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: 20110110
Code System: Local (to USDA APHIS Veterinary Services)

The concepts listed in the tables below are associated with a status Active, Added or Retired. A retired concept was previously used, but is no longer included in the standardized SubjectDescriptor value set. An added concept was added and became active as of the publication version in which it first appeared. The concepts are identified with Concept Unique Identifiers (CUI).

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

Size subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Heavy	1044	Active	If used to describe a broiler chicken, this is defined as weighing 5 lbs or more.
Large	1002	Active	
Medium	1001	Active	If used to describe a broiler chicken, this is defined as weighing less than 5 lbs.
Miniature	1045	Active	If guidelines exist for specific species (such as horse) these guidelines should be adhered to when selecting this size designator.
Small	1000	Active	

Age Category subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
12 to <18 months	1055	Active	Estimated age category for sheep in which the first permanent incisor has erupted, but lower than remaining deciduous teeth.
18 to <24 months	1056	Active	Estimated age category for sheep in which the first permanent incisor is level with or extends above remaining deciduous teeth; second permanent incisor has not erupted
2 years	1057	Active	Estimated age category for sheep in which the second permanent incisor has erupted; the third permanent incisor has not erupted
3 years	1058	Active	Estimated age category for sheep in which the third permanent incisor has erupted; the fourth permanent incisor has not erupted

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
4 years	1059	Active	Estimated age category for sheep in which the fourth permanent incisor has erupted; no dental wear evident on fourth incisor
Adult	1047	Active	When used to describe a chicken: a Hen is an adult female chicken; a Rooster is an adult male chicken; a Stag is a male chicken older than one year of age. When used to describe cattle: an adult beef cow is older than 18 months; an adult dairy cow is older than 24 months. When used to describe sheep and goats an adult is older than 18 months. When used to describe swine an adult pig is 1 year of age or older. When used to describe horses an adult horse is older than 2 years.
Baby	1050	Active	Baby broiler chickens are less than 4 weeks old and are typically white or grey (barred). They are immature and have incomplete feathering, a transition between down and feathers. They weigh approximately 2 to 4 oz.
Egg	1046	Active	
Full mouth – min	1060	Active	Estimated age category for sheep that have a full mouth of teeth; all incisors fully erupted, with minimal dental wear.
Full mouth – mod	1061	Active	Estimated age category for sheep that have a full mouth of teeth; with moderate dental wear. No broken, missing or markedly splayed teeth.
Full mouth – sev	1062	Active	Estimated age category for sheep that have a full mouth of teeth; all incisors fully erupted, with severe dental wear. Teeth may be broken, missing, or markedly splayed.
Grower-Finisher	1051	Added	A grower or finisher pig is between 8-30 weeks of age
Nursery	1052	Added	A nursery pig is between weaned and 8 weeks of age
Pre-Adult	1054	Added	A pre-adult pig is between 30-52 weeks of age as pigs kept past market weight, usually as replacement breeding animals.
Suckling	1053	Added	A suckling pig is between birth and weaned

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	

Color subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Black	1011	Active	

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
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

This information is meant to describe the traditional use of the type or breed of animal described (e.g. Draft). This tradition breed purpose may not match the current use of the animal when it was observed (represented with the VS SubjectFunction value set) or the original reason why the animal was produced (represented with the NAHLN Production Class value set).

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Dairy breed	1031	Active	
Draft breed	1042	Active	
Fiber breed	1039	Active	
Meat breed	1030	Active	Synonyms: "Beef breed"
Warmblood breed	1043	Active	Approved sport horse bloodlines

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.

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

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
			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	Retired	Retired as of v20110110
White-face	1004	Active	

Avian

Avian Color Pattern subset

Concept Name	CUI	VS Concept State	Notes
Polish	1049	Active	The Polish bantam has distinctive white raised feathers on its head with a black body
Silkie	1048	Active	A silkie must have black skin on its face or under its feathers. Most silkies have light, fluffy feathers.