

DRAFT UGANDA STANDARD

**First Edition
2025-mm-dd**

Grading of live camels for meat trade — Specification



Reference number
DUS DARS 1847: 2023

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This Draft Uganda Standard, DUS DARS 1847: 2023, *Grading of live camels for meat trade — Specification*, is identical with and has been reproduced from a Draft African Standard, DARS 1847: 2023, *Grading of live camels for meat trade — Specification*, and adopted as a Uganda Standard.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee UNBS/TC 213, *Live animals, meat and meat products*.

Wherever the words, "African Standard" appear, they should be replaced by "Uganda Standard".

DRAFT AFRICAN STANDARD

**DARS
1847:2023**

First Edition 2023

Grading of live camels for meat trade – Specification



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Grading of live Camels for meat trade – Specification

1. Scope

This draft African standard specifies requirements for grading live camels for meat trade based on weight, age, sex, body condition and body conformation.

2 Normative References

There were no referenced documents in this standard.

3. Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following terms and definitions shall apply:

3.1

camel

an even-toed ungulate with padded feet in the genus *Camelus*, bearing distinctive fatty deposits known as "humps" on its back. There are two domesticated species of camel, which are: the dromedary, or one humped camel (*C. dromedarius*), which inhabits the Middle East and the Horn of Africa; and the Bactrian, or two-humped camel (*C. bactrianus*), which inhabits Central Asia

3.2

grade

defined parameters that segregate live camels for meat trade into homogenous groups applied by market participants based on weight, age, sex, body condition and body conformation

3.3

sex

refers to whether a camel is male or female

3.4

body condition

overall body state of a camel assessed through visual observation taking into account fat and muscle deposition as it occurs in various places on the camel's body

3.5

body condition score

score assigned through visual appraisal of specific body parts

3.6

body conformation

symmetry, size and shape of the various body regions relative to each other or the general appearance of the camel according to what is considered a desirable appearance

3.7

body conformation score

qualitative categorization of camel features based on body frame, height and defects, described as excellent, good or fair

3.7

lordosis

excessive inward curvature of the spine

3.8

kyphosis

excessive outward curvature of the spine

3.9**semitendinosus**

long superficial muscle in the back of the thigh

3.10**quadriceps**

large superficial muscle in the back of the thigh

3.11

apophysis/apophyses

natural protuberance from a bone.

4. Grading Specification for Camels

Grading of camels shall be done in accordance to age, class, sex, body condition and body conformation.

4.1 Age and class

Camel age and class categories shall be based on dentition or years of the animal. The categories shall be immature, mature, and old as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Age class and description

Class	Description
Immature camels	Shall be 4-6 years (up to 2 pairs of permanent teeth
Mature camels	Shall be 7-15 years (corner incisors erupt and developed, all permanent teeth present and in wear).
Old camels	Shall be 16 years and above (prominent teeth wear and loss of some teeth)

4.2 Sex

Camel sex categories shall be male (bull) or female (cow).

4.3 Body condition scores

The body condition score shall be scored as excellent, good, fair and poor. The body condition scoring shall be based on estimated hump fat indicated by the size of the hump, the ribs, the transverse apophysis and the sacrotuberal ligament as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Descriptions for body condition scores for Camels

Body Score	Hump	Ribs
Excellent	Hump overextended and rising more than 15% higher than chest depth and so full that it is rounded on the sides	Ribs invisible, transverse apophysis invisible and sacrotuberal ligament convex.
Good	Hump fully developed and rising to 15% higher than chest depth. abdominal area , ischium , tubercosae ,shoulder ,,spinous and transverse process of vertebrae slightly prominent, rectogenital zone is shallow and hollow of flank	Ribs invisible in front of the thorax, transverse apophysis slightly visible and sacrotuberal ligament flat to convex

Fair	Hump with good development and rising to 10% higher than chest depth. ischium, tubercosae, shoulder, spinous and transverse process of vertebrae prominent, rectogenital zone deep and hollow of flank is visible.	Ribs visible in front, transverse apophysis visible all along the back and sacrotuberal ligament flat
Poor	Hump with moderate development rising 5% higher than chest depth, but may also be leaning to one side. ischium, tubercosae, shoulder, spinous and transverse process of vertebrae are very prominent, rectogenital zone is very deep and hollow of flank is very visible	Ribs clearly visible (skin on bones), transverse apophysis clearly prominent and sacrotuberal ligament concave.

4.4 Body conformation

The body conformation shall be based on the symmetry, size and shape of the various body regions of camel relative to each other or the general appearance of the animal according to what is considered a desirable appearance. The camels shall be categorized as excellent, good, fair and poor as shown in Table 3.

The height range for Bacitrian camels is 5.2 - 5.9 feet tall at shoulder. There is need to allocate the scores with cut off range.

The Dromedary camel are 5.9 - 6.6 feet tall at the shoulder. There is need to allocate the range for each score.

Table 3 – Body conformation classifications and descriptions for camels

Scores	Description
Excellent	Shall be camels of good height (tail), with large frame and long and straight rump, loin and back, large heart girth and straight legs;
Good	Shall be camels of medium height (not as tall as the one with excellent conformation), with medium frame, shorter but straight rump, loin and back, medium heart girth and straight legs.
Poor	Shall be camels with short height with small frame, straight rump, loin and back, medium heart girth and straight legs and may have some defective features such as lordosis or kyphosis, or feet and legs such as being post-legged, buck-kneed, splayfooted, sickle-hocked etc .

4.5 Camel grades

The camel grades shall be based on age, class, sex, weight, body condition and body conformation parameters as shown in Table 4. The mature camel shall have weight of 500 – 600 Kg and 300 – 400 Kg for immature camel with consideration of 10 Kg for male over female

Table 4 – Grades and grading parameters for camels

Grade	Class	Age (Years)	Sex	Body condition	Body conformation
i.	Immature	4 – 6	Male/Female	Excellent	Excellent

ii.	Mature	7 – 10	Male/Female	Excellent	Excellent
iii.	Immature	4 – 6	Male/Female	Good	Good
iv.	Mature	7 – 15	Male/Female	Good	Good
v.	Immature	4 – 6	Male/Female	Fair	Good
vi.	Mature	7 – 15	Male/Female	Fair	Good
vii.	Immature	4 – 6	Male/Female	Poor	Poor
viii.	Mature	7 – 15	Male/Female	Poor	Poor
ix.	Old	≥ 16	Male/Female	Poor	Poor
x.	Young	Less than 4 years			

Bibliography

1. Kenya Standard, KS 2774-4:2018, *Grading live animal for meat trade-Specification-Part 4:Camel.*

