

STUD BOOK STRUCTURE 2026



SUMMARY

The TGCA (Traditional Gypsy Cob Association) Ltd is the body approved by DEFRA to hold the Mother Studbook for Traditional Gypsy Cobs (TGCs) and as a Passport Issuing Office (PIO) in the UK and European Union.

The TGCA is a non-profit association, seeking to protect and promote the very best of our wonderful Traditional Gypsy Cob breed, which originates from the British Isles and makes up the largest population of horses therein.

Through our studbook we aim to record the old established bloodlines and encourage best forward breeding practices, so that we can uphold and build upon the legacy of these horses whilst maintaining the quality and true-to-type stamp of cobs as set out in our Breed Standard.

1) TGCA STUDBOOK SECTIONS

The TGCA studbook comprises the three sections:

- MOTHER STUDBOOK For All Traditional Gypsy Cobs
- PART BRED IDENTITY REGISTER For Part Bred TGCs
- IDENTITY REGISTER For NON TGC'S

2) THE MOTHER STUDBOOK

The aim of the Mother Studbook is to record individual TGCs, their parentage and their offspring and to use this information to encourage responsible and considered forward breeding practices that protect, promote, and preserve to build on the best of this breed.

The TGCA will continually monitor and review its operation of the Mother Studbook and may make alterations and enhancements from time to time as required and in line with meeting the above aims. The mother studbook is open to TGCs worldwide.

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3) MOTHER STUDBOOK CATEGORIES

The Mother Studbook is further divided into three categories.

BREED IDENTITY REGISTER (BIR)

- Section A – 13 hands and under
- Section B – exceeding 13 hands

MAIN 1 (MSB1) & 2 (MSB2)

- Section A – 13 hands and under
- Section B – exceeding 13 hands
- Section C – with a non-TGCA graded sire

Breed Identity is the entry level, moving up through Supplementary 2 to Supplementary 1 and then finally the top-level Main Stud Book ie Elite Black Book

Horses registered at any level are entitled to enter TGCA classes and competitions (Note: stallions must be TGCA graded)

3.1) MOTHER STUDBOOK REGISTRATIONS

TGCs may initially apply for registration directly onto entry levels BIR, MSB2 or MSB1.

They may, later, upgrade between these levels should additional records become available.

Choice of registration at BIR, MSB2 or MSB1 is reflective of the owners' breeding intentions or any available pedigree (refer to below registration criteria). It is not our endorsement of the quality of the TGC, other than it meeting the Breed Standard.

TGCs registered at MSB2 or MSB1 may apply for acceptance onto the ELITE MAIN (Black Book) Studbook subject to meeting the criteria and sires passing the TGCA Breed grading/evaluated. Offspring of sire and dams already in MSB1 & MSB2

If any TGC registered at the BIR level wishes to apply for the Elite Main Studbook, it will first have to upgrade to either SSB2 or SSB1

3.2) STUDBOOK REGISTRATION CRITERIA

Criteria for each of the entry studbook levels are as follows. These are equitable across stallions, mares, geldings, fillies, and colts.

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Breed Identity (BIR)

BREED STANDARD	MUST meet the TGCA breed standard. This assessment will be made from images submitted with the registration paperwork. In the case of any doubt a physical inspection may be required.
PARENTAGE	NOT required. Note NOT recorded even if available
DNA of TGC	NOT required

This entry level is suitable for TGCs with no verified breeding but that meet the breed standard. Horses are entitled to enter TGCA classes and competitions (note: stallions are required to pass a Performance grading)

MAIN 2 (MSB2) – Sections A, B and C

BREED STANDARD	As Breed Identity.
PARENTAGE	NOT required. Up to two generations of verified pedigree WILL be recorded if applicable.
DNA of TGC	REQUIRED

Suitable for TGCs with limited verified breeding for recording OR that are being held as potential breeding animals. These TGCs may apply for evaluation for **Elite Studbook Status.ie BLACK BOOK Sires must be Breed graded/evaluated**

MAIN 1 (MSB1) – Sections A, B and C

BREED STANDARD	As Breed Identity.
PARENTAGE	REQUIRED: A minimum of 6 sets of verified DNA, including both parents, and a minimum of 2 Grandparents plus 2 further profiles. Full verified pedigree WILL be recorded.
DNA of TGC	REQUIRED

