

Appendix C: Subject Descriptor

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Standardized Descriptor Usage Recommendations

This appendix provides value sets and guidelines for standardizing subject descriptors. Descriptors provide a means to rapidly describe the general appearance of the animal for purposes of visual identification (e.g. for traceback activities). They also may be used in place of the breed if the breed is not apparent (e.g. cow is coated in mud) or unknown (e.g. Dairy Breed).

Supplementary descriptors commonly used for animal breeds include

1. Polled-status (e.g. polled, horned cattle)
2. Color (e.g. red, black)
3. Color patterns (e.g. belted, baldy cattle or black-face sheep)
4. Breed Purpose (e.g. dairy, meat, fiber)
5. Size (e.g. small, medium, large crossbred sheep)

The value sets provide below are presented as subset lists meant to aid visual inspection. These tables are derived from an overall value set named "SubjectDescriptor".

Value Set Name: SubjectDescriptor

Value Set version: 20080911

Code System: Local (to USDA APHIS Veterinary Services)

The concepts listed in the tables below are associated with a status Active or Retired. A retired concept was previously used, but is no longer included in the standardized SubjectDescriptor value set. The concepts are identified with Concept Unique Identifiers (CUI).

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Information Unknown or Not Available

Code System: HL7 NullFlavor [2.16.840.1.113883.5.1008]

Value Set Name: NullFlavor

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
AskedButUnknown	2.16.840.1.113 883.1.11.10614	Active	Description: Information was sought but not found (e.g., owner was asked but didn't know); Synonym = "Not Specified"
NoInformation	2.16.840.1.113 883.1.11.10610	Active	No information whatsoever can be inferred from this exceptional value. This is the most general exceptional value. It is also the default exceptional value.
Other	2.16.840.1.113 883.1.11.10616	Active	Description: The actual value is not an element in the value domain of a variable. (e.g., concept not provided by required code system).
Unknown	2.16.840.1.113 883.1.11.10612	Active	Description: A proper value is applicable, but not known.

General

Subject Size subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Small	1000	Active	
Large	1002	Active	
Medium	1001	Active	

Polled Status subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Horned	1009	Active	
Longhorn	1015	Active	
Polled	1008	Active	absence of horns
Scurs	1016	Active	Small horn-like growths on the frontal bone in the same locations as horns would grow. Most are moveable and are not attached firmly to the skull.
Shorthorn	1017	Active	

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Color subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Black	1011	Active	
Brown	1032	Active	Synonyms: "Moorit", "Musket"
Grey	1018	Active	Synonyms: "Blue Grey", "English Blue", "Silver", "Blue"
Red	1012	Active	
Tan	1019	Active	Synonyms: "Smoke", "Mouse", "Fawn", "Beige"
White	1014	Active	
Yellow	1020	Active	Synonyms: "Blonde"

Breed Purpose subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Dairy breed	1031	Active	
Fiber breed	1039	Active	
Meat breed	1030	Active	Synonyms: "Beef breed"

Animal Group subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Multiple Breeds	1007	Active	An observation for a group of animals. The group is composed of multiple breeds.

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Bovine

Bovine Color Pattern subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Belted	1010	Active	The central portion of the torso is white in a complete "belt" or band around the middle against a dark colored front and hind end.
Black baldy	1006	Active	most of the face is white, including the sides of the face
Black white face	1021	Active	a broad white marking runs from forehead to muzzle, while the ears and sides of face are black
Black brockle face	1022	Active	
Blue roan	1023	Active	Intermingled black and white hairs in at least part of the body
Brindle	1024	Active	A pattern of intermingled colors which are more marbled or streaked than roan. Also the two colors are black and red or yellow in brindle instead of black or red and white, as in roan.
Color sided	1025	Active	At least part of the face, legs, tail, spine and underside are all white or not colored. A white marking extends up along the tail over most of the back of the animal.
Red brockle face	1026	Active	
Red roan	1027	Active	Intermingled red and white hairs in at least part of the body
Red white face	1028	Active	
Spotted	1029	Active	White spots against a colored body are of different sizes, shapes, and placement, seemingly at random

Sheep

Sheep Color Pattern subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Badger-face	1033	Active	The "Badgerface" pattern gene turns the back, sides, neck, face, and ears to a light tan or white making the sheep's face resemble a "badger." The color of the sheep shows on the face and neck, the belly, and under the tail, creating either a "black" or "brown" badgerface.
Black-face	1003	Active	
Grey	1034	Active	a colored overcoat (black or brown) with a white undercoat, creating "grey"
Mottled-face	1005	Active	
Mouflon	1035	Active	"Mouflon" is the opposite of badgerface. Instead of the color being under the sheep, on the neck and belly, it is on the top of the sheep, creating a mirror image of the badgerface.
Solid	1036	Active	black on black or brown on brown, over and undercoat, creating a "solid" sheep
Solid-face	1013	Active	Solid face color other than black or white
Spotting	1037	Active	
White	1038	Active	
White-face	1004	Active	