



## **WHFF Appendix III Description of selected 18 common conformation defects**

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### **Introduction**

This document describes 18 conformation defects as used by several conformation classification systems worldwide. Descriptions are given for all these 18 conformation defects to facilitate harmonization across countries and organizations.

For some defects it is also indicated if this defect is in the ICAR conformation defect list.

Conformation defects on one hand should be rare (approximately <5% of all animals, <1 out of 20) on the other hand should be frequently enough (approximately >0,2%, >1 out of 500) that any statistics make sense, and conclusions can be drawn. Therefore, the definitions don't include any thresholds in cm or degrees as populations may differ. The countries should define these thresholds so that incidence rates are within the range mentioned above. If with a meaningful definition of the thresholds incidence rates are >5% it is recommended that the trait is recorded on a linear scale to describe the obviously existing larger variation in the given population.

### **List of conformation defects**

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Open Shoulder            | 10. Thurls too far back         |
| 2. Weak crops               | 11. Weak pasterns               |
| 3. Weak back including loin | 12. Thin teats                  |
| 4. Advanced anus            | 13. Teat-s orientation not down |
| 5. High tail                | 14. Webbed teats                |
| 6. Inset tailhead           | 15. Teat-s with side leak       |
| 7. Open claw-s              | 16. Extra functional teat-s     |
| 8. Crampy                   | 17. Bulgy fore udder            |
| 9. Boggy hock-s             | 18. Blind quarter-s             |

## **Body defects**

### **1. Open shoulder** (ICAR recommended, too)

A significant gap between the tip of the shoulder and the side of the body. Shoulder blades are not well attached to the body causing a significant gap between shoulder blade and body/ribs.



### **2. Weak crops** (ICAR recommended, too)



The part of the animal behind the shoulder (just below the chine) is a lot narrower than the shoulder.

### **3. Weak back including loin**

Weakness in the topline in the middle of the back and/or loin.



**4. Advanced anus** (ICAR recommended, too)

Anus is ahead of pin bone. Tendency for the anus and vagina to be pulled forward.



**5. High tail** (ICAR recommended, too)

Evaluated by considering the tailhead in relation to the pins viewed from the rear. It could be considered as a defect when tailhead is noticeably over pins.



**6. Inset tailhead**

Tailhead is located between the pin bones and can therefore not be seen from side.



## **B. Feet & legs defects**

### **7. Open Claw-s**

Large gap between claws of any leg.



### **8. Crampy** (ICAR recommended, too)

Unnatural or irregular contraction of muscles of one or both rear legs independent from source (crampy/Spastic Paresis).





### 9. Boggy hock-s

Hocks are very coarse and show bumps on the inside of the hock.



### 10. Thurls too far back (ICAR recommended, too)

Distance of thurl position to rump bone is much higher compared to distance of thurl position to pin bone. On a horizontal line thurl position is much closer to pin as to rump bone.



### 11. Weak pasterns

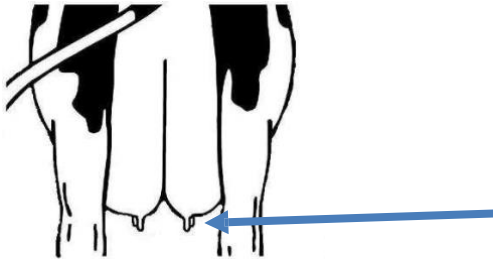
Too much angle of the pastern joint.



### C. Mammary defects

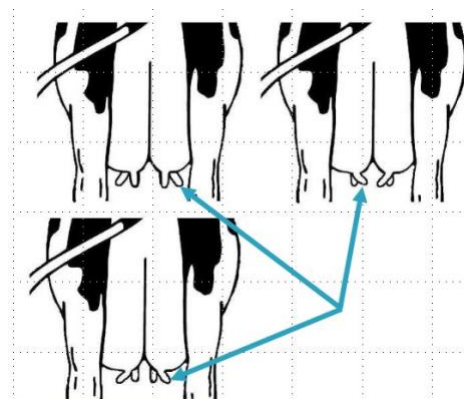
#### 12. Thin teats

Teat with very small diameter.



#### 13. Teat-s orientation not down

One or more teats are not pointing down, but significantly outside/inside or forward/backward.

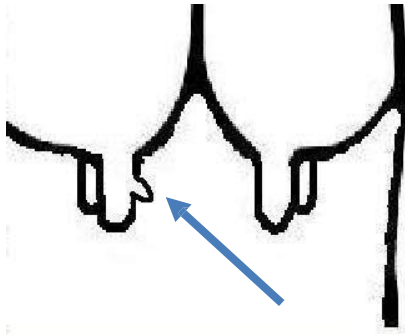


#### 14. Webbed teats (ICAR recommended, too)

An extra teat is attached to functional teat.



**15. Teat(s) with side leak** (ICAR recommended, too)  
Little function hole on the side wall of the teat.



**16. Extra functional teat-s** (ICAR recommended, too)  
Extra teat-s which produce milk.

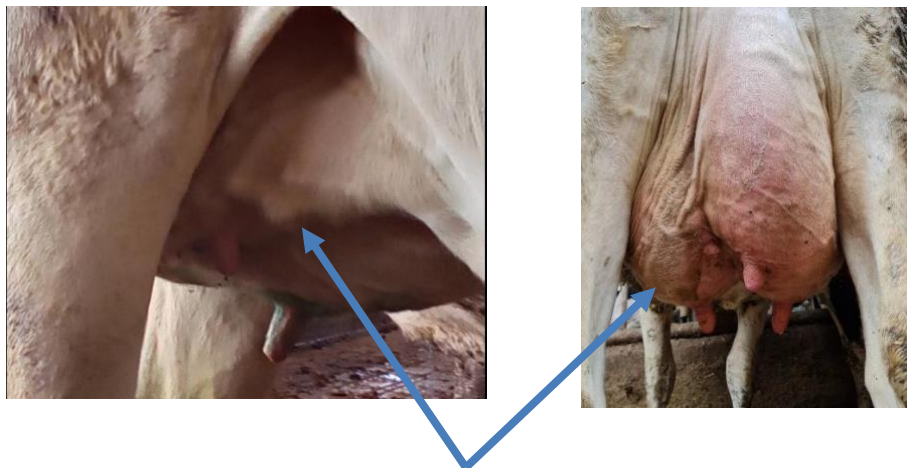


### 17. Bulgy fore udder

The shape of the fore udder is very round.



### 18. Blind quarter-s (ICAR recommended, too) Quarter never gives milk.



*\*) Pictures were provided by members of the working group.*