Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs forms collaboration with Marshall Farms

As of January 2002, Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs and Marshall Farms have formed a collaboration for the sale and production of Göttingen Minipigs in North America. Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs in Denmark will continue to supply all other customers outside North America.

Since Ellegaard Minipigs USA, Inc was established in Pennsylvania in 2000, the demand for Göttingen Minipigs in North America has increased and the need for an American production facility has become more obvious. In order to give the Göttingen Minipigs a good foundation in North America and speed up the process of building a permanent breeding facility, it was decided to form a collaboration with Marshall Farms. Marshall Farms is well known worldwide for high quality research animals and dedicated customer service. Jens Ellegaard, who has been responsible for developing the American market for Göttingen Minipigs, will continue his work at Marshall Farms as Director of Minipig Operations.

The first step in the collaboration has been to move the two mobile minipig housing facilities from Ellegaard’s Pennsylvania site to Marshall Farms in Upstate New York. Marshall Farms will assume the procedures to import, quarantine (for 30 days) and deliver minipigs from Denmark to customers in the U.S. The next step for Marshall Farms is to build a breeding facility capable of breeding the same quality of Göttingen Minipigs that are currently bred in Denmark. This facility will be finished by the end of this year. The breeding facility for Göttingen Minipigs at Marshall Farms will initially be supplied with breeders from the Danish nucleus herd. A yearly supply of boars from Denmark to the new USA breeding facility will ensure genetic uniformity of Göttingen Minipigs in Europe and America.

Symposium on minipigs

ISSX will be holding the 11th North American Meeting in Orlando, October 27-31, 2002.

During the meeting a number of symposiums will be held. Among others a symposium entitled Porcine Models in Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics and Toxicology: “A Pig in a Poke”? (Co-Chairs: Michael Mayersohn - University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA and Stephen Bai - Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ, USA) This will take place Thursday, October 31, 2002.

Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs look forward to a fruitful collaboration with Marshall Farms and to the increased global availability of the high-quality Göttingen Minipigs.

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Nanna Grand graduated from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University of Denmark in March 2001. During her studies she completed a course in Laboratory Animal Science and attended a course in Advanced Toxicology. After graduation she worked at the medical firm, Scanimal Health, as a veterinary consultant, primarily concerned with counselling and sales. Hereafter Nanna was employed at Tingslev Animal Hospital in Southern Jutland as a large animal veterinarian.

Scientific manager Nanna Grand, DVM
E-mail: nanna.grand@minipigs.dk

From Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs to the Biomedical Laboratory

Our former scientific manager, Peter Bollen, is presently employed as assistant professor at the Biomedical Laboratory, University of Southern Denmark in Odense. Peter has been working for us from 1995-2001 and has not only put his fingerprint on customer services and quality control during this period, but also attained a Ph.D.-degree. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his commitment and the work he has done for our company during the six years he was connected to Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs.

Presently, Peter is working at the Bio-medical Laboratory, where he is responsible for the surgery suites and laboratories, as well as animal health and welfare at the animal housing section. Part of his work is to help investigators from the university and academic hospital with their animal models. Teaching activities are limited to the courses Microsurgery, of which Peter is the organizer, and Laboratory Animal Science. His own field of research is still focused on the nutrition of Göttingen minipigs, and presently Peter is running a weight gain/weight loss, study together with M.Sc.-student Ebbe Eller. In this study obesity in Göttingen minipigs will be characterized by fat cellularity and blood metabolites, and the effect of weight loss will be described.

Beside nutrition research with minipigs, training courses in operational surgery for medical doctors are run on large pigs at the Biomedical Laboratory, where Peter acts as anaesthesiologist. Because of this additional experience, data is gained in the field of porcine anaesthesiology, and forms the basis for a side research interest.

Peter has a large overview of research applications of minipigs and is happy to answer any questions on the use of minipigs in biomedical research.

Peter Bollen’s e-mail address is: pbollen@health.sdu.dk.

Genetic characterisation of Göttingen minipigs ahead

Since September 2001 Prof. Henner Simianer, new professor of animal breeding at the University of Göttingen has taken the responsibility for the breeding program for the Göttingen minipig base population located in Relliehausen, Germany and in Dalum, Denmark. The first major project will be the genetic characterisation of the entire minipig base population. New molecular tools allow to identify the genetic make-up of the animals in the different lines. This will not only help to prevent more efficiently the loss of genetic diversity in the base population, but will also allow to develop new genetically defined lines with animals that are homozygous for defined genes, chromosome regions or even entire chromosomes.

With the increasing knowledge on pig genetics and development of highresolution comparative maps of the human and the porcine genome, the newly developed tools will help to provide better and less heterogeneous minipig models for various experimental purposes. While the technical implementation (DNA sampling, genotyping etc.) has already started, the decision on the first, molecular breeding goal is yet to be made. Present plans focus on a pilot project to develop a strain, which is partially congruent for the MH1C (I1A) region on SSC7, which may be useful for different immunological studies. However, alternative ideas and suggestions are always welcome, and there are excellent possibilities for cooperative research and development projects with the University of Göttingen. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact:

Prof. H. Simianer
Tel: +49 551 395604
email: havrian@gwdg.de
or -
ellegaard@minipigs.dk

New microchips have been introduced at Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs (November 2001)

Recently Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs has started using Sykomat injectable microchips for identification of each animal. We have chosen to use chips from Sykomat type 64 bit ASK, modulated Manchester decoded tags, since an open standard makes it possible to read this type of tag worldwide with different reading equipment. Furthermore, this tag (64bit ADK moduled tag) can be purchased from various producers.

The tag we use now, Tag 601201, is a standard implementable glass chip that can be read from various standard readers or if wished, by a tag informer from Sykomat. The tag is made of bioglass 8625 for use in organic tissue and is tested in accordance to IEC standard 662.2/6/26.

The tag informer from Sykomat contains a 9 volt battery and has a display showing the relevant tag number. The chip number can be transferred via standard RS232 interface to a computer. More information is found at www.sykomat.com

Placement of microchip on the Göttingen minipig.

The chip is placed behind the right ear, in the pars cervi- calis mm. trapezi.

The reader we use is called Memor 2000, which is from Minex Systems AB - more information can be found on www.minex.com

Placement of tag

AAALAC Accreditation

In the previous year Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs ApS was inspected by AAALAC and has obtained continued full accreditation. The council commended Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs for “providing and maintaining a high quality animal breeding program and facility”. Particularly noteworthy they found "the exceptional degree of human-animal contact", "the overall cleanliness and tidiness of the facilities", "the welltrained and motivated staff", "the overt corporate support for only the highest standards of animal care and program excellence" and "the innovative facility enhancements to permit animal observation without entering the barrier spaces".

Meeting Calendar 2002

June - December

FELASA/GV SOLAS
June 17 - 20, Aachen, Germany
Eurotox
September 15 - 18, Budapest, Hungary
AAALAS
October 27 - 31, San Antonio, Texas
AFSTAL
November 20-22, Reims, France
LASA Winter Meeting
November 27-29