We are pleased to see that the demand for Göttingen minipigs in biomedical research keeps growing. In order to meet this demand, mating has been increased heavily, giving an expected expansion in production of 30%. For this purpose multisuckling with 2-3 sow mothers has been introduced. We do our best to keep developing new items and standards in this field. The staff is educated on a regular basis within all aspects concerning working with and caring for the animals. Furthermore, quality control is also an issue on which we focus strongly in order to ensure that all requirements by our customers are met. This aspect is given a high priority in order to ensure that all requirements by our customers are met. This aspect is given a high priority. Furthermore, quality control is also an issue on which we focus strongly in order to ensure that all requirements by our customers are met. This aspect is given a high priority. Furthermore, quality control is also an issue on which we focus strongly in order to ensure that all requirements by our customers are met. This aspect is given a high priority. Furthermore, quality control is also an issue on which we focus strongly in order to ensure that all requirements by our customers are met. This aspect is given a high priority. Furthermore, quality control is also an issue on which we focus strongly in order to ensure that all requirements by our customers are met. This aspect is given a high priority.
New staff

We are pleased to introduce Søren Christensen as our Production Manager at EGM. Søren has an agricultural education and four years of experience in working with conventional farm animals.

Last year Søren graduated from the Nordic Agricultural Academy in Odense with an Advanced Diploma in Agriculture focusing on economy, management and organisational studies.

At Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs Søren will be responsible for the daily management of production and all aspects of order handling. Her background is a bi-lingual export coordinator. Trine is well experienced within all aspects of order handling. Her background is a bi-lingual export coordinator. Trine is well experienced within all aspects of order handling.

New staff

We are pleased to introduce Søren Christensen as our Production Manager at EGM. Søren has an agricultural education and four years of experience in working with conventional farm animals.

Also we are pleased to introduce Trine Christensen as our Export Coordinator. Trine is well experienced within all aspects of order handling. Her background is a bi-lingual degree in German language and furthermore Trine also speaks English. Please contact Trine for inquiries regarding ordering of minipigs at trine.christensen@minipigs.dk.

Health Monitoring

As per August 1, 2002 our health monitoring is carried out by the Danish Veterinary Institute, DVI. A few comments are needed on the latest Health Monitoring Report (HMR) issued November 1, 2002 for barrier 1 and barrier 2:

Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae: Only serotypes 1,2,5,6,7,8,10 and 12 were tested this time, since the serotypes 3,4,9,11 and 13 have not been detected in Denmark.

As something new, health monitoring is carried out in our conventional herd. This health monitoring is not quite as extensive as in the two barriers. It is based on the SPF (Specific Pathogen Free) system that is used to monitor some swine herds in the Danish agricultural swine production, where the following pathogens are monitored:

- Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae
- Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae
- Toxin producing Pasteurella multocida
- Brachyspi a hydysenteriae
- Lice
- Sarcoptes suis

Like in the barrier facilities Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae, only serotypes 1,2,5,6,7,8,10 and 12 are tested, since the serotypes 3,4,9,11 and 13 have not been detected in Denmark as stated above. Apart from the above listed pathogens our conventional herd is also tested for Bordetella bronchiseptica and Lawsonia intracellularis.

For the barrier-bred minipigs the next monitoring is expected carried out May 2003. For the conventional herd monitoring will be carried out once a year, next time October 2003.

Surgery workshop May 13 - 14, 2003

Last year’s surgery workshop, "Accessory procedures in experimental surgery" held at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, May 14-15, 2002 was very successful, indicating that there still is great interest in these courses.

Next surgery course will take place at the same facilities on May 13-14, 2003. In addition with last year’s course this will be in two parts: Day 1 with theoretical lessons and day 2 with hands-on exercises. We are happy to announce that also this year we can offer the expertise of Dr. Anthony Webb, Pfizer, who will show different surgical procedures. Also we are happy to announce that Aage Christian Olsen, PhD, DVM, Pet Center, will lecture on anaesthesia and pain treatment of minipigs. Dr. Nils Dragsted from Novo Nordisk will lecture on telemetry. Peter Glerup, DVM, Scantox, on the use of minipigs in wound healing and dermal research, and finally Prof. Henrik Due-lund Pedersen, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, on the use of advanced ultrasonic.

Please put forward wishes for specific topics and we will do our best to comply with these. The number of participants will be limited to 12. For enrolment and programme please contact Nanna Grand, DVM nanna.grand@minipigs.dk.

In connexion with the surgery course, a handling course is offered taking place the day before on May 12, 2003 at Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs. Please inquire for more information from Nanna Grand.

Handling courses at
Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs ApS

When using the minipig in research, the optimal situation is to have collaborative pigs. At Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs, we emphasize the importance of socializing the pigs, in order for them to be used to human contact and common handling procedures when sold to customers. However, the pigs are not individually trained for specific procedures like gavaging or the like. Therefore, it is also of great importance that the staff handling the minipigs during the study period are well acquainted and familiar with the correct handling of the pigs during these procedures, for the animals to be collaborative and not cause problems.

To ensure that people working with minipigs in research are comfortable handling our minipigs, we offer handling courses at our facility in Dalmose. The duration of such a handling course is normally one day and includes theoretical education and practical exercise in different procedures.

The theoretical information includes information on feeding, space requirements when housing minipigs, bedding, temperature, light cycle and the oestrus cycle and sexual behaviour. We will also go through methods of pain treatment, anaesthesia and euthanasia. The practical exercises are carried out on minipigs from the facility and comprise lifting of the pig from the floor, fixation of the pig on a table and in a sling, placement of electrodes for ECG measurement, fixation of the pig in a blood sampling bench and in a restraint chair. Temperature measurement, oral dosing, blood sampling techniques, different injection techniques, dermal application, taking out a skin biopsy, trimming of canine teeth and hoofs will be demonstrated and practised.

For further details please contact Nanna Grand, DVM at nanna.grand@minipigs.dk.