Suitable for TGCs with fuller verified pedigree for recording and that may be held as potential breeding animals. These TGCs may apply for evaluation for **Elite Studbook Status IE BLACK BOOK**

Sires must be Breed graded /evaluated

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4) THE MAIN STUDBOOK: 'THE ELITE BLACK BOOK'

The Main Elite Studbook is our kite mark of quality of a TGC, which may only be obtained after Sires passing the full Breed evaluation/inspection, focusing on a myriad of health and quality factors.

TGCs granted Elite MAIN Studbook status, are those animals the TGCA is endorsing as true quality breeding TGCs for the betterment of the breed going forwards.

MAIN Studbook TGCs and their offspring (i.e. BOTH sire AND dam are on the Main studbook MSB1 & MSB2) will have access to elite TGCA Breed Association advertising on the TGCA Website and Official Facebook Page. BREED Main Studbook Horses will be publicised by the TGCA.

Owners of Breed graded stallions must be members of the TGCA in the year of covering and the year of foaling for offspring to be allowed to be registered in the Elite Black Book

4.1) MAIN STUDBOOK STAR RANKINGS

MAIN Studbook TGCs will be listed on the main TGCA website showing the level of pass status this can be upgraded and reassessed at the discretion of the TGCA.

5) Historic Stallions/Mares on the Studbook

Historic Stallions/Mares are those recognised at the discretion of the TGCA to be or to have been major contributors to the evolution and refinement of this breed. Historic Stallions/ Mares will be eligible for entry into the TGCA main studbook. Where a Historic Stallion/Mare is deceased the TGCA may award the Historic Stallion/mare status to a direct descendant to record the bloodlines and recognise their importance in the breeding gene pool.

6) Transitional Arrangements

Horses registered with the TGCA under the 2012 and prior system (i.e. before DEFRA Breed Association approval) remain as FSB or AUX. These are no longer available

Horses registered on the main studbook since 2012 but pre August 2015 will remain on the Main Studbook.

The new Main Stud Book supersedes the previous stallion breed licensing scheme. Any stallions holding their old 'Breed license may apply for the main stud book at a reduced rate of £100.

7) Verified Pedigree Explained

Pedigree information must be supported by DNA records if it is to be recorded in the TGCA studbook and subsequently printed as verified pedigree in passports or certificates.

The only exception to this is for deceased Historic Stallions/Mares (and their widely accepted historic lineage (see 5) with no available DNA. These may be named in the pedigree of progeny at the absolute discretion of the TGCA and following the review of all supporting information. In this event it will be highlighted as 'Historic'.

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Where the DNA proven pedigree does not relate to horses already registered, or in the process of being registered, with the TGCA it MUST be shown to trace back to traditional gypsy cobs originating from the British Isles and be supported by supplementary paperwork/ images/information.

No Traditional Gypsy Cob will be entered directly onto Supplementary Stud Book 1, or have pedigree recorded unless proven to the satisfaction of and at the discretion of the TGCA.

8) PART BRED IDENTITY REGISTER

A Part Bred Identity Register (PBR) will be maintained for Part Bred TGCs applying for a passport or to be over stamped with the TGCA. First and subsequent generations of TGCs on the Mother Studbook may enter the Part Bred Register. The part bred register is kept for showing purposes. Part bred equines wishing to obtain a passport with the TGCA will only be issued an Identity Only document passport.

Any non TGC element of a pedigree which has been verified by a current DEFRA registered breed society will not be entered into the TGCA passport. A pedigree certificate can be entered into the non-statutory page i.e. page 45. These horses must reside in the UK.

Registration (over stamps) of horses outside the UK will be offered as a registration certificate

9) IDENTITY REGISTER

An Identity Register (IR) will be maintained for non TGCs who apply for a passport with the TGCA. These horses must reside in the UK. Their passport will only show type

“The TGCA will enter into the breeding book, animals of the same breed, line or cross that are eligible for entry under the Society’s breed criteria, without discrimination on account of their country of origin.”