

FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



Oxford Sandy and Black Pig Group Foundation Charity

Public Notice: BPA Allegations towards the OSBPG Charity

In the autumn of 2021, the Oxford Sandy and Black Pig Group (OSBPG) Foundation Charity (OSBPG Charity) received an open letter from legal representatives of The British Pig Association, threatening legal action.

The letter alleged that The British Pig Association is the proprietor of certain intellectual property rights in certain herdbooks and alleged that the OSBPG's register of Oxford and Sandy Black Pigs infringed such rights. Specifically, The British Pig Association alleged that the OSBPG Charity was liable for civil copyright infringement and database right infringement and that the individual trustees of the Charity were liable for criminal copyright infringement. The letters demanded a response by 10 November 2021.

The OSBPG Charity takes allegations of this nature very seriously. While we were confident that the OSBPG Charity's activity was not infringing any intellectual property rights, and that the individual trustees were not criminally liable, we took the immediate step to temporarily close its register while we sought legal advice.

Without allowing the OSBPG Charity time to respond within the 10 November 2021 deadline it had itself imposed, on 05 November 2021 The British Pig Association sent an email directly to Oxford Sandy and Black breeders alleging that the OSBPG Charity had not responded to its letters. That email included factual inaccuracies and groundless allegations. **Many of you will have received this communication.**

We have asked The British Pig Association, on a number of occasions, to contact the recipients of its email in order to correct the position but it has failed to do so.

The purpose of this communication is to attempt to repair the potential damage done to the reputation of OSBPG Charity and its trustees.

We hope that those in receipt of the email from The British Pig Association saw it for what we believe it was – an attempt to disrupt the OSBPG Charity's legitimate and important work. We consider that these public allegations are unacceptable and fall way below the standards of practice expected from such an organisation.

We have now received specialist legal advice, which has vindicated our position. We have been advised that the OSBPG Charity's activities, and those of the individual trustees, do not constitute the infringement of any intellectual property rights alleged by The British Pig Association. We have responded to The British Pig Association in this regard but have not received a response to our latest letter. As such we infer that The British Pig Association accepts that their allegations were unsustainable.

On that basis, we are pleased to confirm that the Oxford and Sandy Black Pig Group register will be reopened shortly (exact date pending).

Thanks to the efforts of the OSBPG and the OSBPG Charity the Oxford Sandy and Black Pig profile has been raised, numbers have grown significantly, enthusiasm has grown, and the geographical spread has broadened. The OSBPG Charity is proud to be the first pig breed-specific charity organisation in the UK and to be creating a better future for the breed and its breeders.

We are pleased to now refocus our efforts in making positive progress for our beloved breed.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this difficult period for the Charity.

February 4th 2022