

# Rules Guide

## Revised 2001

The articles of Incorporation of the CONTINENTAL DORSET CLUB state that the purpose of our organization is "to collect, verify, preserve, and publish reliable facts pertaining to the history and breeding of Dorset Sheep, and to promote the interest of the breed by all honorable means."

Since the formation of this Club, it has issued a certificate of registry for every Dorset whose pedigree has been verified, checked and accepted for entry as a purebred Dorset.

We encourage our breeders to comply with the rules of registration to the best of their ability. Each entry sent to us is checked carefully in an attempt to keep and provide the best pedigree information possible for our breed.

This Rules Guide has been prepared to help you with any questions you might have regarding the rules as stated on the entry blanks. The Guide will attempt to give some background and in-depth explanation of the rules.

If you have further problems or questions, please write or phone the Continental Dorset Office.

### **PRIVILEGES OF REGISTRATION**

Anyone is eligible to register Dorsets in the Continental Dorset Club; providing they furnish pedigree information that complies with the rules and checks with information in our files.

Cost of registration varies depending upon whether you are a Life Member, a Youth Member, or a non-member. These fees are explained further in this booklet.

### **ELIGIBILITY OF ANIMALS**

The sire and dam of any domestically bred animal for which application is made, must be registered in the Continental Dorset Club.

Imported sheep must be registered in their native records. The Certificate of Registry, properly transferred to the new owner, is to be sent to this office for acceptance into our records.

The Standards of Excellence for our breed is printed in the Pocket Record Book, the Dorset Booklet and is available in letter form. This Standards of Excellence is a guide for selection and judging. The following defects are very undesirable and should be vigorously discriminated against in shows and sales. (After each defect the section(s) of the scorecard in which that defect is found and the total points assigned to that section are listed.)

1. Large ears and/or droopy ears (*Head 25 pts*)
  - A. Ears should be small to medium in length and total size.
  - B. Ears should be at least 5 degrees above horizontal when alert.
2. Inverted eyelids (*Head 25 pts*)
3. Abnormally large tear ducts (*Head 25 pts*)
4. Pure horned with horns that curve backward, grow in a backward curve, or the tips of the horns grow inward and close to the neck. (*Head 25 pts*)
5. Any dark colored spots in the hair portion of sheep (*Head 25 pts and Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)

Exception: A black spot on an ear is acceptable.
6. Fine textured silky hair covering. (*Head 25 pts and Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
7. Absence of hair covering in typical areas. (*Head 25 pts and Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
8. Dewlaps, excessive loose skin or large wrinkles and folds. (Dewlap is a pendulous fold of skin under the throat.) (*Neck-Shoulder-Chest 10 pts*)
9. Lack of muscling (*Back-Loin-Rump-Leg 30 pts*)
10. Weak pasterns (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
11. Post legged (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
12. Sickie hocked (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
13. Cow hocked (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
14. Splayed footed (Badly turned out front feet) (*Feet-Legs-Pasterns 20 pts*)
15. Height – Yearling ewes under 28 inches or over 34 inches tall at the shoulder.  
Yearling rams under 31 inches or over 37 inches tall at the shoulder. (*Frame 7 pts*)
16. Incisor teeth missing dental pads
17. Abnormal testes

- A. Scrotal circumferences less than 30 centimeters for one year and under and 32 centimeters for yearlings and older.  
(Reference: S.I.D. Sheep Production Handbook, pg. 936)

Any animal having any of the following characteristics will be disqualified in CDC sanctioned shows and sabs. In addition, CDC Board of Directors strongly encourages you to display a high level of integrity when selecting animals in your flock for registry in the Continental Dorset Club.

