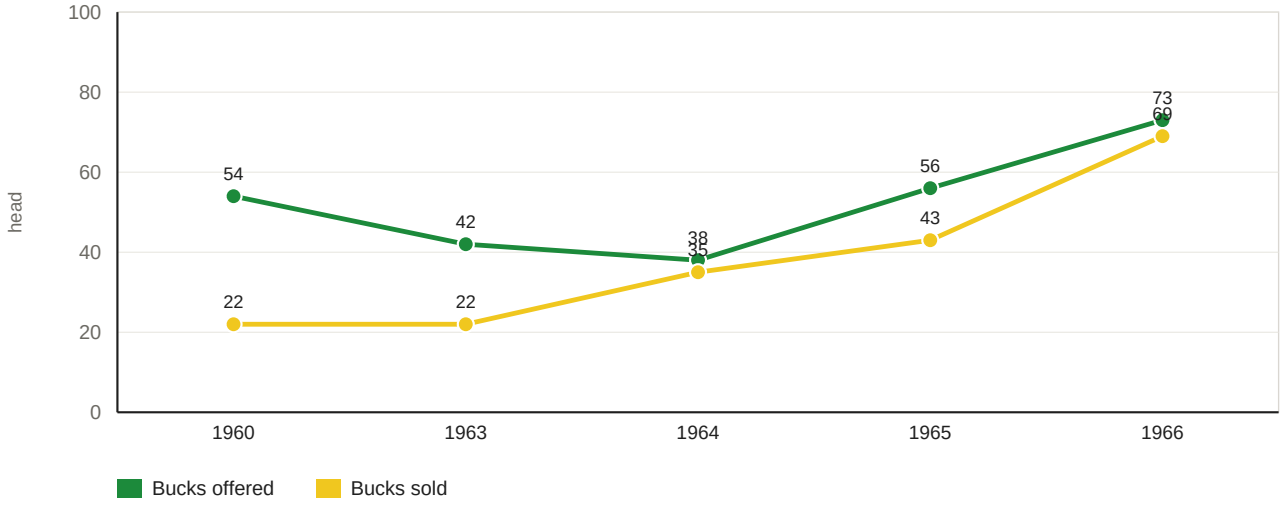
Show and auction rules adopted from the founding society's conventions

Rule	Requirement
Minimum age and weight at auction	10 months and 40 kg
Does, 6-tooth and older	Visibly pregnant, scanned pregnant, holding a recent pregnancy certificate, or suckling kids present on site
Bucks, 2-tooth and older, national auction	Veterinary fertility test at the venue
Inspection before sale	All animals inspected; mouths may be re-checked the day before
Manipulation	Pressing jaws, colouring pigment, pulling red hairs, cutting teats: exhibitor may be suspended
Entries	No entries after the show society's closing date; only entered animals sold at the show auction

From farm to Herd Book: the registration path in Zimbabwe

Step	Who	What happens
1	Breeder and GBAZ	Stud breeder membership; stud prefix; tags and birth notifications
2	GBAZ inspector	Animals classed stud, flock or cull against the standard; GBAZ Livestock Record Certificate issued for recorded animals
3	Zimbabwe Herd Book	Pedigree registered; registration certificate issued by the statutory registrar

Boer goat national sales at Somerset East, 1960 to 1966: bucks offered and sold (Boer Goat Journal 2025)



CHAPTER 8

Timeline

Key dates in the history of the breed and its establishment in Zimbabwe.



Boer goats in the veld.
Boer Goat Breeders' Society gallery

Early 1900s	Farmers in the Eastern Cape around Somerset East select lop-eared goats for meat, fertility and hardiness.
1920s to 1930s	An improved white-bodied, red-headed type becomes recognisable; animals compared at local shows.
4 July 1959	Founding meeting of the breeders' association at Somerset East; sixteen attend and a committee drafts the standard.
16 October 1959	Breed standard and constitution approved; T B Jordaan elected first chairman.
1960	First national sale at Somerset East: 54 bucks offered, 22 sold, average R135.
1962	First South African championships at Somerset East; Port Elizabeth in 1964.
1980s to 1990s	Exports to the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and African countries; embryo exports begin.
2005	Collaboration agreement between the Boer Goat, Kalahari Red and Savanna societies.
2018	GBAZ re-founded in Zimbabwe after imported stud goats could not be registered locally.
2019	First Goat Indaba; GBAZ drafts breed standards for the Boer Goat, Kalahari Red and Savanna.
2024	First GBAZ goat auction at the Harare Showgrounds.
2025	Eleven Zimbabwean breeders inspected by a South African society inspector; Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe launched.
2026	Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe constituted as a GBAZ chapter; Boer classes judged at the Bulawayo Agricultural Show.

CHAPTER 9

Sources

This book was written from the sources below. Figures are quoted with their origin; where sources disagree the range is given. The breed's origin is stated as history; the standard applied in Zimbabwe is the GBAZ standard administered by the Boer Goat Society of Zimbabwe, and registration is by the Zimbabwe Herd Book.

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CONTACT

The Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe

GBAZ sets breed standards, inspects animals, trains breeders and judges, and supports registration of inspected animals with the Zimbabwe Herd Book, the statutory registrar of pedigree livestock. Questions about this book, breed standards, inspections or membership may be sent to the office.

Goat Breeders Association of Zimbabwe

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Website	gbaz.co.zw/breeds/boer-goat

Register your animals: GBAZ members apply for inspection through the website or the office; inspected animals receive a GBAZ Livestock Record Certificate and may be registered with the Zimbabwe Herd Book, which issues the registration certificate.