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1. INTRODUCTION

A good inspector is characterized by a number of important qualities:

- A desire to know cattle
- A clear picture of the form and function of the ideal animal
- A keen sense of observation and the ability to remember what was observed and to bring it into context with the wider picture
- The ability to bring what is observed on the live animal into context with the final product – the carcass on the hook
- The ability to use everything that was gleaned from the judging process to reach a logical conclusion and placing



2. HISTORY OF BORANE

The early 1960's saw the first attempt to bring Boran to South Africa. A Kenyan farmer, Miles Fletcher, farmed Boran cattle and sheep on part of the ranch Sugoroi near NaroMoru, Kenya. In 1962 he decided to immigrate to South Africa with the intention of establishing a Boran herd in South Africa. He transported over 100 herds down to Zambia, where he received news from the Rhodesian Veterinary Services that he would only be allowed to move the progeny of Boran he bought down from Kenya, through Rhodesia to South Africa. In 1963 Miles abandoned his attempt and sold his Boran to Agricultural Enterprises Ltd, a subsidiary of Zambezi Ranching Corp Ltd., situated in the Choma district, Zambia. Their brochure states "Today the Demo Borans are unequalled in Zambia.... the nucleus of the herd having been purchased from Mr. Miles Fletcher who is one of the foremost breeders in Kenya.



On reading an article on embryo transfers and the revolutionary role it would play in the transfer of genetics from disease sensitive areas, Mile's great nephew Simon Hodgson, realized that the importation of Boran had now become a possibility. In 1991 Simon Hodgson contacted The Kenya Boran Cattle Breeders Society (KBCBS) expressing interest in importing Boran into South Africa. In December 1991 the president of the BCBS, Giles Prettejohn extended an invitation to Simon to find a suitable candidate from South Africa to judge the Boran at the 1992 Nairobi Show – the initial step in increasing the awareness of Boran in South Africa. Douglas Ralfe accepted the invitation and together with his son, Tim, flew up to Kenya and judged the Boran at the Nairobi show.

They then spent ten days as guests of the KBCBS visiting the prominent Boran ranches in Kenya. Douglas was impressed with the Boran – "They were of a good type and were very suited to the environment they were being farmed in. When we visited the Mutare ranch we saw a herd of about two hundred red cows and calves, and approximately 50 meters away the same number of white cows and calves. What fascinated us was the great herd instinct shown by the cattle as they did not attempt to mingle even though there were only two herds men. It is without doubt the best sight of cattle I have had the privilege to see. Given the other wonderful characteristics that the Boran has, we decided then and there to import the Boran into South Africa."

In August 1995 Department of Animal Improvement recognized the Boran as a breed. On 17 May 2003 the Boran Cattle Breeders Society of SA was founded.

3. STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

General Appearance

The Boran is of medium frame size with sound muscling and mass for age. The various body parts are in perfect balance with each other. The breed reflects considerable sex dimorphism, with bulls much larger than cows that are smaller and of a more feminine appearance. Both sexes display typical Boran characteristics (hump, capacity. skin, muscling, head, muzzle, condition, tail, dewlap, etc..

Head

Compact and wide between the eyes with prominent brows. Ears are relatively small with short hair. The mouth is wide with strongly defined jaw and strong lips. The eyes, ears, muzzle and nose are well pigmented. The head is well muscled and viewed from the side it would appear somewhat convex due to the muscling above the eyes but the nose area is dry.



Neck

Deep and relatively compact, well joined at the front and back. Bulls have strong, broad and well-muscled necks, dark in colour and well joined to the shoulders and head. The prominent dewlap covers the deep and full chest at the front which should not slope downwards.

Shoulders

Deep, wide, well muscled and well joined. (Fertile cows display rather loose shoulders)

Hump

Placed directly above and in line with the front legs, rounded, well developed and forming part of the body.

Back and Loins

Long, broad, straight, strong and well muscled

Chest and Mid Piece

Wide and deep. Well filled out behind shoulders and elbow. Ribs should be well sprung placed at an angle towards the rear and viewed from behind should not appear rounded or flat sided. The stomach should display enormous capacity (length, width and depth) and viewed from the side, the mid section should appear square with deep flanks.

