This letter is to inform you of the co-operation between the Institut für Tierzucht und Haustiergenetik, University of Göttingen, and Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs for the breeding and production of Göttingen Minipigs in Europa.

The aim of this co-operation is to develop and produce healthy animals and new strains of the Göttingen Minipig for different scientific purposes. We are convinced that this will be of interest to you as it presents several advantages and new possibilities for research in your laboratory.

In this co-operation, Professor Glodek, Institut für Tierzucht und Haustiergenetik, University of Göttingen will be in charge of breeding and genetic control, and Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs will be entirely responsible for the production and sale of Göttingen Minipigs in Europe. The prime goals of this co-operation are development and quality - for the benefit of our customers, for the benefit of research, and for the benefit of the animals.

In April 1992 the establishment of a new, microbiologically defined (SPF) production colony, by caesarean section and isolation under germ-free conditions, was initiated in a new production unit.

All animals from this new unit will be genetically certified. The Institut für Tierzucht und Haustiergenetik, University of Göttingen, will regularly supervise the production to ensure that it adheres to the programme laid down by the institute.

Until the new production herd has been fully established (1993/94), 3 categories of the Göttingen Minipig will be available:

- **CONVENTIONAL GÖTTINGEN MINIPIGS,** delivered by Göttingen
- **BARRIER-BRED GÖTTINGEN MINIPIGS,** delivered by Ellegaard
- **MICROBIOLOGICALLY DEFINED GÖTTINGEN MINIPIGS.** Barrier maintained. Free of pothogenic viruses, bacteria and parasites, delivered by Ellegaard.

We plan to meet the quality demands of the future in the following way:

- The Institut für Tierzucht und Haustiergenetik, University of Göttingen will organize breeding and development, and secure heterocycosity by basing genetic outbreeding on 15 families.
- Guidelines for the health monitoring of Göttingen Minipigs will be established to ensure that the animals are microbiologically well-defined.
- Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs will produce disease-free animals behind a barrier with absolute filters and a pressure above atmosphere. Infection of the animals will be prevented by strict hygienic standards, including limitations on personnel admission, dress codes for animal caretakers, veterinary control, and safe transport and delivery to customers.
- The animals will be cared for by experienced and well-trained staff under constant veterinary supervision.

The number of animals produced will ensure that all future demands can be met. Our aim is to produce the best minipigs in Europe.

The co-operation between the prestigious research-oriented University of Göttingen and the production-oriented company Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs has so far been very fruitful, and it is our intention to continue and strengthen this co-operation for the benefit of our customers.