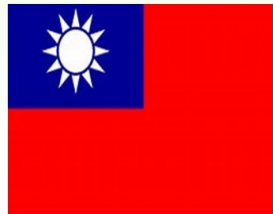


## Flock Management

A fully mature Dorper ram should only be allowed to run with a maximum of 30 ewes at a time per breeding season. This will allow for increase efficiency of the ram. Rams should only be introduced to the females when its time for mating. This practices allows for better record keeping and good management. After lambing the ewe should be identified with lamb and separated. Data collection should be taken at this time e.i birth weight, number of lambs etc..



This brochure was done in collaboration with the Republic of China Taiwan and the Government of Belize under the “Genetic Improvement in Sheep and Goat Project.”

**Telephone:** (+501) 824-3032  
**Email:** [sheepprojectbelize@gmail.com](mailto:sheepprojectbelize@gmail.com)

**Ministry of  
Agriculture**

**Livestock Unit,  
Central Farm,  
Cayo District.**

# Dorper



**Tel: 832-8187**

# Dorper

## Introduction

The Dorper is a South African breed of domestic sheep developed by crossing Dorset Horn and the Blackhead Persian sheep. The name 'Dorper' is a coupling of the first syllables of the parent breeds Dorset and Persian.

The breed is well adapted to survive in the arid extensive regions of the world. It has high fertility and maternal instinct, combined with high growth rates and hardiness. The breed has the characteristic of its black head. Rams reach sexual maturity at an early age; rams have been observed to start working by five months of age.

The Dorper is an easy-care breed which requires minimal input of labour. The Dorper has a thick skin, which is highly prized and protects the sheep under harsh climatic conditions.

## Characteristics

### Head:

Strong and long with triangle shape. Eyes widely spaced, strong nose and strong mouth with well fitted jaw. Long ears are preferable. Heavy horns are undesirable. The head must be covered with short, dullish, black hair in the Dorper and dull, white hair in the White Dorper.

### Neck:

Medium length, well fleshed, broad and well coupled.

### Shoulders and Chest:

Shoulders firm, broad and strong. Good muscling on the forearm. A moderate protrusion of the brisket with correct foreleg placement and moderate width between the legs. Shoulders, which appear loose, a brisket which protrudes too much or too little, are faults.

### Barrel:

Long, deep and wide body. The sheep must have a long, straight back and not a 'devil's grip'. A slight dip behind the shoulders is permissible.

## Characteristics

### Hindquarter:

Long and wide rump. The inner and outer twist is to be well fleshed and deep.

### Legs:

Strong, well placed with strong pasterns and hooves not too widely split. The hocks must be strong without a tendency to turn in or out.

### Meat Production:

Purebred Dorper rams reach a live weight of 198-264 pounds and ewes 110-176 pounds. The Dorper carcass has a good conformation and fat distribution.

### Adaptable:

The Dorper is now well adapted in South Africa to a variety of climatic conditions. It thrives in arid to semi-tropical areas and 100mm-760mm rainfall.