

## The Downie Standard

**BODY:** Upstanding open faced sheep of sound conformation and constitution.

**COLOR:** The Cormo is a white sheep. No black spots in wool or brown legs are acceptable. Small dark spots on nose are acceptable.

**HORNS:** The Cormo is a polled breed and horns are not acceptable.

**ACCEPTABLE WEIGHTS:** Ewes: 120-160 lbs. Rams: 160-200 lbs.

**SKIN:** Skin should be loose with some loose neck wrinkles acceptable, but bodies should be free of wrinkles.

**FLEECE:** Sample from mid-side 17-23 micron and consistent wool with 90% of wool within a two micron range with a staple length of 3.5” to 5.5”. Fleece should be dense soft wool. Fleece weight mature ewe 5-8 lbs.

**January 24 2015** The ACSA Board agreed to accept for registration a cormo sheep with finer wool. The wool sample taken as a yearly can be 23 micron or less.

## American Cormo Sheep Association Breed Standards

These breed characteristics were developed by the American Cormo Sheep Association. These standards are to be considered **as goals** for the future of the breed **and are to be used as a guideline.**

- Fleece**
- High Yield
  - Uniformity throughout the fleece
  - Staple length 3-5 inches
  - Dense white wool
  - Good elasticity or memory
  - Free of hair, kemp or colored fiber
  - Micron count 23 or less
- Head**
- Rams and ewes have open faces, free of wool
  - Wool is carried over the poll, around the ears and down the cheeks
  - Ears are small
  - Unacceptable traits:
    - wooly face
    - roman nose
    - undershot or overshot jaw
    - large or pendulous ears

## **Body**

- A clean top line is desirable, with a slight to no dip behind the shoulders, and the straight line should carry to the hip
- Well-sprung ribs and good body capacity are desirable.

- **Rams** should exhibit a masculine appearance, and have well-developed and uniform testicles

Undesirable Ram traits:

- undescended testicles or a single testicle and split scrotums

- **Ewes** should be feminine in appearance with a good width in the pelvis and well-formed udders

Undesirable Ewe traits:

- more than two functional teats
- residual teats should be non-existent

## **Legs**

- Front legs should be straight and set squarely under the shoulders
- Hind legs should show a straight line from the pin bone down through the hock to the pastern
- Viewed from the side, the rear cannon bone should be at right angle to the ground and not fall behind the pin bone (sickle hock)
- Pasterns should be clearly upright and hooves should be well shaped
- Unacceptable traits:
  - knock-knees
  - splayed front or back feet
  - cow hocks, sickle hocks, weak pasterns