

RULES OF THE EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

GENERAL

1. Additions, repeals or alterations to any Society Rules shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the Rules must be received by the Secretary of the Society at least forty two days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least twenty one days notice of such meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed.
2. The interpretation of any Rules of the Society decided by the Committee shall be final.
3. Any proposition put to vote at a Committee Meeting, or any proposition that in effect negates that proposition may not, between the time of one Annual General Meeting and the next, be voted upon again at the immediately following Committee Meeting, unless fresh information is introduced.
4. The financial year of the Society shall end on the 31st December each year.
5. All correspondence addressed to the Chairman, on account of his office, and copies or precis of his/her replies shall become the property of the Society and shall be handed, in good order, to the succeeding Chairman at the termination of office of any Chairman.

BREED STANDARD

6. That the definition of an Exmoor Pony be according to the Breed Standard as follows:
 1. Height: The preferred Height Range is - Stallions & Geldings 11.3hh (119.4cm) to 12.3hh (129.5) at maturity. - Mares 11.2hh (116.8cm) to 12.2hh (127 cm) at maturity.
 2. General: Definite "pony" character; hard & strong; Vigorous alert and symmetrical in appearance; Mealy muzzle; prominent hooded toad eye.
 3. Head & Ears short, thick & pointed; clean cut face; wide forehead, eyes large, wide apart and prominent with well defined fleshy hood and pale colouration outlining the eyes (Toad Eyes); wide nostrils; mealy muzzle; clean throat; good length of rein.
Neck:
 4. Shoulders: Clean, fine at top, well laid back.

5. Chest: Deep & wide between & behind forelegs; Ribs long, deep, well sprung & wide apart.
6. Back: Level; broad & level across loins; tail neatly set in.
7. Legs: Clean & short, with neat uniformly dark hoof walls; forelegs straight, well apart & squarely set; hind legs well apart, nearly perpendicular from hock to fetlock with point of hock in line with pelvis bone; wide curve from flank to hock joint; legs free in motion with no tendency to sweep or turn.
8. Action: Straight & smooth, without exaggerated action.
9. Coat: Summer - close, hard & bright.
Winter - a double-layered dense coat with an under insulating layer of fine, Springy hair and an outer water-proofing layer of hard, greasy hair.
10. Colour: Bay, brown or dun, with black points; mealy colour on muzzle, round eyes & Inside flanks; no white markings anywhere.
11. Quality: Alert expression and general poise indicating balance and symmetry of movement; flat clean bone.

INSPECTORS

7. (a) Any two members of the Committee or members of the Exmoor Judges' and/or Inspectors' Panel may nominate, in writing, a person for appointment to the panel of inspectors; the Committee to decide the requisite qualification of each candidate. Such nominations may be made to the Secretary at any time but the final appointment shall be made as in 7 (b).

(b) The Committee shall, from time to time, appoint Society inspectors following assessment and completion of an appropriate training period. In an emergency the Secretary shall have power to appoint not more than one person to act temporarily as an inspector. In such an emergency the Secretary shall have authority to act as an Inspector.

(c) It is the duty of inspectors to inspect the ponies that require inspection before they can be certified for entry into the main section of the Exmoor Pony Stud Book and to sign the prescribed form of certificate if and when they are satisfied that the pony conforms to the Society Rules and is of sufficient merit to warrant registration.

PONY REGISTRATION

8. (a) Any pony whose sire and dam are already registered in the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society stud book is eligible for registration in the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society stud book, subject to proof of parentage as defined in the appropriate EU legislation. Parentage verification by DNA is mandatory for all foals.

(1) Those that meet the required standard when inspected by Exmoor Pony Society Inspectors shall be registered in Section 1 of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book.

(2) Those that do not meet the required standard when inspected by Exmoor Pony Society inspectors shall be registered in Section X of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book.

(3) (i) Any pony not presented for inspection can only be registered in Section X of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society stud book subject to proof of parentage as in (a) above.

(ii) In exceptional circumstances as decided by the Committee, the Secretary could register a pony into Section I or Section X as appropriate on receipt of paperwork whereby a vet had microchipped, completed a Society question form and silhouette, photographs of the pony had been submitted and parentage had been verified by DNA.

(b) No pony shall be registered until the owner has paid the society any due registration fee as may be appropriate.

