

Body measurements and it's relation to carcass weights of goats

The body measurements of non descript goats over three years from Puttalam, Narammala and Anuradhapura were obtained and their correlation's with dressing percentage studied. Body length, Fore leg and Hind leg height, Carcass length, Carcass weight, Dressing percentage and Heart Girth were measured.

The body length in Puttalam goats was significantly higher (54.59 ± 1.33 cm) than that of Anuradhapura goats (951.38 ± 0.96 cm) and Narammala goats (948.44 ± 1.61 cm) The girth in Puttalam goats (62.33 ± 1.58 cm) was significantly higher than in Anuradhapura goats were 62.82 ± 1.48 cm and 57.93 ± 0.93 cm respectively. This difference was also highly significant. The live weight by girth (20.23 ± 1.46 kg) and actual live weight (18.97 ± 1.23 kg) in Puttalam goats were also significantly higher than in the Anuradhapura goats (16.65 ± 0.83 kg & 15.27 ± 0.71 kg).

The dressing percentage with Carcass weight, Carcass length and Girth were significantly correlated in non descript goats at $P < 0.05$ level. The dressing percentage (Y) of goats could be predicted from carcass weight (a) , carcass length (b) and girth (c).
 $Y = 33.04 + 0.31a$, $Y = 40.15 + 0.91b$, $Y = 35.65 + 0.20c$.

The dressing percentage of non descriptive goats varies between 46% -49% and mean dressing percentge of goats was remarkably high (49%) at 15-20kg live weigh compared to 46% in 5-10kg, 10-15kg and 20-25kg live weight groups.