

## DORPER



The Dorper breed was developed in South Africa by crossbreeding Dorset Horn sheep with Blackhead Persian. The goal was to develop a meat breed suitable for the country's driest areas. The breed was officially registered in 1942. It has been raised in Finland since the year 2013.

The large and muscular breed adjusts well to different climates and is fast-growing. The sheep have medium-long tails with either visible horn buds or very small horns. It has a calm and curious demeanor.

Characteristic features include a barrel-shaped torso and muscular hindquarters. It is a fur-type sheep with a mixture of short wool and hair; the head and underbelly are covered by short smooth hair. The most common colouration is white with a black head and neck; the white Dorper variant is entirely white.

Rams average 90 to 120 kg in weight when fully grown, ewes 50 to 80 kg. Ewes have good fertility and mothering qualities and can become pregnant year-round.

Average number of lambs is 1.6 per birthing. The average three-day weight of the lambs is 4 kg and four-month weight 40 kg, with an average daily growth of 300 g; optimal time for reaching slaughter weight is 160 days.

Dorper has excellent butchering yields and is suitable for slaughter on average at five months of age. Typical EUROP grade for carcasses is R. The breed is well suited for crossbreeding for the purpose of either increasing growth rate and muscularity or for reducing birth weight in meat breeds.

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