

Conservation of rare breeds in small populations

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You find some extraordinary relicts!



= > and then the
problem begins





You have two choices:

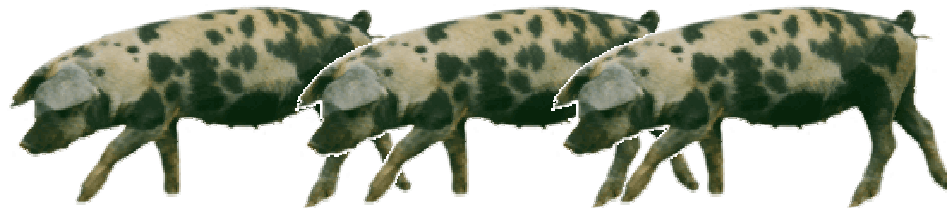
- Take the best looking animals and breed them for some generations. You will have fun, but for the breed it is over, due to inbreeding.
- Look for the whole of the relict population and start a sustainable breeding programme. Then re-establishing the breed is possible.





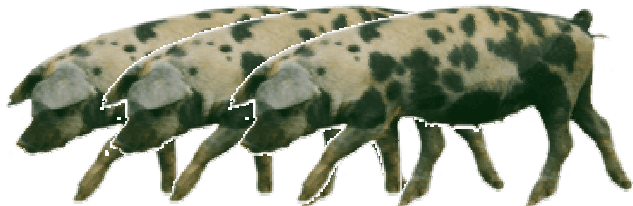
What needs to be considered?

- Problems: loss of the original animals
 Inbreeding
- Possibilities: breeder network
 rescue stations
 ex-situ conservation
- Target: long-term live conservation





Problem „loss of the originals“



- Take the off-spring, make safety doubles of the original animals or at least of each breeding line
- Decentralise the breed to new locations, so diseases or mismanagement will not affect the whole population
- By decentralising you will place more different males (win-win!)



Problem „inbreeding“

- Make from the beginning searches for additional findings in neighbouring areas (even across borders!). Get the widest possible genetic base!
- Don't include only “good looking” animals (from the point of exterior standard) into the breeding programme.
- Note the relationship between the animals, make records, establish a herdbook. Draw up mating plans!
- If you have not enough sire lines, “create” them out of unrelated females.
- Include everyone and everything in a breeding strategy!



Possibilities: network

- Connect all existing and interested breeders to a breeding association
- Involve other networks for your breed
- Include possible donors and interested individuals
- Contact and link universities and governmental bodies.





Possibilities: Rescue Stations

- If possible make use of Rescue Stations and Ark Farms. Place breeding groups there to increase the population and to get publicity for the breed.
- Establish Rescue Stations yourself for securing the breed and give the stations a certain task (e.g. function as expert centre for breed advice, tourism purposes or else).





Possibilities: Cryo conservation

- Cryo conservation should be only an additional measure to ensure the long-term existence of a breed (CBD, art. 9).
- If you cannot find enough specimen to re-establish a breed, you may at least make some frozen back-ups for future use (and you may use the living specimen in gene pool breeding).





Target: long-term conservation

- Strive for a breeding population of at least 200 animals (ruminants)
- Breed with minimal 10 unrelated males
- Look for at least 5-10 breeding places
- Establish a market for the products or give the breed another purpose, niche (e.g. with nature protection, etc.)





**We wish
a successful work and good luck!**

Thanks for
your attention!

