



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 2006**

## **GOING FOR GOLD**

Urgent action has been taken by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) and the Golden Guernsey Goat Society to safeguard the future of the breed.

Responding to deep concern among breeders at the loss of bloodlines and increased level of inbreeding, the RBST undertook a genetic analysis and is carrying out an emergency collection of semen from males of five bloodlines which are currently under represented in the population. This initial collection will be followed by others from males of specific rare bloodlines.

Semen stored in the Trusts' National GeneBank will safeguard valuable genetics in the event of a future disease epidemic, and some may be used in a breed support programme which is being developed with the Breed Society to maximise and maintain genetic diversity, which will, in time, ensure the breed has a golden future.

For further details please contact Dr Dawn Teverson on 024 7669 8767 or by e-mail to [dawn.teverson@rbst.org.uk](mailto:dawn.teverson@rbst.org.uk) or Claire Barber on 024 7669 8762 or by e-mail to [claire.barber@rbst.org.uk](mailto:claire.barber@rbst.org.uk)

**Ends**

### **Notes for editor**

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust is a charity established in 1973. It works to conserve more than 70 breeds of native farm livestock. The charity is funded entirely by membership subscriptions, donations and legacies.

Press Contact: Paula Mayfield, RBST, Stoneleigh Park, Nr Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. Tel: 024 7669 8764 or e-mail [paula@rbst.org.uk](mailto:paula@rbst.org.uk).