

# THE EVALUATION OF CULLING REASONS USED BY THE NGUNI CATTLE BREEDERS' SOCIETY

by  
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## INTRODUCTION

Inspections are a pre-condition for the registration of Nguni animals. This ensures that all registered animals meet the breed's standards as laid down by the Society. Animals must also be free of genetic defects or any deviations regarding functional appearance. The role and functions of an inspector entails much more than purely inspecting cattle. They represent the Breeders' Society, project the image of the Society, communicate the strategy and values of the Society and promote the breed in a constructive way.

## AIM

The purpose of this study was to investigate an effective way to keep records of the number of animals culled and the reasons why they were culled. Culling reasons are recorded with specific codes. From this data a good indication can also be derived of the consistency of inspectors.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The inspection records of 5995 females, inspected between the ages of 12 and 36 months of age and of 833 males, inspected at an age of more than 24 months, were extracted from the Intergis database and subjected to basic statistical analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1/07-30/06	Inspected animals	Culled animals	Percentage Culled	Number of breeders
2008-2009	2949	496	16.8	248
2009-2010	2093	551	26.3	198
2010-2011	1786	529	29.6	185

Some of the important culling reasons for animals offered for inspections:

	2008-2009 (%)	2009-2010 (%)	2010-2011 (%)
Body & Conformation	18.98	22.90	24.18
Off-type	17.02	16.17	18.72
Skew nasal bone	15.51	12.43	9.98
Non-typical sexual characteristics	6.33	5.69	3.90
Skew muzzle	6.33	5.99	6.08
Temperament	4.37	3.44	2.65
Lack of pigment (nose/eyes)	3.77	2.69	4.52
Scrotal circumference*	1.81	2.10	2.34
Testis curl to front*	1.05	2.10	2.96

\*Sex limited traits

## CONCLUSION

The percentage of animals culled over the past three years increased from 16.8% to 29.6% of the number of animals offered for inspection. The proportion of animals culled has increased over the past three years, but longer term data are needed to make more meaningful conclusions. The main reasons for culling were for off-type, non-typical sexual characteristics, skew nasal bone and deviations from the ideal in terms of body- and conformation traits. There is an increase in culling for body- and conformation traits since 2008 and an overall increase in the number of culled animals.

These culling reasons are of great value to the Society and should therefore be analysed annually as to determine for what reasons most animals were rejected. Inspectors are evaluated annually and the reasons for culling are discussed, particularly because different inspectors are used in different regions across the country. Analyses like this ensure that animals are culled for consistent reasons.



YOLANDA VENTER

This poster was presented by Yolanda Venter, at the 29<sup>th</sup> SASAT congress 2011. Second place was awarded in the competition for presenting the best poster.

# CULLING reasons

*Nguni*

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