

Fleece Characteristics

The quality of the purebred Cormo fleece is well known as the outstanding product of the breed. Remarkably exquisite fiber, characterized by its fine micron diameter accompanied by superior staple length, and unusually bright, white color are its hallmarks.

These fleeces are prized by fiber artists and wool crafts people for its softness, often referred to as 'next-to-skin wear'. The staple length and tight crimp contribute to hand spinning ease.

The fleece of a mature animal from a mid-side sample should measure twenty three microns or less, have consistent wool with 90% of wool within a two micron range. The expected staple length is 3.5-5.5 inches for a full year's growth. The fleece should consist of dense, soft wool, with the fleece weight of mature ewe between five and eight pounds.



American Cormo Sheep Association

Cormo Sheep

- luxurious wool
- easy maintenance
- strong flocking instinct
- quiet nature

For more information and to join as a member, visit

www.americancormo.com

or contact us at:

info@americancormo.com

To register or transfer Cormo sheep, visit the Associated Registry: at

www.associatedregistry.com

and follow the link for the American Cormo Sheep Association.



American Cormo Sheep Association

the breed with the exquisite fleece

www.americancormo.com



Breed History

Ian Downie of Tasmania, Australia is credited with the development of the Cormo breed in the 1960's. His intent was to produce larger framed sheep with greater fertility, faster growth, and increased wool production than he was seeing in his existing flock of Merinos. He crossed the ewes from his superfine Saxon Merino flock with Corriedale rams.

Not relying on visual appraisal alone, he scientifically used measurements by weighing sheep, testing wool for micron size and impurities, and using an index to determine which sheep met his goals. These were the sheep kept for replacements.

The early importations of Cormo sheep into the United States occurred in the early 1970's.



The American Cormo Sheep Association

The American Cormo Sheep Association (ACSA) is a non-profit corporation. The objectives of the ACSA are to

- collect, preserve, and publish information pertaining to the Cormo Sheep breed in North America
- register and keep on file records of the registration and transfers of the breed in North America
- stimulate and regulate any other matters that may pertain to the history, breed integrity, promotion, and conservation of this breed.

The ACSA was formed following successful importations of Cormo ewes and rams in 1976. This Association was the original breed registry for the Cormo breed in the U.S. The ACSA is committed to maintaining the purity of the breed by traceability through registration documentation. The registration process traces the registered sheep back to the Downie lines. The Association utilizes a Registrar to maintain this documentation.

The Association website, www.americancormo.com maintains Association information as well as a current Breeders Listing.

Breed Characteristics

Cormo sheep are medium sized and easily managed, flock easily, are attentive mothers, and have mild temperaments. They are suitable in a wide variety of management systems. While fleece is well known as their outstanding quality trait, the original Downie breed standard sets a framework for other important performance traits. Conformation and production parameters are set in the standard to ensure the durability and longevity of the breed going forward.

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 23 microns or less 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.