

American Mulefoot Breeders Association, Inc.



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AMBA Board of Director's A*N*N*O*U*N*C*E*M*E*N*T

Effective Immediately

SUBJECT: Lars3 boar hog, progeny & AMBA herd book

History:

Lars3 boar was registered with inaccuracies in statements of fact regarding his breeding. AMBA contacted the breeder after two members purchased pigs from that breeder, one being a "pregnant gilt and unrelated boar". The sire boar on registration paperwork was stated to be Lars3.

A number of contacts were made to Lars3's breeder to try to resolve these discrepancies using advice from The Livestock Conservancy, including an audit of current swine stock and proof of breeders, breeds, and adult, juvenile and piglet handling and housing on the farm. The Lars3 breeder was advised that they had six months to complete the necessary steps to fulfill Probation successfully, including providing photographic evidence of their breeding program, proof of security changes to keep other breeding males away from purebred gilts and sows, and proper record keeping.

To complete the Probation, the breeder would show proof of informing all Lars3 progeny buyers of the issue and not sell or advertise any stock as "register-able". They would be unable to register any stock with AMBA until satisfactorily completing Probation.

Breeder continued to provide evasive and incorrect statements as evidence on their website, Facebook page, and other breeders' direct testimony about purebred American Mulefoot Hogs at their location, for sale and sold. Breeder admitted to past Chairman that they "really don't know who the sire is" and that "all our hogs and pigs are in one lot together".

AMBA and Directors were threatened; a past Board met several times with this issue, and voted to rescind membership and ban this breeder & farm from future memberships. Because there was no evidence that Lars3 had sired litters and was stated to be “deceased”, no action was taken by AMBA to challenge his qualification or record.

2021 Escalation:

AMBA was not notified of any Lars3 progeny issues after Probation and suspension (ban) until mid-2021. It was reported through a new member & breeder that they had purchased Lars3 related stock which produced chipmunk and/or red piglets with black spots. Because there was no evidence presented (paper trail, photographic evidence, farm/owner names) that Lars3 had sired litters and was stated “deceased” no action was taken by AMBA. This was discussed on Facebook and never presented to AMBA to take action.

Before fall 2021 there were two other reports of ineligible coat color/pattern of piglets from Lars3 progeny. These were Facebook page/group reports.

AMBA unexpectedly shutdown from early Oct. 2021 to Spring 2022.

2022 Road to Resolution:

At the first 2022 Board of Director’s Meeting, Lars3 issues were discussed. Without in-depth discussion of a resolution, it was agreed to add an asterisk (**) to Lars3’s record in the herd book and stop processing all Lars3 progeny until further notice. This decision was brought to a vote and unanimously passed. Jeff Ebert, Registrar, ASRegistry@gmail.com, was notified.

The Board met again in July with Chairman introducing a proposal for corrective measures. It was brought to a vote and unanimously the resolution passed. The issue and resolution was immediately brought to two current breeders with Lars3 progeny who also agreed that this measure was appropriate.

Chairman presented at previous Board Meeting that “culling” based on suppositions and inadequate investigative data would mean cutting off a complete and potentially valuable genetic line.

“With our gene pool so limited, we cannot afford to act irrationally and hastily,” Chairman shared this with all parties. “DNA proof will give us what is needed to move forward.” Directors and two currently affected breeders agreed.

Provisional Resolution:

Due to the extremely difficult situation balancing the accuracy and integrity of the AMBA Herd Book with the true crisis unknowing breeders faced after purchasing what they thought were fully qualified and registered hogs, the Board of Directors met again, and with input from our subject matter expert, Dr. Juan P. Steibel, Iowa State University, agreed upon the following resolution.

Provisional Registration for Lars3 Progeny

Lars3 pigs have been under extreme scrutiny for a few years and the only way to “prove” him is through his progeny via DNA testing. We have identified one ‘first son’ specimen and will continue to look for other first line offspring from other dams.

AMBA Registry is currently open to Lars3 offspring with the following restrictions:

A - Applications for litters with Lars3 in the pedigree must first come through the AMBA Office, PO Box 2883, Appomattox, VA 24553, or mulefootregistry@gmail.com, for pre-approval. Note that this is a “P” or Provisional Registration on email subject line & in documents. Documents required (found on the website: www.AmericanMulefoot.com):

- 1 - Membership application (if not current in dues)
- 2 - Worksheet (unless Combo-Application is available)
- 3 - Registration application with “P” noted (updated Registration application is currently unavailable. Please use Registration Application on website, noting “P” for Provisional Application.

B - Registration process will follow this protocol:

- 1 - A “P” prefix will be noted on the Certificate of Registry (preceding number).
- 2 - “P” or Provisional Registration Application must be accompanied with a photograph of full face with ears and ear tags or notches visible.
- 3 - Additional photographs with each hoof clearly depicted and marked, and showing back and sides for coat identification, must be submitted.
- 4 - Registry will retain these as part of your animal’s permanent record.
- 5 - Email documentation and photos are acceptable (preferred), sent to: mulefootregistry@gmail.com. Do NOT send “P” Provisional documentation or photographs

to Registry at Kansas. Photographic evidence must be accepted by the Board and/or expert team members.

C - Breeding a Lars3 progeny hog:

1 - "P" or Provisional registered stock should not be bred to any related or Lars3 progeny until cleared through DNA testing.

2 - Lars3 progeny must report litters through AMBA, Appomattox office, until notification received that the Lars3 line has been authenticated through DNA testing.

3 - ANY coat color irregularity in offspring must be submitted to AMBA, Appomattox office, with photo of full face, ear tag/notches clearly depicted and photo of coat irregularity. Registration application or a similar document may be required to retain piglet or litter information with irregular coat color. This provision will be ongoing with Lars3 progeny until further notice.

4 - Lars3 progeny reported piglets or litters with coat irregularities do not require fees in the case of terminal or feeder breeding. This step is for identification and tracking anomalies within the Lars3 line only.

5 - Lars3 progeny with irregular coat color or other anomalies but may not be sold or transferred as "register-able" nor Registration or Provisional Registration attempted.

D - "P" Provisional Registration designation:

1 - "P" prefix will remain on the Herd Book record if and until Lars3 is exonerated by completion of scientifically acceptable proof by DNA testing.

2 - Upon completion of DNA testing showing 100% purebred status of Lars3 and progeny, or acceptable scientific percentage within the American Mulefoot Hog family, "P" status will be updated to designate "DNA authenticated". Code for DNA authentication has not been determined at this point. Certificate of Registry number with "P" prefix will remain unchanged.

3 - Owners of Lars3 stock authenticated by DNA testing will receive a letter of explanation of status, and any receiving a new Certificate of Registry (ie: non-member DNA tested and related stock, new litters of Lars3 stock irregardless of position in lineage) will show DNA authentication.

E - Owners of "P" Provisional Registration stock related to Lars3, upon DNA authentication, can submit Membership Application and Work Sheet (unless Combo

Application is available) with applicable fee(s) to purchase a Duplicate reprint of their “P” Provisional Certificate of Registry with the new DNA authentication code.

F - Failure of any Lars3, or any other AMBA Certificate of Registry stock including Recovery Candidates, to test for DNA and meet scientific qualifications for acceptable “purebred” standard to be included in the original AMBA Herd Book will be disqualified and the current owner will be notified.

AMBA is working on parameters for a second tier registration process and Herd Book, but these details have not been finalized.