

LONGHORN

— Cattle Society —

BREED STANDARD AND DESCRIPTION

- Distribution** The breed (310 herds) is found throughout the UK but predominantly in the South West and Midlands of England with others in Wales (18) Scotland including Orkney (20) Ireland (4). There are also Longhorn herds in the EU (12) USA (1) Australia (2) and New Zealand (2)
- Stature** (typical)
- | | <i>Bull</i> | <i>Female</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Mature weight (kg) | 1000 – 1200 | 650 - 850 |
| Mature height at withers (cm) | 145 – 155 | 135 - 145 |
| 400 day weight (kg) | 450 – 550 | 360 - 460 |
| Birth weight (kg) | 35 – 45 | 30 – 40 |
- Colour** Colour varies from terracotta red, rich red, through roan to red brindle and plum brindle with variable amounts of white, invariably a long white line down the spine - known as finch back - and preferentially a white patch on each thigh. Black animals with no red hair are not favoured.
- Head** The head is wide between the eyes with a broad muzzle and incisors fitting well against the dental pad. In the female the head can be longer and more feminine. The eye should be prominent but docile in the female - bold but placid in the male.
- Horns** Horns, when present, are fine but long with traces of pink towards the base; generally with a forward and/or downward sweep, often incurved towards the mouth [known as bonnet horns]. A percentage of females [c.20%] exhibit a distal upturn to the horn. Black horns are not favoured.
- Body** The body is long and level throughout; deep with well-sprung ribs and broad at the loin; full over the chine and with good length from hooks to pins. In the female hook bones are prominent with a gentle slope from hooks to deep wide pin bones whilst still maintaining a level top-line. The shoulder should be smooth, the brisket neat and in the male the sheath should not be too loose or pendulous. A well-filled second thigh is favoured but the double muscling myostatin allele should not be present in the genetic make-up.
- Udder** Females should have a well-attached, level silky udder with four well-placed medium sized teats.
- Hide and hair** The hide is exceptionally thick but pliable and supple to touch. Hair in all seasons is generally long and dense - silky in summer but rougher in winter
- Legs** Legs should be well placed with adequate turn at the hock and pastern joints whilst exhibiting straightness laterally both while standing and in movement. The Longhorn exhibits a bold smooth stride enabling it to cover the ground at an impressive pace.
- Ease of Calving** The Longhorn has one of the largest pelvic aperture to bodyweight ratios which along with its low birth weight makes it one of the easiest of calving breeds.
- Docility** The Longhorn is one of the world's most docile breeds - its horns belie a most placid nature.