

STANDARDS
[Amended October 29, 2006]

STANDARDS OF TYPE
(Standards of Excellence)

Present members of the registry have adopted the following "standards of type" which they believe are the desirable characteristics of the ideal California Red Sheep.

The Standards of Type portrays the ideal for which every breeder should aim. As breeders we must not be satisfied with existing animals, but from them strive to strengthen weaknesses without losing strengths. All defects are relative. For example, a foot can be so slightly twisted that the defect is insignificant, or it could be so badly deformed that the animal should not be registered. Defects are also of relative importance one to another. For instance, a sheep of weak conformation and relatively true to type in all other aspects is much more serious than a sheep with a spot. As guardians of the breed, each breeder should have some idea not only of the relative importance of defects, the aggregate importance of minor defects, but also when the extent of one or more defects warrants not registering a candidate or pulling an already registered animal. The quality of what we produce will ultimately determine its market value.

NOTE: ***These Standards of Type are not the registration requirements. Registration Requirements will be addressed elsewhere in this Registry Book.

1. **BODY**-Medium breadth of chest with back wide and long. Viewed from the side, the top line should be straight. Hindquarters should be wide and deep with well-muscled thighs.
2. **HEAD/FACE**-Head is distinctive, hornless, both with a prominent nose, wide nostrils and a strong jaw. There should be no wool forward of the ears.
3. **MOUTH**-Even well-set jaw with teeth meeting the dental pad with a firm bite.
4. **LEGS**-Well placed on the corners of the torso. Legs should also be covered with gold to cinnamon colored hair and no wool should be present below knees or hocks. The bone should be adequate to carry the body weight of rams; and in ewes be adequate to support her when carrying multiple lambs. Joints should be well developed so that the legs are reasonably straight and supportive. Pasterns should be well set up and straight.
5. **FLEECE**-Wool is beige or oatmeal in color, fine to medium in handle and has a silky texture with reddish hair. Wool should not extend forward of the horn line or below the hocks. Annual growth should average 3-6" and each animal fleece should average 4-7 lbs.

6. **COLOR**-Ears, muzzle, legs and head should be covered with gold to cinnamon colored hair. Black, brown and gray colors are unacceptable in coloration.
7. **SPOTS**-A white spot on top of the head should not be penalized, but it must be small and cannot extend on to the face of the animal, in front of the horn line. Black or white spots anywhere on the body are unacceptable.
8. **RAMS**-Rams should appear strong and masculine. Rams shall have two normal distended testicles of equal size and have a good circumference. A split in the testes is undesirable. Rams often have extensive manes of red hair and this should not be penalized. California Red rams are active breeders even in the heat of summer.
9. **EWES**-Ewes should cycle year round and are virtually free of lambing problems. California Red ewes are excellent mothers, and produce enough milk to easily raise twins. Appearance should be bright and alert with feminine characteristics.
10. **TAIL**-Well set up, almost level with the top line
11. **BELLY**-Little or no wool
12. **EARS**-Ears should be long and pendulous.
13. **EYES**-Eyes should be bright and alert with no evidence of corneal ulceration due to split eyelid or inverted eyelid. Eye color should range from a dark yellow to dark brown.
14. **FEET**-Feet should be pointed straight ahead and not turn out at an angle. Split between toes should not be large or splayed. Feet should be resistant to foot rot or scald.
15. **DISPOSITION**-California Reds are alert and athletic, but both rams and ewes react well to quiet treatment and are not difficult to handle.
16. **MOTTLING**-While spots are not desirable on the face, body or legs, mottled skin (pink with black or dark red spots) in the nasal area, inside ears, on udders and teats, anus and on the sheath area of the ram are acceptable and may be considered desirable, as pigmentation indicates a stronger skin, which is less subject to chaffing, cracking and sunburn.