

American Guinea Hog Genetic Recovery and Diversity Initiative

Policy Statement: Per the bylaws of the American Guinea Hog Association (AGHA) one of its primary functions is to protect the genetic diversity of the breed. One of the ways the association accomplishes this is through the maintenance of an accurate genetic data base (the herd book). The herd book is currently a closed document. The herd book was closed when all known hogs that could be obtained were entered into the registry. Others in the second generation that were not registered were noted in an early registry as NR for not registered. The Founder Hogs in the registry came from only four breeders, despite the fact that there were other breeders of Guinea Hogs that The Livestock Conservancy and the founders of the AGHA were aware existed, which were not included in the herd book for a variety of reasons. These unregistered herds go back to a time prior to the formation of the AGHA and some may have been maintained since that time as solely purebred Guinea Hog herds. These herds, and possibly other similar herds, represent unique genetic strains that are either not represented, or have been under utilized in the herd book. These diverse strains offer a much needed opportunity to introduce and conserve genetic diversity in the Guinea Hog breed.

This policy illustrates a system to bring some of those historic or unique strains of hogs back into the gene pool through a recovery program.

In order to more standardize the process and create baseline criteria for hogs to be considered the AGHA Board of Directors (the Board) of the AGHA voted to adopt the following Genetic Recovery and Diversity initiative Policy (the policy).

Criteria for consideration:

Individual hogs or herds of hogs that may be considered for inclusion under the policy must meet the following baseline criteria:

- Excellent examples of current standard of type for the breed, based upon the AGHA breed description.
- Free from genetic defects which may impact the health or utility of the individual hog or its progeny.
- Represent an "isolated" herd either recognized but not included in the original herd book or subject to acceptance criteria listed below ,or:
- Represent a find with significant genetic impact on the future of the genetic diversity of the breed. These hogs must represent unique genetic strains of Guinea Hogs that are either not represented, or have been under utilized in the herd book.

Criteria for exclusion: Individual hogs or herds of hogs that will be considered for exclusion under the policy because of the following baseline criteria.

- Hogs or herds of hogs which do not represent outstanding examples of standard of type (as determined by the process below) regardless of documentation including but not limited to written documentation or DNA testing of any type
- Hogs or herds of hogs which lack the minimum criteria set forth by the policy to assure an extremely high degree of confidence of purity and lack of contamination of other similar but non American Guinea Hog breeds.
- Hogs that exhibit colors and/or patterns that are not genetically possible in AGH. This includes sandy red, red with black spots, sandy with black spots, & white with black spots.
- Hogs from lines or strains that already exist in adequate population size in the herd book.
- Hogs from unknown sources, hogs with no history, oral or written.

Policy Criteria: The board shall require in all cases that hogs or herds of hogs to be considered shall meet one of the following two categories before being considered to be entered into the herd book.

- Have written documented genealogical history or first person oral history (recorded by a board member or pre designated representative of the board) confirming that they were established as raisers of Guinea Hogs for the present generation going back to prior to the development of the herd book in 2006.
- Represent a significant find (as determined by a 2/3rds vote of the board) so as to positively impact the overall health or genetic diversity of the herd book. These hogs must represent unique genetic strains of Guinea Hogs that are either not represented, or have been under utilized in the herd book.
- Have all the characteristics of American Guinea Hogs and have been bred for a minimum of 3 generations without exhibiting any non-AGH characteristics. At least one generation must be bred by close inbreeding in order to express any latent non-AGH characteristics. In the absence of written or 1st person oral records, genetic testing proving parent- offspring relationship is acceptable.

In all cases, all of the following criteria must be met in order to be considered for inclusion into the herd book:

- The Board shall have high confidence level (as determined by a 2/3rds vote of the board) in the methods and management practices of all breeders who have owned, raised or managed the hogs or herds of hogs

being considered. This shall include but not be limited to, proper marking or identification of breeder hogs and progeny, proper facilities (secure

fencing and breeding areas) and secure areas of separation for the boars and sows or hogs of other breeds in the herd in question.

- Have applicable present and former owners of hogs or herds of hogs available and cooperative to provide whatever documentation specified by the board to the appropriate committees or designates the board chooses per the process listed below.

- Shall have a high confidence that no other hogs other than purebred American Guinea hogs have been crossed into the subject stock.

If any individual hog or herd of hogs fails to meet the above criteria those individual hogs or herds of hogs cannot be entered into consideration.

Recusal: Any board member with a direct conflict of interest in the hogs being considered (by a majority vote of the other board members) may discuss the subject hogs at all stages of the process but however must recuse themselves from voting. Recused board members do count for a quorum and majority or super majority calculations.

The evaluation process:

Each submission must pass a multi level evaluation process.

- Review by the Regional Director. The Regional Director submits review to Breeder's Committee.

- Review by the full Breeders Committee with a majority vote to accept or reject. Reviews & recommendations are forwarded to the board.

- Acceptance by the board with a 2/3rds vote. If rejected there is no resubmission unless significant new information is found and submitted.

The submission process:

- **Submissions can only be made by members in good standing.**

Hogs may be submitted for preliminary evaluation for inclusion to the herd book in one of two ways

- **Board sponsored submission:** Any member of the board may submit an individual hog or herd of hogs to the breeders committee. The committee will evaluate whether the hogs meet the criteria for consideration and forward their recommendations back to the board for a vote. **A board member may not sponsor their own animal.** There is no fee for such submissions.

- Submissions can only be made by members in good standing.
- **Member submissions:** Submissions of an individual hog or herd of hogs are submitted to the Regional Director where the hogs were primarily housed or bred for a non refundable \$50 initial consideration fee. That hog or herd of hogs will receive consideration by the genetics subcommittee automatically. There is no further charge at each step of the approval process.

Any veterinary examinations, travel expenses or subsequent DNA tests requested by the board or its committees or sub-committees must be borne and paid in advance by the submitting member.

All fees and expenses are non refundable to the submitting member regardless of the result.

Upon acceptance, the members applying for registration will provide any relationship data that is available, if known, for the purpose of guiding breeding decisions and entering accurate information into the registry to assist with COI calculation (known full or half siblings, etc). They will also provide hair samples that can be used if the board wishes, in order for the board to enter results into the registry's database of DNA markers. Hogs will be tagged or notched for proper identification on breeding records.

The registration certificates for recovered hogs will have a denotation on them indicating how they were accepted into the registry so that anyone purchasing offspring will have this information.

Members are cautioned to consider very carefully before entering into the submission process (without the support of the Regional Director assigned by the board). The burden of proof is wholly on the member. The board shall as a general policy err to the side of caution and places the needs and health of the herd book above the needs of any individual member. By entering into the evaluation process members acknowledge the decision of the board is final and waive any claim to redress by litigation.

Members are also strongly advised not to buy unregistered stock with the hope that the hogs can be registered by this process. This policy is not intended to be a means by which all or most unregistered AGH, or hogs that are from lines that are already part of the herd book in adequate numbers, may be included in the herd book.

The board reserves full interpretive rights on the policy and the process.

The board may only amend or modify the intent of the policy or the process after consulting with AGHA membership for member input at the Annual Membership Meeting and a 2/3rds vote by the board.