1. Sheep with a completely black hoof or a hoof with more than 50% black.
2. Any color other than pink on the nose or mouth.  
Exception: A black spot not exceeding the size of an eraser head on a standard size pencil is acceptable.
3. Black or dark colored lining of nose or mouth.
4. Dark colored spots in the wool.
5. Solid black fleece animals, badger, or Hereford fleece (black body with white head or legs, and belly)
6. Holstein fleece pattern (black with white spots)
7. Split scrotum exceeding more than 1/2 inch in split length.
8. Cryptorchidism (rams lacking two or one testicles)
9. Pure Horned that have been dehorned.
10. Any signs of surgical alterations or any mechanical alterations (other than tail docking, and horn and/or scur care to protect the health of the animal or for management purposes) and/or use of substances to camouflage coloration as described in #1 thru #6. \*

\*Violators will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the Continental Dorset Club Constitution and Bylaws.

## **RULES FOR REGISTRATION**

The green entry blank used for making application for registration has the rules of registration on the back. You will note that each column is numbered to correspond with the rules on the back.

Pads of entry forms are available from the Dorset Club Office. These are made on NCR paper so that you can keep a copy of the form which you send us for registry. These pad are available at cost.

1. NAME refers to the flock name that all the sheep you raise will carry. Use your surname or your farm or ranch name. Individual pet names are not acceptable.

We do have a policy of recording the special sheep names. To include your sheep in this special group, the fee is \$25. The names are kept on file so that there is no duplication of name. To enter your sheep in this group, send the registration paper to the Continental Dorset Club Office, along with the \$25 fee and the name you wish to give the sheep. We will record the name, issue a new paper for the sheep showing the new name, and this same name will appear on the certificate of all this sheep's subsequent offspring.

2. Each sheep offered for registration **MUST** carry a private identification number. These numbers can be either tags or tattoos. They can be purchased from most livestock supply companies, and from some veterinarian offices. We suggest that each breeder run his private tags consecutively. It is also suggested that you code these numbers with the year of birth.

3. All applications for sheep having polled breeding must indicate the degree of polledness for each animal. The code letters for this are: P - Polled, S Scurred, NH - Normal Horned. Pure Horned Dorsets, those with NO polled breeding have no prefix code letters. No scur or horn can be cut back for the purpose of misrepresenting the true condition of the animal. However, we do recommend that scurs be trimmed to avoid the possibility of their growing into the head of the animal. Trimming of scurs is acceptable; but it is not recommended to attempt to "de-horn" the animal. The Certificate of any sheep registered, as Polled that subsequently develops scurs or horns should be returned to the office for correction

4. The sex should be indicated using the code letters: M(male), F(female), or R(ram), E(ewe).

5. Birth Date requires month, day and year of birth.

6. Code for type of birth is S(single), TW(twin), TR (triplet).

7. SIRE: Be sure to give the name, private identification, and C.D. Club registration number.

8. DAM: Be sure to give the name, private identification, and C.D. Club registration number. Two lines are provided for this information.

9. If the animal has been sold, transfer information is required in the extreme right hand columns on the form. Give the date of delivery or the date the new owner took possession of the animal. Fees are required on these transfers of ownership.

10. List the complete name and address of the new owner in the manner in which he wants the sheep recorded. Transfer fees are due on the transactions. As of July 1, 1988, the Continental Dorset Club Office ceased sending out corresponding metal ear tags along with the registration papers. Registration numbers are still assigned, but no tags are issued. In lieu of the tags, the C.D.C. is recommending that you double tag with your private ID tags, or tattoo this private identification in the animal. Each animal MUST carry a private identification number either tag or tattoo.

If a private tag is lost, it should be replaced with the same number. If you re-tag with a different number, the C.D.C. Office MUST be notified.

### **BREEDER AND OWNER**

The owner of the dam at the time she is bred is the breeder and owner of the lamb and must sign the entry blank as such. If the animal being registered has been sold, the transfer information should be listed in the extreme right hand columns of the entry blank. If the breeder sells a bred ewe, the person owning the ewe when she was bred, signs the entry blank as BREEDER, and the person owning the ewe when she lambs signs the form as the OWNER.

If the owner of the ewes leases or borrows a ram, a lease form must be signed. A lease form or certificate of service is provided on the entry blank or separate forms will be furnished upon request. In this situation, the owner of the ram does NOT sign the entry blank as the breeder.

