

## Appendix A

Table S1. The descriptive statistics of five traits<sup>1</sup>

Trait	N	Minimum	Lower-hinge	Median	Upper-hinge	Maximum	<i>P</i> -Value <sup>2</sup>
D <sup>3</sup>	202	-0.60(0.55)	0.01(1.01)	0.27(1.31)	0.47(1.60)	1.27(3.56)	0.05
IMF <sup>3</sup>	231	0.17(1.18)	0.60(1.82)	0.76(2.14)	0.95(2.59)	1.36(3.90)	0.33
pH24h	228	4.81	5.43	5.58	5.71	6.27	0.13
pH45m	231	5.96	6.45	6.60	6.78	7.15	0.20
WHC <sup>2</sup>	221	0.93	1.32	1.41	1.49	1.78	0.06

Note: <sup>1</sup> Five traits are intramuscular fat content (IMF), pH at 45 min and 24 h (pH45m and pH24h), water-holding capacity (WHC) and drip loss within 24 h (DL).

<sup>2</sup> The *P* value came from the Shapiro-Wilk normality test under null hypothesis: normality is true.

<sup>3</sup> The napierian based logarithm transformation for normal distribution was used for these traits, DL, IMF and WHC and the original data were in brackets.