(c) No pony shall be registered unless the sire and dam have already been registered in the main section of the Exmoor Pony Stud Book

(d) Only foals sired by a licensed stallion will be eligible for registration in Section 1 of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book, subject to the provisions of Rule 11.

(e) No pony shall be registered in Section 1 of the main section of the Stud Book that is deemed to be suffering from hereditary unsoundness or such unsoundness as should, in the opinion of the Society Inspectors, disqualify it from such registration. The owner may call in a qualified, practising Veterinary Surgeon, registered by the RCVS, who has regularly attended horses over the preceding five years, whose decision shall be final. If the Veterinary Surgeon's opinion is given against the owner, the owner will be liable for the Veterinary Surgeon's fee. The Society will be liable otherwise.

(f) Every inspection shall be made on the authority of the Secretary and every Inspection certificate shall be signed by two Inspectors of the Society and the owner or agent of the pony, only one of such inspectors shall be a temporary inspector authorised under Rule 7 (b).

(g) The reason for not registering any pony in Section 1 of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book shall be recorded on the inspection form along with the breeding of the pony.

(h) Any pony not registered in Section 1 of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book at first inspection because it did not meet the required standard will be eligible for re-inspection at a later date and after a period of not less than 6 months.

(i) Ponies will be registered in the main section of the stud book with the Society herd number belonging to the breeder and the individual number within the herd. The member deemed to be the breeder shall either be the owner of the mare at the time of foaling or the person or organisation leasing or borrowing the mare at the time of foaling provided that the written permission of the owner of the dam has been received in the Society office prior to the inspection.

(j) If, in exceptional circumstances, a pony is not notified for inspection as per the procedures laid down by DEFRA for registration within 6 months of birth or by 31st December in the year of birth, whichever is the later, a later inspection may be requested. The owner of the pony shall apply in writing to the secretary explaining the exceptional circumstances. If approved by a majority decision of the EPS committee, the pony can be inspected provided that all the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (1) the parentage of the pony is established prior to the inspection by DNA typing the pony, its sire and its dam
- (2) the cost of such identification of parentage to be paid fully by the person requesting the late inspection
- (3) the inspectors are satisfied that the pony can be safely handled for the purpose of inspection and branding, where applicable.

A pony failing this inspection will be eligible for a single re-inspection.

(k) With the exception of foal transfers undertaken at the time of registration and before the passport is issued, notification of sale and the payment of any applicable transfer fee will be the responsibility of the owner listed on the database.

IDENTIFICATION OF PONIES

9. (a) All ponies to be registered must be permanently identified, by micro-chipping. The microchip will be checked at the time of inspection and the number recorded on the inspection certificate.

(b) Ponies that are identified by microchips at the time of registration may be branded at the discretion of the breeder and owner, and in accordance with Rule 10, provided that due weight is given to the welfare of such ponies.

(c) The correct implantation of the chip shall be carried out by a qualified, practising Veterinary Surgeon registered by the RCVS. The readability of such chip at any time

shall be the responsibility of the owner or agent. At the time of micro-chipping, a silhouette document will be completed and a hair sample will be taken by the Veterinary Surgeon and subsequently stored or used at the discretion of the Society. In the event of a microchip being unreadable then the pony may be re-chipped by a qualified practising Veterinary Surgeon, registered by the RCVS. At the time of re-chipping, the Veterinary Surgeon must take a second hair sample unless visual identification can be made. It will be the responsibility of the owner to pay the cost of DNA analysis of both samples to confirm identity. Provided the two samples match, the new microchip number will be entered on the database. If the identity of the pony cannot be confirmed then it and its further offspring cannot be entered in the main section of the stud book.

(d) Any person instructed by the Society has the right, at any reasonable time or place, to check the microchip number by scanning of any pony purporting to be a registered Exmoor Pony.

(e) A microchip number is not the registration number of any pony but all microchip numbers of registered ponies will be recorded by the Society, published in the Stud Book and included in the passport.

BRANDING

Branding is optional. If used, it shall be as follows:

10. (a) No pony shall be branded without the permission of the breeder and owner or agent as defined in 8 (i).

(b) Registered ponies that are to be branded in accordance with the 'DEFRA Code of Practice for the hot branding of semi-feral registered Exmoor ponies', shall be hot branded by a Society approved Inspector and with an iron authorised by the Committee.

(c) The pony will be branded on the near hind quarter with a unique visual mark of a maximum of four characters to identify the herd and the individual pony within the herd.