### **TRANSFERS**

Transfers made after the certificates are issued are made by filling out one of the transfer spaces on the back of the animal's registration certificate. This requires the DATE OF SALE, name and address of purchaser or new owner, and signature and address of the seller. We require the month, day, and year on transfers.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

LIFE Membership into the Dorset Club is \$20.00. There are no annual dues. Memberships are not transferable nor can additional names be added after a membership is issued, so it is very important that the Application of Membership be signed correctly. These forms are available upon request. The form should be signed in the manner in which the membership is to read and in the way all papers concerning this member's sheep will be signed. .

Only sheep owned in the same manner as the membership reads are eligible for registry under the membership rates. Joint memberships and Farm memberships are acceptable. These joint memberships do not permit individuals within the joint membership to act as a member separately. Only animals jointly owned or owned under the Farm name are eligible for the membership rates in these situations. Ownership of the sheep and the membership must read the same.

Occasionally, a circumstance arises when the ownership of a flock within the same family wants or needs to be changed. These occasions include the inclusion of wife, children, brother, sister; or they can include the separation of a partnership or death of a partner. Our policy in cases such as this is: a new membership is required at \$20 and the entire flock will be transferred to the new name at half the price or \$1.50 each. We require that these transfers be done all at the same time.

It is a long standing policy of the Continental Dorset Club to require applicants for membership to get a signature of recommendation on their Membership Application. We prefer that this recommendation be given by a person who is already a member of the Dorset Club, however, if this is not convenient, we will accept the signature of your County Extension Director, or an officer at your bank. Either of these persons should list their position and address.

### **OWNERSHIP OF ANIMALS**

Joint or partnership owners on stud rams is acceptable. There is only one official certificate for each animal. We will not make duplicate papers for jointly owned stud rams. However, a non-negotiable copy of the paper for each partner can be obtained from the C.D.C. Office at no charge; or a photo-copy may be given to the partners. Duplicate certificates automatically make the original void.

We do not recommend joint ownership of ewes, unless the entire flock is a partnership operation. Offspring of a jointly owned ewe cannot be divided up between the partners. The lambs, too, are jointly owned, unless transfers are made.

Animals born as a result of AI (artificial insemination) or ET (embryo transfer) are acceptable for registry. There are some regulations and guidelines. Rams from whom semen is collected must be blood typed or DNA tested. The sire and donor ewe for an embryo transfer must be blood typed or DNA tested. Contact the C.D.C. Office for further details on this work.

### **SCHEDULE OF FEES**

Click on GENERAL tab on home page for schedule of fees.

Full payment of fees must accompany all work. State Institutions may pay by requisition.

Youth enrollment members are eligible to register sheep at regular membership rates. To become enrolled a completed youth enrollment card and \$5.00 payment must be sent to the CDC office. To be eligible for this program, individuals cannot have reached their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. There is no lower limit. At some future point, the youth enrollment member can become a Life Member and the \$5.00 already paid will be applied toward the Life Membership. Youth's must be enrolled in this program to participate in the National and Regional Dorset Junior Shows sponsored by the CDC.

We accept into our records imported sheep that are properly registered in their native records. The Certificate of Registry, properly transferred to the new owner, is to be sent to this office for acceptance into our records.

### **REGISTRATION FEES FOR IMPORTED SHEEP**

Members of the Dorset Club:

\$5.00 for sheep presented for registration within  
6 months of importation

\$6.00 for sheep presented for registration after  
6 months of importation

Non-Members

\$7.00 for sheep presented for registration within  
6 months of importation

\$8.00 for sheep presented for registration after  
6 months of importation

Imported sheep are registered in the Continental Dorset Club-transfer is not required; if that has already been completed on the foreign paper before it is presented to us for acceptance in our records.

### **CORRECTIONS AND ALTERATIONS**

Corrections and alterations needed on certificates already issued must be made only in the Club office. Return the paper along with a note of explanation. No other method of alteration is permitted.

If errors are found on your work, in either pedigree information or fees required, the work will be delayed and correction and/or additional fees requested before the work is completed.

State Institutions may pay the requisition. State Institutions are billed annually unless other arrangements are made.

