

Gonadal Hypoplasia Declaration Policy

The Board of Speckle Park International Ltd (SPI) recognize that Gonadal Hypoplasia (GH) is a recessive genetic condition that is relevant to the breed of Speckle Park Cattle.

Research continues into the causation and genes associated with GH, with the ultimate aim to have a commercially available DNA test for breeders to DNA test potential carriers.

Until the day that a DNA test is readily available to breeders, SPI is taking the interim step for members to have the opportunity to disclose GH affected animals.

GH has been added to the list of genetic conditions listed against an animal, similar to Poll, Coat and Myostatin. All animals will initially be set to the genetic status of unknown

The status of an animal will only be changed by SPI on the submission of a vet certificate, signed off by an independent certified/registered veterinarian.

A current (i.e. no more than 3 months old) vet certificate stating that an animal is an hypoplastic affected animal will only be accepted from the current owner of the animal.

Upon the receipt of the independently signed veterinary certificate, the SPI office will update the animal's status from "unknown" to "vet certified affected (VCA)".

Animals cannot be declared unaffected/free from GH as preliminary research has shown GH to be an recessive gene with incomplete penetrance, and while an animal may appear "normal" , there is a percentage chance that it may still be a carrier.

Therefore, at this stage an animal's status can only be "unknown" or "VCA".



Animals that are classed as “VCA” will not be deregistered, but rather simply have their GH status updated so that Speckle Park breeders can make informed decisions when it comes to considering joinings.

At this time, SPI will not make participation in this program mandatory, members are encouraged to consider the issue of GH within the breed and their herd and encourage members to adopt suitable management practices.

As the science in relation to GH develops SPI will update this policy and make a future determination as to whether it is appropriate to require the GH status of an animal to be disclosed as part of its registration.

Disclaimer:

SPI specifically disclaims any liability that may arise as a result of any animal within the breed being Gonadal Hypoplasia (GH) affected. Information contained in the SPI GH policy and in the SPI herdbook, including but not limited to pedigree, DNA information, Estimated Breeding Values and Index values, is based on data supplied by members and/or third parties. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information, SPI, its officers and employees assume no responsibility for its content, use or interpretation. Data submitted to the Association may have errors in it which cannot be detected without further DNA testing. Technology may have advanced since a particular test was undertaken so that previous inaccuracies which were not detectable are now able to be detected by current testing technology. An animal with the GH status ‘Unknown’ has not undergone genetic testing to verify its GH status, and the status relies on the pedigree for the animal as indicated by its breeder.