

Hebridean Sheep Society

Card Grading Criteria

GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	FAULT	FAIL
<p>Teeth All incisor teeth slightly back from the edge of the pad. No molar teeth out of line</p>	<p>In lambs, side incisors forward of pad. In older sheep (3-shear plus) any of the incisors slightly forward of pad. Incisors missing where the animals is changing naturally to it's adult teeth.</p>	<p>Any incisor teeth missing (except where an animal is changing it's teeth)</p>	<p>Clearly undershot or overshot animals. Molar teeth badly out of line.</p>
<p>Head Slightly dished. Alert but delicate appearance, particularly in ewes, with a straight nose slightly broader at the nostrils. Triangular shaped face, free from wool except sometimes a small patch on the forehead. Small ears carried horizontally</p>	<p>Slightly roman nose in rams, some wool on the cheeks. Sometimes a longer, straighter nose lacking the delicate appearance.</p>	<p>Roman nose in ewes</p>	<p>Any white markings on the head in animals over 12 weeks of age.</p>
<p>Eyes Bright and clear. Upper eyelid should present a smooth, notch-free curve (category 1 or 2 in multi-horned animals)</p>	<p>Category 1 or 2 eyelid in rams or category 1,2 or 3 in ewes.</p>	<p>Category 3 (ie notched) eyelid in rams. Any obvious damage or infection.</p>	<p>A severe split in the upper eyelid (ie category 4)</p>
<p>Horns In 2-horned animals, horns sweeping upwards from the head before flowing outwards and backwards. In multi-horned animals, separate horns, each with a separate base at the skull and a small space between them. Primary horns upward sweeping, clear of face</p>	<p>A range of horn patterns is acceptable, including polled animals (which in this breed are genetically multi-horned). On multi-horned animals, secondary horns may be trimmed to prevent them growing into the face.</p>	<p>Any horns which are growing into the face or neck. On multi-horned animals, primary horns that are growing so far forward as to impede feeding. On two-horned rams, horns which grow so close to the face as to prevent the normal sideways action of the jaw.</p>	

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<p>Fleece A dense, weatherproof black or dark grey fleece which is even from the front to the back of the sheep. A full fleece will show a soft, fine undercoat with a hairy top coat which has some curl and a glossy appearance. Many sheep go grey with age. In lambs, some sun-bleaching of the fleece tips may occur</p>	<p>Sun-bleaching of the fleece tips giving a slightly brown appearance. Loss of pigment in the woolly fibres due to mineral imbalances. Minor variation in fleece type from front to back.</p>	<p>An adult fleece which parts down the back, exposing the skin to the elements. A long, straight fleece totally lacking in crimp or curl, or a fleece significantly uneven from front to back</p>	<p>Any white spots in the fleece or other spots/patches of a noticeably different colour. Fleece which is brown to skin level (rather than bleached at the tips)</p>
<p>Tail Tail length should be above the hock, not tapered and well covered in wool in animals in full fleece.</p>	<p>Tail which reaches the hock but does not extend below it. Tail which is hairy at the end rather than woolly</p>	<p>A very short ‘fluked’ tail of Shetland type. Sheep with docked tails will not be eligible for showing</p>	<p>A long tail which is below the hock is not typical of a Primitive breed.</p>
<p>Udder/genitalia Two or sometimes four teats. Rams should have two evenly sized testicles which hang free of the torso and move freely within the scrotum</p>	<p>Older ewes may have poor udder suspension</p>	<p>Males with only one testicle. Any physical damage to, or infection of, the udder or genitalia. Any hard lumps in the udder</p>	<p>Males with undescended testicles. Castrated males.</p>
<p>Condition Hebridean sheep should be in good condition but not excessively fat. Condition will vary depending on the time of year and whether or not the animal is working (eg shearling ewes condition score 2.5 to 3.5, but ewes feeding lambs may only be 2)</p>	<p>Ewes which are feeding lambs, tups after the tupping season, or shearlings at the end of winter may have a lower body condition score.</p>	<p>Clearly emaciated or very fat animals. Any animals which is scouring or showing other signs of obvious ill-health</p>	

<p>Legs and Feet Legs should be straight and fine-boned, well up on the pasterns, with small, neat, hard black hooves. Legs free of wool on adult sheep</p>	<p>Some wool on legs of lambs</p>	<p>Animals which are clearly down on the pasterns or have weak pasterns, severely overgrown feet which inhibit natural (feet) movement, very cow-hocked animals or those with very splayed front feet. Any lameness or damage to legs or feet. Wool on legs in adults</p>	
<p>Conformation Straight back, relatively long and well sprung at ribs with a good width of pelvis and a deep chest. Typical adult bodyweight 35-40kg in ewes with rams proportionately larger. Standing upright and square. When viewed from above the body should be slightly narrower at the shoulder than the pelvis</p>		<p>Animals with a weak back or a narrow chest and/or pelvis. Animals which are too large for the breed.</p>	
<p>True to type Of Primitive type, small and fine-boned. Black or grey fleece which is able to shed water.</p>			<p>Animals which exhibit characteristics which are clearly outside of the breed description or characteristics which clearly demonstrate the influence of cross-breeding.</p>