(d) It is the responsibility of the owner or agent to ensure that the correct brand is used.

STALLION INSPECTIONS

11. (a) Only colts registered in Section 1 of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book are eligible to be put forward for an Exmoor Pony Society Stallion licence.

(b) In order to receive an Exmoor Pony Society Stallion Licence an entire colt shall be inspected at a minimum of two years of age to be approved for such licence by two members who are on both the Judges and Inspectors panels, authorised so to do, by the Secretary. In exceptional circumstances, the Secretary can appoint a judge to act as a second inspector.

(c) Such entire colts intended for breeding shall be examined by a qualified, practising Veterinary Surgeon, registered by the RCVS, who has regularly attended horses over the preceding five years, and be certified in accordance with the Society's Stallion Licence conditions.

(d) In order to receive an Exmoor pony stallion licence, a colt must have passed its veterinary inspection, be DNA parentage verified to registered Section 1 parents and have passed the Society's own inspection.

(e) No pony is eligible for registration in Section 1 of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Stud Book sired by a colt that has not previously been approved and certified as in "b" to "d" above excepting that:

(1) a foal sired by a colt three years old or under, that has not been rejected as in "b" to "d" above, shall be eligible for registration provided that:

(a) the colt has passed his veterinary inspection and been DNA parentage verified prior to the registration of any such foal and

(b) the foal has had its parentage verified by DNA testing.

(2) should the sire have been gelded it shall be approved and certified as "a" and "b" above except for its ability to procreate. The full cost of inspecting a gelding shall be borne by the owner or person requesting the inspection.

(f) The owner of a colt deemed not to be up to the required standard for licensing at the first Stallion Inspection shall have the right to offer the colt for a single re-inspection not less than 6 months and not more than eighteen months from its first stallion inspection. The full cost of such re-inspection shall be borne by the owner.

(g) No colt shall be licensed that is deemed to be suffering from hereditary unsoundness or such unsoundness as should, in the opinion of the Society's inspectors, disqualify it from registration. The owner may call in a qualified, practising Veterinary Surgeon, registered by the RCVS, who has regularly attended horses over the preceding five years, whose decision shall be final. If the Veterinary Surgeon's opinion is given against the owner, the owner will be liable for the Veterinary Surgeon's fee. The society will be liable otherwise. If, in the opinion of the Veterinary Surgeon, the pony is free from hereditary unsoundness the owner may re-present the colt for inspection at any time.

(h) Owners of colts requiring inspection shall give the Secretary, in writing, not less than 42 days' notice before they wish to present any colt for inspection.

JUDGES

12 (a) The committee shall, from time to time, appoint Society Judges.

(b) Any two members of the Committee and/or Judges' Panel may nominate, in writing, a person for appointment to the panel of Judges, the Committee to decide the requisite qualification of each candidate. Such nomination may be made to the Secretary at any time but the final appointment shall be made as in 12(a) following assessment and completion of an appropriate training period.

SHOW RULES

13 (a) Only ponies registered in Section 1 of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book may be shown at Exmoor Pony Society shows, affiliated shows or any show governed by the Society's show rules and thus be eligible for Society premiums or awards. In addition, colts over 3 years must be in possession of an Exmoor Pony Society Stallion Licence to be shown at such shows.

(b) All Exmoor ponies exhibited in in-hand classes shall be shown in "natural" condition. The following treatments are prohibited:

Trimming of any area of coat, mane, forelock, ears, whiskers and jaw line, under-belly, tail or feathers.

Clipping

Plaiting

Application of make-up or artificial colouring

Attachment of any false hair pieces

The following treatments are permitted:

Washing and brushing

Application of Hoof Oil

(c) Exmoor Ponies exhibited in ridden and/or driving classes shall be shown as in "a" Above except that, apart from the legs, they may have been clipped. Any pony that has been clipped cannot be entered in in-hand classes until the clipped areas have fully re-grown.

(d) Exmoor Ponies exhibited in driving classes shall be shown according to "a" and "b" above except that trimming of tails is permitted. Any pony that has had its tail trimmed cannot be entered in in-hand or ridden classes until the tail is fully re-grown.

(e) All ponies exhibited in "riding" and "performance" classes shall be four years old or over.

(f) Colts and stallions, 2 years old and over, must be shown in a suitable bit.

(g) A member shall not knowingly exhibit a pony bred, previously or currently owned, leased or produced by the judge, his/her immediate family or his/her employer.