

Breed Guidelines for Registered Miniature Texas Longhorns

A. Functional Efficiency			
Characteristics of Miniature Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Unacceptable[†]
1. Fertility	Early maturity and longevity Cows - Feminine, regular and early calving Bulls - Masculine, virile, high libido		Obvious abnormal reproductive organs, sterile animals
2. Sheath	Retracted prepuce, small orifice, flat small-sized navel flap		Long pendulous sheath, nonretractable prepuce. Excessive navel flap both male & female
3. Udder and teats	Well attached, balanced	Extra teats, loose udder attachment	
4. Disposition	Mild, tractable	Nervous	
5. Size*	Mature Height (≥ 5 yr): Cows – ≤ 45“ Bulls – ≤ 45“		Mature Height (≥ 5 yr): Cows – > 45“ Bulls – > 45“
6. Hair (dependent on environment)	Short, straight, slick coat		Long, curly hair
7. Hide	Vascular, mellow and pliable navel flap		Extra large sheath/navel flap or excessive dewlap
8. Legs and feet	Squarely set, sound feet and joints	Sickle hocks, "post" legs, extra close, weak hocks	Very short legs, obviously abnormal feet/legs/joints

B. Conformation			
Characteristics of Miniature Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Unacceptable[†]
1. General type or form	<p>Good length with moderate depth and thickness. Top of hips higher than top of shoulders. Elliptical shaped body for heat adaption.</p> <p>Sound dense bones. Strong legs with free movement; Bulls slightly thicker and heavier muscled than cows. Exhibiting crest development on neck.</p>		Exhibiting any evidence of other breed type influences
2. Head	Showing masculinity and femininity according to sex; moderate width with pronounced length from poll to muzzle. Straight profile.	Short, blocky head. Convex forehead. "Roman Nose"	Nose extremely "pinched-in" above nostrils showing evidence of dwarfism
3. Ears	Medium to small, short elliptical ears		Overly large, excessively round or pointed ears
4. Muzzle	Mealy mouthed, pigmented		Wry nose, over shot or undershot jaw
5. Neck	Trim in cow. Muscular in bull.		Ewe neck, very long or very short
6. Shoulders	Free moving, smooth and well muscled	Open on top, sharply dropping down behind shoulders	
7. Brisket	Trim and free from excessive fleshiness	Excessive fat, downward sloping and excessive dewlap	
8. Heart Girth	Elliptical and full	Pinched girth	

Characteristics of Miniature Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Unacceptable[†]
9. Back	Strong topline with slope upward from shoulders to hook bones		Excessive “sway back” or evidence of hump / raised muscling over loin region
10. Loin	Reasonably broad and full	Extremely narrow or low	Evidence of hump or raised muscling
11. Ribs	Moderately well sprung, elliptical	Slab sided	
12. Hooks	Broad, reasonably prominent and sloping slightly downward toward pin bones	Narrowness in hooks	Levelness from hooks to pin bones, hook bones lower than pin bones or excessive slope from hook bones to pin bones
13. Rump	Long, moderately sloping from hooks to pins	Short	Narrow and extremely droopy from hooks to pins or pin bones higher than hook bones
14. Tail / Tail Set	Long with full switch / tail set square with evidence of traditional “fish hook” feature	Very short tail, Wry tail	
15. Hindquarters	Reasonably broad and muscular, moderately wide at pins	Extremely narrow	Double muscling

C. Color

Characteristics of Miniature Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Unacceptable[†]
1. Coat			Showing coat color/pattern not found in standard size Registered Texas Longhorn Cattle

D. Horns			
Characteristics of Miniature Longhorns	Desirable	Objectionable	Unacceptable[†]
<p>1. Tip-to-Tip Measurement</p> <p><i>Only Applicable to Mature Animals (≥ 5 yr)</i></p>	<p>Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; measurement equal to or greater than hip height at maturity</p> <p>Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep; measurement equal to or greater than hip height at maturity</p>	<p>Cows: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than half the hip height at maturity.</p> <p>Bulls: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than half the hip height at maturity.</p>	<p>Cows: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than 1/4 the hip height at maturity.</p> <p>Bulls: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than 1/4 the hip height at maturity.</p>
<p>2. Total Horn Measurement</p> <p><i>Only Applicable to Mature Animals (≥ 5 yr)</i></p>	<p>Cows: Slender, wide twisted outward; greater than the hip height at maturity</p> <p>Bulls: Horns with longitudinal length and a forward and upward sweep; greater than the hip height at maturity</p>	<p>Cows: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than 3/4 the hip height at maturity.</p> <p>Bulls: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than 3/4 the hip height at maturity.</p>	<p>Cows: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than half the hip height at maturity.</p> <p>Bulls: Horns that curve sharply upward. Less than half the hip height at maturity.</p>

* Animals ≥ 45" will not be rejected from the MTL registry.

† Cause for rejection of MTL reclassification or registration application.