Sheath

Not too large and pendulous, hanging at an angle towards the front and ending in a V-shape, not too fleshy, sphincter with good control. A well developed perineal muscle to be visible.



Rump

Long and wide from hip to pin bones. Should not be rooky and should slope approximately 22.5 degrees from hip to pin bones. Pelvic ridge should not be too prominent and the whole of the rump should be well muscled. Thurls to be placed lower than pin bones.

Tail

Long prominent sacrum with broad tail head placed somewhat higher than pinbones. Non-prominent tail head somewhat higher than pin bones. Tail is long tapering to a narrow tip ending in a large, well pigmented and thick switch.

Thighs

Seen from the side and the rear it should be broad and full sloping towards 2nd thigh. The widest part on the hindquarter is at the stifle joint.

Hind legs

Widely placed, strong and at a good angle (not too straight or sickle hocked) and neither too fine or too coarse. A leg of medium length should be in balance with the rest of the body.

Pastern and Hooves

Pasterns not too straight or too weak. Hooves straight, symmetrical, straight on the inside, with hooves short, deep and well pigmented and placed right next to each other. Even mass distribution should be evident and front legs should be straight with no swelling on hoof crown.

Skin and Hair

Thick, loose and elastic preferably well pigmented without undue folds and with a glossy, oil rich coat.

Udder and Genitals

Well-developed udder with well pigmented teats of medium size. Well developed and pigmented vulva. The scrotum to be large with a narrow neck and not much lower than the hock. Even sized testicles with the scrotum being soft and smooth with short hair, not twisted and well pigmented especially at the tip.



Movement

The Boran moves with ease and vigour with legs and feet remaining parallel and not turning in or out.

Temperament

The Boran is calm, easy to handle and even tempered.



4. DEFINITIONS

1. Definitions

- Hypoplasia – Under-development of one or both testicles
- Cryptorchidism – Retention of a testicle in the inguinal canal or in the abdominal cavity
- Hermaphrodite – Freemartin (bi-sexual)
- Prolapse – Distention / sagging of the preputium or other internal structure/ organ

2. Fat

In many cases, especially in the case of shows or sales, animals are found that are over-fed. This may lead to some complications and can be the cause of lowered fertility and functional inefficiency. No animal should be placed if the following telltale signs are visible:

Females

- ♀ Fat deposits on the cheekbones. Lower jaw and jowls appears fleshy and heavy.
- ♀ Enlarged brisket without a discernable dewlap that enfolds the brisket in a pronounced pleat.
- ♀ Neck does not appear long, slender and gracious. Noticeable hump development.
- ♀ Excessive fat deposit on shoulder blades.
- ♀ Hipbones covered with a layer of hard fat.
- ♀ Noticeable fat deposits on the pin bones and around the tail head.
- ♀ An oval lump of fat \pm 8 cm below the vulva.
- ♀ Noticeable fat deposit in the area in front of the udder.
- ♀ The flanks appear thick and flabby.

Males

- ♂ Heavy and flabby brisket with a forward slope and no discernable pleat in the dewlap
- ♂ Hipbones covered with a layer of hard fat
- ♂ The flanks appear thick and flabby
- ♂ The scrotum has no discernable neck
- ♂ Lack of power, vitality and normal male aggression
- ♂ Flabby and smooth appearance with a lack of prominently defined muscling
- ♂ Fat deposit around the tail head and pin bones

3. Capacity

$$\text{Capacity} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width} \times \text{Depth}$$

The concept of capacity encompasses in essence the “contents” of an animal in terms of its length, width and depth. Depth should not be confused with height.

4. Quality

Quality is manifested by:

- Quality in skin texture, coat and bones
- Head clean, open and full of character
- The overall balance of the various body parts in relation to each other
- The general level of maintenance and/or finish of the animal

The opposite of quality is coarse and flat.

5. Balance

A well-balanced animal gives the impression that each part of the body is in harmony with each other and joins symmetrically with the other parts. This ensures uniformity and balance in length, width, depth, muscling and quality. Balance does not imply that the topline and underline are parallel.

