

Our Standard

In drafting The Good Cashmere Standard, the Aid by Trade Foundation has defined a new benchmark for the production of sustainable cashmere. The Standard incorporates the Five Freedoms as defined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. The Good Cashmere Standard follows three main principles: promote animal welfare in cashmere production, support cashmere farmers to secure a sustainable source of income and protect the environment.



Standard & System

The Good Cashmere Standard® by AbTF has been developed with input from animal welfare specialists and industry experts. An advisory board comprised of experts (cashmere producers, non-governmental organisations, retailers and brands) regularly reviews the standard and its verification system based on the results of the audit process and any new scientific findings. In addition, interested parties have the option of becoming involved in the consultation process to review the standard.

Criteria and Principles

The Good Cashmere Standard® by AbTF comprises regulations on animal welfare, the protection of the environment and biodiversity as well as management criteria for small as well as large farms, buying as well as dehairing stations. The largest chapter of The Good Cashmere Standard® covers animal welfare and was designed on the basis of the Five Freedoms as defined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. More than 100 criteria set clear guidelines for nutrition, keeping and handling, shearing and health management of the animals, among other things.

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Audits and Certification

To ensure the reliability of The Good Cashmere Standard® and the correct implementation of its criteria, independent audits verify regularly whether cashmere farmers and producers (buying stations/dehairing stations) comply with the criteria set out in the standard. Should the certification process be successful, cashmere farms and producers who work in accordance with the standard are certified against The Good Cashmere Standard®. They receive a certificate which is valid for 12 months and are allowed to sell their products under The Good Cashmere Standard® seal.

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Goats

Animal welfare is at the heart of The Good Cashmere Standard, which is why it incorporates the Five Freedoms as defined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. No animal should be subjected to hunger, thirst, discomfort, pain, injury or disease. Animals must also have the freedom to express normal behaviour and live a life free from fear and distress. The Good Cashmere Standard contains clear and comprehensive criteria regarding:

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Farmers

The criteria contained in The Good Cashmere Standard extend beyond the comprehensive criteria that relate to goat welfare. The Standard also includes criteria regarding the planning of animal welfare maintenance and the recording of the resulting outcomes.

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Environment

The protection of the environment in which cashmere goats, farmers and farming communities live is one of the central aims of The Good Cashmere Standard. One of its key principles in this regard is that goat farming should have no negative impact on the environment, especially on the land and biodiversity.

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