Officially Measuring the Mini Silky For Show

The Miniature Silky Fainting Goat is intended to be a small breed of goat as the name indicates by the word "Miniature". The MSFGA standard has defined a Miniature Buck to be a Buck who measures no more than 25 inches at the withers and a Miniature Doe to be a Doe who measures no more than 23.5 inches at the withers. Wethers shall be measured to the same standard as the Bucks.

To ensure that the goats being exhibited in an MSFGA sanctioned show are truly within the MSFGA standard, starting August 1, 2013 all Show Superintendents must assign a committee of two people to measure goats prior to the beginning of the show. The two people who are in charge of measuring must use an accurate measuring device and must use the approved MSFGA diagram for measuring the goats which they will have with them so that the owners may see how to properly position their goat to be measured.

The goats should be measured in an open fashion so that others can observe the measuring if they desire to do so and measuring should be done while owners are present.

The head of the goat must be held above the shoulders as shown in the official MSFGA diagram, pushing the head down below the shoulders will not be allowed. The legs should be squared under the goat meaning, the front legs must be directly under the shoulders and the rear legs must be back under the rear end, not up under the barrel or way out behind the goat causing it to be stretched out in an unnatural manner.

If a goat is found to be over the allowed height limit, that goat will be disqualified and will not be allowed to show in any MSFGA sanctioned show under any circumstances. The Show Superintendent shall remove that goat from the show entry records and that goat shall not count toward the final total of the show.

Once the measuring has been completed, both committee members will sign a confirmation sheet, which will include their contact information, verifying that all goats being shown in this show have been measured and found to be within the allowed height limits of the MSFGA standard. The MSFGA will consider the measuring committee's findings to be final. This signed sheet must be turned into the MSFGA office by the Show Superintendent.

If the Show Superintendent fails to assign a measuring committee of two people and/or to have the Measuring Committee Confirmation sheet signed and returned to the MSFGA office will risk loss of MSFGA sanctioning for their shows. This means that none of the Grand Champion wins shall be counted toward a Master Championship leg, the Best in Show win shall not count toward the Top Winning Mini Silky of the Year nor shall the Best Wether in Show win count toward the Top Winning Wether of the Year.

The MSFGA Show Rules and Regulations have been changed to reflect these new measuring rules. These changes can be found in section 2.3.1 through 2.3.5. These rules will take effect August 1, 2013 without exception.

It is my hope that everyone understands that it takes all of us, as stewards of the breed, to keep Miniature Silky Fainting Goats moving forward and to ensure that all Mini Silkies being exhibited meet the MSFGA standard. All exhibitors should take it upon themselves to measure their goats at home to ensure that they are not bringing oversized animals to the show.

For anyone who is interested in obtaining a good, accurate measuring device for their own use, here are a couple of options. I'm sure there are others out there if you would like to do an internet search of your own. I hope this helps.

This one is an aluminum measuring device that can be bought on Amazon.com for $30.95. It measures from 14" to 39". Here's the link: http://www.amazon.com/Aluminum-Measuring-Stick-14-39/dp/B002HJ97V0/ref=pd_sim_sbs_petsupplies_1

This one is a miniature donkey measuring device which can also be bought on Amazon.com, it's $42.95. This one mesures up to 48". Here's the link: http://www.amazon.com/Miniature-Donkey-Horse-Measuring-Stick/dp/B00138NZIM/ref=pd_sim_sbs_sg_3