6. Constitution

Constitution is an inherently heritable trait that enables the animal to maintain efficient production and reproduction under various environmental conditions, year after year, regardless of the stresses put onto the animal by the environment. Constitution refers to adaptability, virality, hardiness and functional efficiency in an animal.

Amongst others, constitution is manifested by the following visual characteristics:

- Strong, wide mouths with big nostrils
- Full and broad chest that is not pinched
- Deep and full girth
- Well-sprung frontal and lateral ribs
- Consistently good width – chest, barrel and hindquarters
- The general structure of the frame of the animal, which gives form and size to the animal

7. Bone

Mobility, gait or the ability to walk is very important for any animal. Legs should consequently be strong and sound and not impair the ability to walk. The “amount” of bone, in other words the thickness of the bones, must be sufficient for the size of the animal – not too coarse or too fine.

8. Size

Frame size should never be a primary selection objective in any breeding program or in the show ring.

9. Muscling

The most important location to evaluate muscling is the thickness of the muscle on the forearm because no fat is deposited there. The distribution of muscling over the body of the animal must however also be evaluated.

Males

The bull should always exhibit well-defined muscling, especially on the neck, hump, frontal ribs, forearm, lower thigh, stifle and upper shins. The back and loins should be evenly wide and covered with thick muscles. The inner- and outer thighs should be deep and full. Twist should be ample, long

and full.

Females

Muscling in a fertile female is smooth and not prominent or well defined. The inner- and outer thighs should be deep and full. Escutcheon should be ample, long and full.

10. Sexual characteristics

Males

The bull should exhibit powerful, strong and robust masculinity through his whole being. These characteristics should be evident through well-defined muscling and well-developed testicles that hang at an even height in a scrotum with a well-defined neck.

Females

Cows should exhibit neat and feminine characteristics in respect of all body parts. A typical wedge-shape with smoother muscling is a prerequisite. The udder should be well developed, soft and supple with well-placed teats of adequate size.

