

PANTANEIRO CATTLE

Pantaneiro bull in a herd



Origin: Pantaneiro cattle descend from European breeds brought to Brazil during Spanish expeditions. Colonization spread out far from the seashore in the sixteenth century taking these animals into the Pantanal wetland region. However, the breed has been frequently mislabeled and listed as Portuguese descendents due to interpretations from several historic events such as the treaty of Madrid, colonization processes into the West side of the country and also Lusitanian expeditions that brought cattle soon after the Spanish (Serrano et al., 2004; Egito et al., 2007). Nevertheless, it does have phenotypical similarities with Portuguese breeds such as Mirandesa and Brava Cattle. This breed springs from the *Bostaurusibericus* group (Athanasoff, 1957). They are also named as “Tucura” and “Cuiabano” in a more local and traditional terminology. It performed a great roll in the wetland region until the early twentieth century providing jerky meat (“charque”) and making leather exportation feasible. Later, it also worked as a supply of live cattle designated for fattening when more modern slaughter industries were implanted in the southeast region of Brazil.

Characteristics: small or medium sized cattle, with predominant straight backlines and moderate convex nasal profiles. However, some individuals present a straight nasal profile. The muzzle is generally black and may present a white ring at it. Horns are round shaped, laterally inserted and directed to the front. The ears are small and present hair on the inner side.

Pantaneiro cows



Coat colors vary between dark yellowish or reddish tones and are marked by darker shades on the extreme body regions and by white hair patterns in the belly. The animals present docile behavior when constantly managed and present a bad and more aggressive temper when isolated in extreme extensive systems (Mazza et al., 1994). Cows are light weighted probably due to environmental conditions. Studies point out that female cattle between 6 and 8 months, 13 and 15 months, 41 and 43 months of age weigh around 146Kg, 160Kg and 333Kg, respectively. Males are considered to be bulls when they are older than 15 months (Barbosa, 2012).

Population: Identified Pantaneiro individuals may not add 1,000. However, there is a lack of general investigation. Conservation centers are located in the municipality of Corumbá (MS), Poconé (MT), Aquidauana (MS) and Rochedo (MS), in the Nhumirim, Promissão, NUBOPAN and Santo Augusto farms, respectively. These are conservation centers that work in partnership with Embrapa (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation) and other research institutions in favor of population increase and studies concerning genetic, sanitary, productive and reproductive traits (Marques Jr. et al. 2012).

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