



American Mulefoot hogs are said to be one of the rarest breeds alive.

## Rare Mulefoot Hogs Have Solid Hooves

American Mulefoot Hogs have a distinctive solid hoof that looks like a mule or a horse. They're classified as one of the rarest breeds alive by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.

"The Mulefoot population is considered critical because there are less than 200 annual registrations of these hogs, and less than 2000 in the global population," says South Dakota breeder Arie McFarlen. "We're exceptionally lucky to have 35 breeding Mulefoots here at Maveric Heritage Ranch."

Mulefoots are solid black and occasionally have white feet or noses. They have medium flop ears, a soft body coat, and are typically docile, friendly and exceptionally intelligent. Mulefoots generally reach 400 to 600 pounds by age two and are an excellent hog for meat production, being considered a premium ham hog.

"The breed is native to the U.S.," McFarlen says. "I don't believe there are any in Canada. We don't know of any on the East Coast. Most of these pigs are found in the Midwest. We have the largest herd in existence."

She encourages anyone who thinks they have Mulefoots, and who isn't already affiliated with the American Mulefoot Registry, to please contact either her or the registry.

She sells offspring from her own herd, so anyone interested in helping to preserve the breed can obtain their own breeding stock.



Mulefoots have solid hooves that look much like the hooves found on mules and horses.

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## Dog-Powered Scooter

Alaskan dog sledders have nothing on Judi and Scott Scharns. Their full-blooded Malamute pulls them along their North Carolina roads on a scooter.

"Our dog needed more exercise than we could give it, and my husband Scott suggested having him pull something," explains Judi. "I saw a dog powered scooter on the internet, but it cost \$140, and it didn't look strong enough to handle our 140-lb. dog, Togo."

When Scott saw an old style Schwinn Stingray bike with wide back tires for trick riding, he knew he had the answer. The 20-in. bike only cost \$80, and it was built rugged with hand brakes for front and rear wheels.

Scott stripped the chain from it, loosened one pedal crank arm and flipped it so both pedals were hanging down at the same time. He then mounted two scrap pine boards as side boards to the pedals and to L-brackets he hung from the rear frame. While the bike can no longer be pedaled, it is ideal for standing on while being pulled.

The Scharns had a pulling harness made for Togo. Scott hooks a long (30-ft.) leash to the harness. At the bike, he runs it through a doubled over bungee cord attached to the handlebars and then into his hand.

"The bungee cord acts as a shock absorber," says Scott.

If Togo runs off the road, all Scott or Judi



Judi and Scott Scharns' Malamute dog pulls them along North Carolina roads on a scooter.

need do is step off the sideboards. The hand brakes ensure the bike doesn't overtake the dog going down hills. "The heavy back tire is ideal for our dirt and gravel roads," says Judi.

Training Togo was easy. A neighbor rode his bike alongside the harnessed dog holding his leash while Scott rode behind on the scooter.

"Once he figured out the scooter was behind him, he just ran, occasionally looking back to watch what he was pulling," explains Judi.

"He has one speed," says Scott. "And that's wide open."

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"American Guinea Hogs" are a "critically rare" breed, with only about 70 known adult breeding animals left in the world. They were once popular in the southern U.S.



## She's Helping Preserve Rare Guinea Hog Breed

There are only approximately 70 known adult breeding "American Guinea Hogs" in the world, making this breed "critically rare". At this point, there are only four bloodlines that are being maintained by five active breeders in the U.S.

In an effort to preserve the breed and replenish their aging and dwindling herds, these enthusiastic producers are searching for others who might also have Guinea Hogs.

"If any other bloodstock is out there, it's paramount that we work together to help disperse the bloodlines," says breeder Arie McFarlen of Maveric Heritage Ranch Co. at Dell Rapids, S. Dakota. "That way, we could do something about bringing the numbers up. We are willing to purchase, lease or trade Guinea Hogs with other folks to help increase everyone's breeding population."

McFarlen has only six adult breeding stock Guineas and sells piglets twice per year, however she has a waiting list for well into 2008.

This breed is solid black with prick ears. Sows weigh between 85 and 125 lbs., and boars are between 125 and 200 lbs. on average. They were once popular in the southern U.S. and are very hardy.

According to the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, "the American Guinea Hog is a small, black breed of swine that is unique to the United States. Also known as the Guinea Forest Hog, the breed was popular for a long period of time in America, but

today is nearly extinct. Hogs were believed to be imported from West Africa to America in conjunction with the slave trade."

McFarlen says other colorful names for guineas include Yard Pigs and Acorn Eaters. They should not be confused with Pot-Bellied Pigs, however.

"Guineas are functional, practical and fun. They produce a smaller carcass, and are therefore appealing to people with limited or no freezer space," she adds. "For homesteading, Guineas are wonderful service hogs. They can be used to till up garden areas and clean up weedy spots. They are easily raised on a variety of forage and feeds in pasture or confinement. They are considered a lard hog."

Guineas are also intelligent, friendly and loving, making them wonderful pets and companions, McFarlen says. They make good additions to petting zoos, exhibit zoos and pig races, too.

Due to the rarity of Guinea Hogs, buyers should expect to pay a premium for these animals, she adds.

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## He Loves His Articulated Cub Cadet

"I'm always building stuff, and when I saw a picture of a Cub Cadet built from two tractors I decided I had to have one, too. I liked what I saw so much that I drove 400 miles to get a closer look in person," says Warren Newton of Fort Gratiot, Mich. "I took pictures of it, drove it and got tips from the owner on how to build one of my own. He lived at Paxton, Illinois." (See FARM SHOW Vol. 25, No. 6).

Once armed with the necessary information, Newton began his project using two Cub Cadets he already had. He completed the work over the winter, two years ago.

He removed both tractors' mower decks and then cut the front part of the frame of each one as well. Newton then removed one of the motors and mounted it in one of the rear ends instead.

Next, he joined the two rear ends together so that they articulated in the middle and added hydraulic steering. A drive shaft runs to the pump in the front.

"I already had hydraulics on it to raise and lower the mower deck, so I used that to power the steering unit, which I had salvaged from a lift truck," he says. "Having hydraulic steering is a nice feature. It's just like having power steering on a car."

Newton gave the unit a set of new tires.



Warren Newton built this articulated Cub Cadet from two Cub Cadets.

He says the front hood was too short and the back hood was too long, so he cut six inches off one to put on the other.

Newton purchased a lot of fittings and hoses new, but says he didn't keep track of how much he spent on the project. "I don't want to know," he jokes. But he had fun making it, and still has fun with it now, which was his goal.

"I like it because it's different," he comments. "A lot of people tell me that I don't know if I'm coming or going, and this proves it. I take it to parades and shows and drive it around like a little kid with a toy."

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