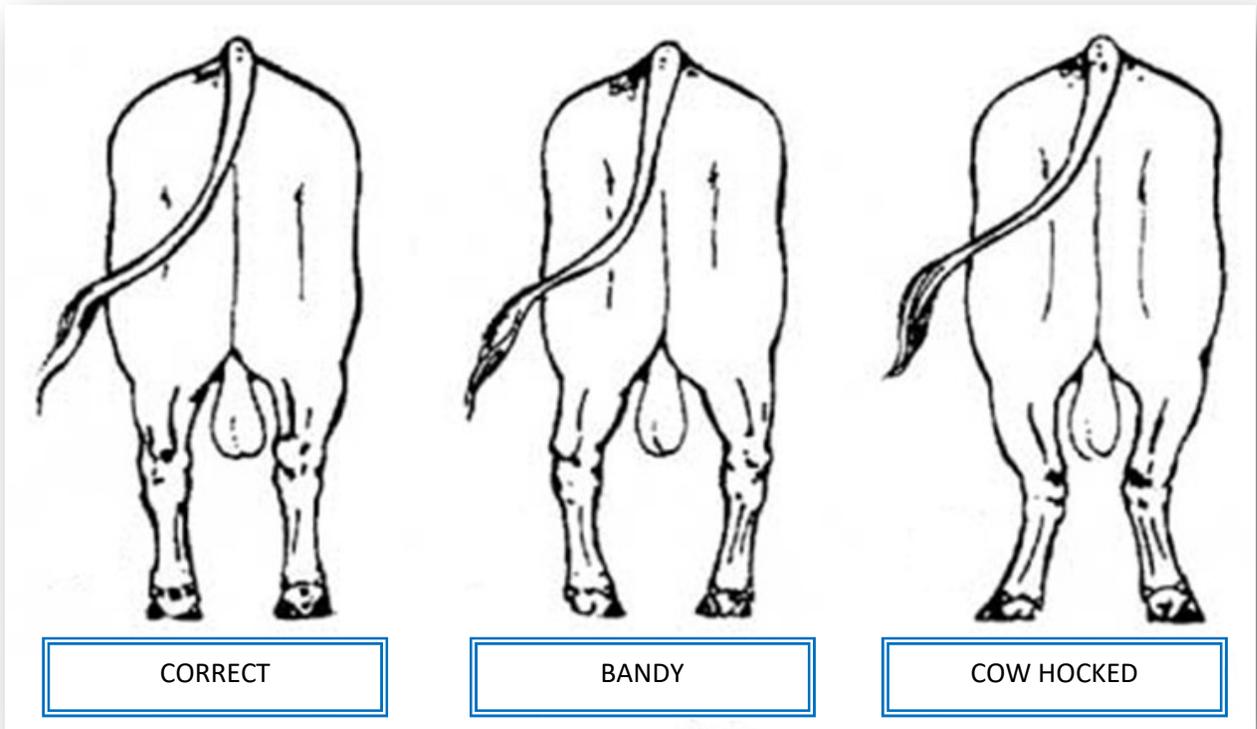
11. Structural soundness

Structural soundness is important for all animals as it is closely related to the animal's ability to adapt and plays an important role in the overall economy of production. These characteristics can be summarized as follows:

Desirable:
Broad, strong and wide mouth with a wide lower jaw and teeth that fits well against the pads on the upper – jaw.
Well-attached shoulders that allows a free and easy gait in the forelegs.
Strong back and loins. No pronounced sagging or hunch.
Long, well-placed ribs for good capacity.
Rump with good length from the hip- to the pin bones. Not too flat because of too high thurls.
Good width between the pin bones.
Good width between the thurls.
Strong, dry and sturdy hocks without any tendency towards sickle-, cow- or straight hocks.
Strong and sturdy pasterns that are not too straight, stiff or spongy.
Hooves of adequate size, compact, well rounded and deep with an even floor.
Straight forelegs without any tendency towards X- or bow-leggedness. An uneven wear pattern on the inner hooves is generally an indication of structural problems in the shoulders or forelegs.
Legs are very important. Animals must be able to walk freely and easy. Uneven movement of the hocks, straight- or sickle hocks, weak pasterns or stiff pasterns are signs that should be guarded against.
Male sexual organs should be well developed with evenly sized testicles and no indication of any abnormalities.
Female reproductive organs must be of adequate size and should show no indication of any abnormalities.
Udder should show good development with well-balanced quarters with strong attachments on the sides, front and back.

The typical beef animal should be a medium-sized animal and should show ample evidence of good fertility and productivity. It should possess adequate muscling, length and width of body and be structurally sound.

Undesirable:
Poor attachment of the fore quarters and barrel
Weak back and loins
Coarse hocks
Straight hocks
Stiff and straight pasterns
X-leggedness
Outward turning forelegs with short pasterns
Cow hocks
Long, flabby and untidy sheath



5. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE ANIMALS

BULL	COW
	
<p>HEAD Typically masculine and strong. Well-placed, bright eyes with a virile but calm expression.</p> <p>NECK Masculine with well-defined muscling and moderately developed hump. Must be well attached and blending well with the shoulders</p>	<p>HEAD Characteristically feminine head. Well-placed, bright eyes with an alert but calm expression.</p> <p>NECK Of moderate length, flat with a neat and feminine appearance. No sign of darkening of</p>

