



# British Pig Association

## Breed Standard and Standards of Excellence

### BERKSHIRE



#### **Section A - To be eligible for Herd Book entry a pig must (except in exceptional circumstances) be:**

- bred in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland
- have at least 12 sound teats
- ear-marked and birth recorded with the BPA in accordance with current regulations
- the offspring of parents already registered either in the Herd Book of the same breed (or in a supplementary register of the Herd Book maintained at BPA's discretion)
- Free from congenital defects (e.g. Umbilical and Scrotal Hernias , Atresia Ani (blind anus), cryptorchid boars, extra cleys, twisted, overshot or undershot jaw and rose on the back)
- conform to any other such regulations as are made by the BPA Council from time to time

In exceptional circumstances a pig which does not fulfil all the criteria above may be accepted for herdbook registration following an inspection.

#### **Breed Specific Requirements for Herdbook Registration**

**Colour** Black, with white on face, feet and tip of tail only.

**Breed Specific Disqualifications** which make the pig ineligible for Herdbook Registration

None

**Section B – Standard of Excellence** – These are recommendations only - breeders should try to achieve these standards in their breeding programmes. Pigs will be judged against these standards of excellence at BPA shows.

**Character** A combination of the following definitions denoting type, quality, breeding and masculinity in the case of boars, and femininity in the case of sows and gilts.

**Head** Fine, face dished, snout of medium length, wide between the eyes and ears. Ears fairly large, carried erect or slightly or slightly inclined forward and fringed with fine hair. Jowl light.

**Neck** Fine, evenly set on shoulders, free from wrinkles and free from crest.

**Shoulders** Fine and well sloping. Special notice to be taken regarding this point in the case of females.

**Legs and Feet** Straight and strong, set wide apart, standing well on toes and a good walker.

**Back** Long and level. Tail set high. Good spring of rib.

**Hams** Broad, wide and deep to hock

**Belly** Straight underline, with at least twelve (preferably 14) wound, evenly spaced and well placed teats starting well forward.

**Bone** Well developed in males and fine in females.

**Flesh** Firm without excessive fat.

**Skin** Fine and free from wrinkles.

**Hair** Long, fine and plentiful, with absence of mane especially in females

**Colour** Black, with white on face, feet and tip of tail only.

**Breed Specific Objections** – Breeders should try to avoid these in their breeding programmes

**Colour** Patches of white hair on body (an odd white hair is acceptable)

Pigs must comply with Section A. Breeders should aspire to breed pigs which meet the Standards of Excellence in Section B. More information is available in the BPA leaflet – Pedigree Breeding the Next Steps.

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