



# British Pig Association

## Breed Standard and Standards of Excellence

### LARGE BLACK



**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**

Ears                      Lop ears  
Colour                    Black.

**Breed Specific Disqualifications** which make the pig ineligible for Herdbook Registration  
 Any colour other than black

**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. The Standard of Excellence should be used in the light of known commercial requirements. When assessing the relevant merits of Large Black pigs, this should be done against a background of the killing-out value of the pig at correct weight and age. The value of the pig from a commercial point of view should always take precedence over its ability to conform to breed characteristics as laid down by the Standard of Excellence.

**General Quality and Conformation**

Good carriage on sound feet with length and well developed loin and hams

<u>Head</u>	Well-proportioned Medium length, broad and clean between the ears		
<u>Jowl &amp; Cheek</u>	Freedom from jowl. Strong under-jaw		
<u>Ears</u>	Long, thin and well-inclined over the face.		
<u>Neck</u>	Long and clean.	<u>Chest</u>	Wide and deep
<u>Shoulders</u>	(Important) Fine and in line with ribs.	<u>Back</u>	Very long and strong
<u>Ribs</u>	Well sprung	<u>Loin</u>	Broad and strong
<u>Sides</u>	Long and moderately deep	<u>Quarters</u>	Long, wide and not drooping
<u>Hams</u>	Very broad and full.	<u>Legs</u>	Well set, straight and fat. Fine bone
<u>Tail</u>	Set moderately high and thick-set.	<u>Skin</u>	Blue-black Fine and soft.
<u>Coat</u>	Fine and soft, with moderate quantity of straight black silky hair.		
<u>Underline</u>	Full, straight underline, with at least twelve sound, evenly spaced, well-placed teats and starting well forward		

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

<u>Ears</u>	Thick, coarse, cabbage leafed.	<u>Coat</u>	Coarse, curly or bristly-mane.
<u>Skin</u>	Thick, wrinkled or sooty-black.		
<u>Legs and Feet</u>	Crooked. Low pasterns and excessively bent hocks.		
<u>Neck</u>	Coarse Collar	<u>Head</u>	Excessive jowl, narrow forehead
<u>Shoulder</u>	Heavy and coarse shield.	<u>Condition</u>	Excessive fat to be discouraged at Show.

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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