### **DUPLICATE PAPERS**

Our policy on duplication of papers is: the last recorded owner of the animal has to make the request for the duplicate. We issue duplicates to read exactly as our file copy shows, any additional transfers will have to be made after the duplicate is issued.

### **SPECIAL SHOWS & SALES**

The Continental Dorset Club sponsors one National Sale per year. This sale is usually held in conjunction with one of the existing sales with the existing sales force hosting the event. We are placing our emphasis on the spring or early summer sales as location for the NATIONAL rather than holding it at a fall exposition.

The Board annually allocates monies for Regional Junior Dorset Shows in the six Districts.

We are currently holding 6 Regional Junior Shows and one National Junior Show. The National Junior Show is held at the NAILE in Louisville, KY with divisions for both polled and horned Dorsets. The C.D.C. provides additional premiums and trophies for these shows. **Guidelines for these Shows include:** Animals must be owned and shown (unless physically handicapped) by the young person entering them in the show.

Farm names and "& Family" situations are not acceptable. We limit our "junior" age to the no older than 21 on show day. We suggest that the animals be in young person's name at least 2 months prior to the show.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE DORSET CLUB**

The Continental Dorset Club is governed by a Board of Directors from which a President and Vice President are elected. The Secretary-Treasurer is an appointed office.

The United States is divided into 6 districts, each having one director. Districts are: New England, Eastern, Great Lakes, North Central, Great Plains, and Western.

Directors are elected for 3-year terms with the option being re-elected for another 3 years. After serving 6 years, the Director has to be out of office for at least 3 years before being eligible for election again.

All members in the districts have an opportunity to vote for their director. A Nominating Committee is appointed for each district and this committee selects the slate of persons running for this office. The Secretary of the Continental Dorset Club sends ballots to each member.

There is an open Annual Meeting held each year in various locations in order to give the membership the opportunity to attend a meeting in their vicinity and participate in the activities of the organization. The membership receives notice of the Annual Meeting at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

### **PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS**

A variety of promotional items are available from the Dorset Club Office. The stock varies and changes from time to time.

Since the price of the promotional items varies from time to time, please inquire regarding the cost of items before ordering.

We feel it is *the* responsibility of state and regional Dorset groups to help promote the Breed. These groups can order materials for their displays or booths. It is not possible for the Secretary to attend all events each year. We appreciate the local groups doing their *share* to promote Dorsets.

### **HISTORY BOOKS**

A book is available that is a history of the Continental Dorset Club and Dorset Sheep. It is 186 pages and contains 300 photos of Dorsets and those who have led the breed through the 20th century. Cost of the book is \$13.95, which includes shipping and handling. Order through the Continental Dorset Club Office.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ADDED TO REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES**

The Board of Directors feels that the Dorsets ability to lamb in the fall or out of season is a very important asset and is one of the major factors that have made our breed popular. Since the Board is stressing the fall lambing ability of our breed, we are adding an "F" or "S" behind the Sire and Dam information on each new certificate. The "F" indicates that the animal was born between 7-1 and 12-31. The "S" indicates that the animal was born between 1-1 and 6-30. Type of birth-TW, TR is also being added following the sire and dam information. The information does not involve any additional work by the breeders, but is compiled by the clerical workers. We hope you find this information interesting and helpful.

In 2000 the CDC went to a computerized registration system and additional information is now available on the registration papers. Five generation extended pedigrees, space for flock scrapie numbers and ewe production record keeping space has been added.

### **REGISTRATION OF YOUR FLOCK PREFIX**

The Board of Directors adopted a policy to make it possible for breeders to assure their exclusive usage of their prefix name or flock name. In order to register your name with the Dorset Club, there is a one time \$10.00 fee. This is not mandatory, however, if you want to be assured that no one else will use your selected name; we ask that you officially record your name with us. Established breeders have priority *on* existing names and new breeders will be asked to select alternative names. We will attempt to work out problems with duplications to the satisfaction of everyone. If you wish to record your flock name, send that name to us along with the \$10.00 fee and your complete name and address.

This Flock or Prefix name registration should not be confused with the Life Membership.