

# Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire Creole pigs



## ARUBA, CURAÇAO AND BONAIRE CREOLE PIGS

The Aruba, Curaçao and Bonaire Creole pigs probably derive from Iberian stock. Christopher Columbus brought eight pigs with him in 1493 when he crossed the Atlantic from Portugal. His ships had taken supplies, including pigs and livestock, in the Canary Islands (Gomera). Released on the West-Indian islands, they soon became feral and, with various others dropped off here and there by various navigators and explorers from Portugal and Spain, they rapidly populated the Spanish Indies, spreading in due course to mainland America (Parker, 1993). The Curaçao Creole pig is a black haired, long snouted pig, while the Aruba Creole pig is usually blotched, although some Curaçao pigs are also blotched. In Bonaire both black and blotched pigs are found. The Aruba pig is probably derived from a small population of Curaçao pigs, the blotched pattern is likely a result of inbreeding. The tails are straight; there are no curls in the tail. The head is relatively large. The skull slopes gradually, almost without a bend. The Dutch landrace (Nederlands landras) has a strong bend in the skull.



In later years these Creole pigs have been mixed with Yorkshire, Duroc and most recently Dutch landrace. Small numbers of Great Yorkshire pigs were introduced in Curaçao in the early 20th century. Some Duroc pigs were brought in somewhat later and Dutch landrace were introduced on a somewhat larger scale in the second half of the 20th century. It is now difficult to find Curaçao pigs which seem completely pure. There is no program to preserve the original Curaçao pig. The Dutch landrace has also been introduced on Aruba and Bonaire, though not on the same scale.

## LITERATURE

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