

THE EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

INSPECTION CONFIRMATION FORM

MOORLAND

In order for foal inspections to take place at your premises you are responsible for ensuring that the following criteria are fulfilled with regard to the provision of a veterinary surgeon, the inspection area and the handlers assisting with that inspection. If, at the time of inspection, these criteria have not been fulfilled, the inspectors appointed by the Society may refuse to proceed with the inspection – in that event you will be liable for any expenses already incurred by the Society. If you think you may have difficulty meeting these criteria, please speak to the Society Secretary BEFORE completing and returning the ‘tear-off’ declaration.

Veterinary Surgeon

It is the responsibility of the herd owner to ensure that the foals are micro-chipped prior to the inspection date or that a qualified veterinary surgeon is present at the inspection to carry out the micro-chipping of each foal prior to inspection.

Inspection Area

Must be of suitable and sound construction (e.g. a stable equipped with tie-rings or a purpose built pen). *The Exmoor Pony Society mobile penning unit is available to all moorland herd owners – please contact Rob Taylor (ECHO Co-ordinator 01643 831099 or exmoorterrier@yahoo.co.uk)*. There should be no dangerous projections and no gaps where pony’s feet might become trapped. The ground should be flat with a non-slip surface, there should be nothing within the inspection area which could present a trip hazard.

If the foal is to be branded, a separate area is required for heating the branding irons, this must adjoin the inspection area but should be physically segregated from it. The floor must be flat and free of combustible materials (i.e. there must be no inflammable bedding material on the floor of this area even if it is present in the inspection area itself). Fire extinguishing materials must be close to hand – ideally a hosepipe already connected to a tap which is switched ‘ON’, if this is not available there must be a minimum of two buckets of water. Because of the risk of their use disturbing ponies, fire extinguishers are not recommended, they will not be accepted as a suitable substitute for a hosepipe or buckets of water.

Any observers must be kept at least five yards away from the pony being inspected unless they are protected by a strong physical barrier (i.e. a fence or wall). Even if they are five yards away it is recommended that they should be prevented from entering the inspection area by a rope/tape barrier.

Inspectors and Handlers

You must provide two handlers (three if the mare is to be within the inspection area). All handlers must be over the age of sixteen and experienced in handling livestock. All inspectors and handlers must wear suitable protective clothing, footwear and headwear (e.g. non-combustible clothing, leather boots, hard hats etc.).

All clothing should be in subdued colours and made from materials which are unlikely to make noises which could upset the pony/ponies being inspected. All clothing must be made from materials which are not easily combustible (i.e. NOT nylon, fleece etc.).

Handlers must be made aware that they will be expected to act in accordance with the instructions of the inspector controlling the inspection/branding. It is your responsibility to ensure that your handlers are informed of this and that they comply with any instructions issued.

INSPECTION DECLARATION

(please return this slip to the Secretary)

I AGREE TO:

The Exmoor Pony Society carrying out inspections on my premises.

I UNDERSTAND THAT:-

- 1) It is my responsibility to ensure that my ‘inspection area’ and ‘handlers’ conform with the criteria provided on the ‘Inspection Confirmation Form’ and that the foals are micro-chipped prior to inspection or a veterinary surgeon is present on the day of inspection to microchip prior to inspection.
- 2) If, at the time of inspection, I have not met those criteria and the inspection cannot proceed, I will be liable for any expenses incurred by the Society.
- 3) The DEFRA Code of Practice for the Identification of Semi-Feral Ponies only permits the branding of registered Exmoor ponies in semi-feral situations.

Name (Block Capitals Please)

Signature Date