<p>and head. A darkening of the colour on the neck and shoulders is desirable.</p> <p>FORE QUARTERS Shoulders Level with back, well muscled, allowing free movement and blending well with the body.</p> <p>Chest Too prominent shoulder points are undesirable. Brisket should be wide but not too prominent.</p> <p>TRUNK Heart girth Deep and wide with well-sprung ribs.</p> <p>Ribs Long, flat and well arched, sloping slightly backwards. Deep through the chest-area.</p> <p>Ribcage Long and deep with good capacity.</p> <p>BACK (CHINE AND LOIN) Chine Straight, pointed and wide.</p> <p>Loin Wide and strong with prominent muscling. Well-defined, creating an impression of strength. Should blend well with the rump.</p> <p>HIND QUARTERS Hip bones Fairly wide-set but not so wide or prominent to create an impression of femininity.</p> <p>Rump Long and wide and slightly rounded on top. A slight sloping (roofiness) towards the tail is desirable, also a slight slope from the hip bones to the pin bones.</p> <p>Pin bones Wide and slightly lower than the hipbones.</p>	<p>the neck or shoulder should be apparent in the female.</p> <p>FORE QUARTERS Shoulders Level with back, not heavily muscled, neat, allowing free movement and blending well with the body.</p> <p>Chest As for bulls but not as heavy and wide. A prominent brisket with a heavy fat deposit is undesirable.</p> <p>TRUNK Heart girth Deep and wide with well-sprung ribs.</p> <p>Ribs Long, flat and well arched, sloping slightly backwards.</p> <p>Ribcage Long and deep with good capacity.</p> <p>BACK (CHINE AND LOIN) Chine Straight, pointed and wide.</p> <p>Loin Prominent but smoothly muscled. Well-defined, masculine muscling should not be evident. Should blend well with the rump.</p> <p>HIND QUARTERS Hip bones Wide but without any excess fat deposition.</p> <p>Rump Long and wide and slightly rounded on top. A slight sloping (roofiness) towards the tail is desirable, also a slight slope from the hip bones to the pin bones.</p> <p>Pin bones Wide and slightly lower than the hipbones.</p>
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<p>Thurls Wide.</p> <p>THIGHS Long and well-defined muscling should be evident from a full inner- and outer thigh that reach down to the hocks. The lower thigh should be well developed and wide.</p> <p>TAIL Should be well attached and hanging straight. The tail should reach down to at least the hocks and have a well-developed switch.</p> <p>REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS Testicles Well-developed and of even size. Should hang low in the scrotum.</p> <p>Scrotum Should have a well-developed neck.</p>	<p>Thurls Wide.</p> <p>THIGHS Long, flat and smoothly muscled, reaching the hocks.</p> <p>TAIL Should be well attached and hanging straight. The tail should reach down to at least the hocks and have a well-developed switch.</p> <p>REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS Well developed with no indications of infantilism or deformity.</p>
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GENERAL APPEARANCE

Large, well balanced and symmetrical. Good length and width of body. Animals should exhibit proper gender-specific traits and have a docile temperament. Animals should show quality and strength and be able to move freely on four strong legs.

BULL	COW
Masculine, robust and strong with good posture and vitality. Muscling in the shoulders, back, loin and thighs should be well defined with a moderately sized but well-muscled chest. The skin, hair and bone should be typically masculine coarse. Well-developed and deep fore quarters.	Feminine and finer in all respects. Well but smoothly muscled. Less muscling, showing more frame, should be evident whilst lactating. Hind quarters deeper than the fore quarters, showing a typically feminine wedge-shape.

LEGS AND FEET

The animal should stand squarely on all four legs and move with a free and easy gait.

Fore legs

Strong, of moderate length, with moderate bone. Should slope slightly inwards from the elbow to the knee but should be straight and square from the knee to the feet.

Hind legs

strong, of moderate length, with moderate bone. Viewed from the side, the hocks should show the correct angularity. Viewed from the rear the legs should be straight and square.

Feet

Of good size, oval and deep. Hooves should point straight ahead with tight, flesh-colored, dewclaws.

INTER-CALF PERIOD

The maximum age of first calving is 42 months. Maximum inter –calving period of 730 days or the cow had to produce 1 fertile embryo.

DAIRY CHARACTER, UDDER AND TEATS

Females must exhibit adequate dairy potential, with a definite femininity. Bone structure should be fine with a soft, supple skin and a capacious and supple udder that reaches high up to the front, rear and sides. The udders should be soft supple and elastic when handled, with a covering of the hair. The udder should have adequate and prominent veins. Teats should be uniform, cylindrical in shape and of medium length (6 – 8 cm), placed squarely on the udder and hanging straight down. The lacteal vein should be big, long and twisting and end in a big and well-defined depression.

6. ANATOMY

