Wool

In the past, ten samples of fleece were tested and found to be 19 to 22 microns, which puts it in the class of cashmere. The "Babydoll" fleece also has more barbs per inch than any other wool types, making it an ideal blend with either Angora rabbit or Angora goat. It is a hand spinner's delight!

Weeders and Companions

Weeding trials were sponsored and monitored by the association, utilizing "Babydolls" as organic weeders. They have been used with great success in orchards, berry farms, and vineyards as they will not harm the fruits, girdle trunks, or harm shrubs. They leave the grounds well groomed as well as fertilizing as they graze. "Babydolls" are ideal companions for other non-aggressive livestock. Their calm, docile dispositions have a soothing effect on other livestock. I have kept them with miniature donkeys, horses, llamas, alpaca's, goats, cattle and other sheep breeds. They should not be kept with intact male llamas or alpaca's who will attempt breeding with them. It is wise to introduce them gradually to other livestock (separate paddocks at first). Livestock salt blocks must be placed out of reach, as the copper in them is toxic to all sheep breeds. A salt and mineral block made for sheep and goats is available and serves the other livestock as well.

Availability

A nationwide Breeders list is available on the registry website and lists over 600 members across the U.S. and Canada.

The Registry

The Old English "Babydoll" Southdown Sheep Registry was founded in 1991, for the preservation of the original breed type by Robert Mock. The registry continues promoting the breed and strives to protect its purity and integrity.

Olde English "Babydoll" Sheep Registry

PO Box 729 Lebanon, MO 65536 417-425-5077 www.oldeenglishbabydollregistry.com Email:

sandydself@gmail.commailto:oldeenglishbabydol lregistry@comcast.net

Why everyone loves their "Babydolls"

Because of their short legs, "Babydolls" do well in small areas. They are ideal for suburban lot owners who want the tranquility of sheep as living lawn ornaments. Both ewes and rams are polled (have no horns) and are non-aggressive by nature. They are not wanderers and do not bother fences. The ewes are good mothers, often raising twins and triplets with ease. Rarely do they need assistance when lambing. Because "Babydolls" are an ancient breed, they are not prone to many of the modern sheep problems. They are quite resistant to foot rot. In general, they are cared for like any other sheep

which includes worming, hoof trimming, and a variety of vaccines for yearly boosters, tetanus and overeating.

Return to their Homeland

One of the major goals of the registry was to return the original breed to England where it has been extinct for over 50 years. This goal was accomplished in 1999.

OLDE ENGLISH "BABYDOLL" MINIATURE SOUTHDOWN SHEEP

This pamphlet was provided by: Olde English "Babydoll" Sheep Registry

Origin and Background

One of the oldest of the English Breeds of sheep is the Southdown, originating on the South Down hills of Sussex County, England. These small sheep were known for their extreme hardiness and produced a carcass with tenderness and flavor unmatched by any other breed. In 1780, John Ellman began to standardize the breed. These small Southdowns in England grew in popularity up until 1908 when there were approximately 367 registered flocks, totaling about 111,000 ewes. World War I brought a sharp decline in numbers and by the end of World War II; the demand for larger cuts of meat had almost forced the breed into extinction. It is believed that the Southdowns reached America in 1803 and their popularity grew and subsequently declined in nearly the same pattern that had occurred in England. The small Southdowns could not compete with consumer demand, which ultimately led to the larger, leggier Southdowns of today. Each year brought a further decline in the numbers because of the notion, "Bigger is better!" No one at the time had the foresight that the small Southdown had a place in the miniature world. In 1986, Robert Mock began a search for miniature sheep. He had seen articles about these miniature sheep, but finding them proved to be difficult. However, four years later he found two small flocks.

After finding these flocks and promoting them as miniature sheep, others were found in various parts of the country which provided a larger gene pool. To distinguish these small sheep from today's larger Southdowns, Mr. Mock named them Olde English "Babydoll" Southdowns. In order to insure that the lines were kept pure, the Olde English "Babydoll" Registry was formed in 1991. Only adults two years and older were accepted so they could be judged against the original conformation standards and heights then verified by a veterinarian. The Foundation Flock was then established and the registry closed. The process of registering lamb crops from the original Foundation Flock began. The registry now celebrates many years of success with the preservation of the "Babydolls."

Breed Standard

The standard for the Olde English "Babydoll" Southdown Sheep was taken directly from the Southdown Sheep Society in England. It is the standard for the original sheep changed only to allow for colors. Only white or mouse colored sheep were allowed under the original standard. The breed description is as follows:

Head: Wide and level between the ears with no sign of slug or dark polls in the whites.

Face: Full, not to long from eyes to nose, and of one even color.

Eyes: Large, bright and prominent.

Ears: Medium size and covered with short wool. Neck: Wide at the base and well set to the shoulder.

Carriage: Corky legs, short, straight, set on the outside of the body,

Shoulders: Well set, at the top level with the back. **Chest:** Wide and deep.

Back: Level with a flat loin.

Ribs: Well sprung, well ribbed up, thick through the heart, with fore and hind flanks fully developed.

Rump: Wide and long.

Tail: Large and set almost level with the chin.

Legs: Full, well let down, with a deep wide twist (including thighs).

Wool: Of fine texture, great density and of sufficient length of staple, covering the whole of the body down to the hocks and knees and right up to the cheeks, with foretop, but not around the eyes or the bridge of the nose.

Size: Must be 24" or under shorn. Measure straight up the front leg to the top of the shoulder. Lambing without difficulty is one of the qualities of the "Babydolls," therefore ewes under 18" are discouraged.

Colors: All colors acceptable, Black, dilutes, and spotted.

"Babydolls" as Pets

These wonderful little sheep make excellent companions for young, elderly, handicapped and are welcomed visitors to nursing homes, the homebound and to people with special needs. Their gentle nature makes them a joy!

Notes:				
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