

# GÖTTINGEN MINIPIGS



# Genetic Foundation

Göttingen Minipigs are the result of a crossing of three different breeds: The Minnesota Minipig, the Vietnamese Potbelly Pig and the German Landrace, each selected due to distinguished characteristics: Size, reproduction and light skin. The cross-breeding was conducted in the 1960s at the University of Göttingen, and today we continue to work closely with the university to ensure the high genetic standard of Göttingen Minipigs.

**After 50 years the genetic definition continues to be identical to that of the first Göttingen Minipigs bred in the late 1960s, due to careful genetic selection.**

The attributes of Göttingen Minipigs make them particularly attractive for biomedical research, as they enable clear and unambiguous scientific results.

## Did you know...

Göttingen Minipigs are increasingly selected for all aspects of pharmaceutical research due to their:

- Small size
- Genetics
- Background data
- Health status
- Similarity to humans
- Availability in large uniform groups



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# Accomplishments

Göttingen Minipigs have already helped improve the health and quality of life for humans, by ensuring the development of medicine against gastrointestinal and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, arthritis, skin conditions, eye diseases, Parkinson and asthma.



## Health and Welfare

The health and well-being of our minipigs is our top priority. Therefore, our colonies are health monitored every six months and tested for a wide range of pathogens. We are open about the results and the reports can be found on our website.

Animal welfare is key in our standard operating procedures and is based on species specific natural needs:

- Bedding material, fulfilling the need for rooting
- Floor feeding, resembling the natural search for food
- Group housing in compatible groups
- A comprehensive socialization program (between minipigs and staff)
- Toys and regular exercise outside the pen



# Our History

Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs A/S was founded to supply scientists in biomedical research with a better non-rodent animal model, than what was already available. Such an animal model should have many similarities to humans, a high-quality health standard and be small and easy to handle.

In 1969, the University of Göttingen in Germany finalized the development of such an animal model, and later, in 1991, entered into an exclusive licensed agreement with Lars Ellegaard. Shortly after, a number of pregnant sows went through Caesarean sections at our facility in Denmark, and thereby established the foundation of the herd still in breeding today. Based on high quality of health standards, Lars Ellegaard created the first colony of barrier bred, microbiologically defined Göttingen Minipigs.

Today Göttingen Minipigs are fully recognized as an established animal model by all regulatory authorities worldwide. High health, welfare, quality, knowledge and service standards has turned Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs A/S into a leading international company supplying Göttingen Minipigs for biomedical research around the world, in close cooperation with our dedicated partners.

From our AAALAC accredited facility in Denmark we breed Göttingen Minipigs and enable the development of safer and more effective medicines, all based on our core values:

**Animal welfare, quality,  
respect and collaboration**

## We enable development of safer and more effective medicines

As we believe in the value of scientific validity, research, background data and collaboration, we invest an increasing share of our resources in the development and accumulation of new knowledge about Göttingen Minipigs, and in networking with scientists working actively with our animals.



## Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs A/S

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