

## **Principles of the Connemara Pony Breeders Society**

### **1. Objectives of the Society**

The Connemara Pony Breeders Society, hereafter known as the society shall:

- (1.1) Maintain a Studbook of the particulars of the pedigree, status and performance of registered Connemara Ponies hereafter know as the 'ponies'
- (1.2) Include such information as the Council may from time to time decide.
- (1.3) Promote the breeding of the Connemara Pony in order to safeguard the conservation of this native Irish breed.

### **2. Breeding Objectives**

The breeding objective of the Society is to promote the breeding of, and the improvement in, the performance and quality of the Connemara Breed.

### **3. Characteristics of the breed**

Type: Compact, well balanced riding type with good depth and substance and good heart room, standing on short legs, covering a lot of ground. Good temperament, hardiness, staying power, intelligence, soundness, surefootedness, with jumping ability.

Height: 128cms to 148cms inclusive.

Colour: Grey, Black, Bay, Brown, Dun/may also be known as buckskin, Palomino, Dark-Eyed Cream, Blue Eyed cream with occasional Roans and Chestnuts.

Head: Well-balanced head of medium length with good width between large kindly eyes. Pony ears, well-defined cheekbone, jaw relatively deep but not coarse.

Front: Head well set onto neck. Crest should not be over-developed. Neck not set on too low. Good length of rein. Well-defined withers, good sloping shoulders.

Body: Body should be deep, with strong back, some length permissible, but should be well ribbed up with strong loins.

Limbs: Good length and strength in forearm, well-defined knees and short cannon with flat bone measuring 18cms to 21cms. Elbows should be free. Pasterns of medium length, fee well shaped, of medium size, hard and level.

Hind: Strong muscular with some length, well developed second thigh (gaskin) and strong low set hocks.

Movement: Free easy and true, without undue knee action, but active and covering the ground.

#### 4. Conditions for entering the studbook, and division of studbook

(4.1) The studbook is composed of a main section only. To qualify for entry into the main section of the studbook a pony must:

- (a) Be descended from parents entered in the main section of the studbook of the breed or any other EU approved studbook for the breed.
- (b) Have a pedigree established according to the rules of the studbook.
- (c) Be identified as a foal at foot according to the rules of the studbook.

(4.2) The main section of the Stud book is divided into three classes:

##### Class 1

Class 1 contains

Stallions that are a minimum of three years of age  
Mares and Geldings that are a minimum of two years of age.

These ponies must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for Class 1:

- (1) Both parents must be entered in Class 1 or Class 2 or meet the amnesty requirements as detailed below.
- (2) Both parents must have passed a Veterinary Inspection.
- (3) Ponies must measure 128cms to 148cms inclusive (without shoes)
- (4) Stallions and Mares must pass a visual Inspection and **achieve** the minimum marking standard for Class 1.
- (5) Geldings are classified according to their height only and require no visual inspection from Inspectors (visit [www.cpbs.ie](http://www.cpbs.ie) for application form for gelding classification)
- (6) Geldings measuring between 128cm and 148cm are classified as Class 1
- (7) Pass a Veterinary Inspection
- (8) Be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease if born after 1/1/2016 and have their passport stamped with the result.

##### Class 2

Class 2 contains

Stallions that are a minimum of three years of age  
Mares and Geldings that are a minimum of two years of age.

These ponies must meet the following criteria to qualify for Class 2:

- (1) Both parents must be entered in Class 1 or Class 2 or meet the amnesty requirements as detailed below.
- (2) Both parents must have passed a Veterinary Inspection.
- (3) Stallions and Mares must pass a visual and achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 2 **but do not achieve** the minimum marking standard for Class 1.

- (4) Ponies measuring under 128cm or over 148cm are classified as Class 2.
- (5) Geldings are classified according to their height only and require no visual inspection from Inspectors (visit [www.cpbs.ie](http://www.cpbs.ie) for application form for gelding classification)
- (6) Pass a Veterinary Inspection.
- (7) Be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease if born after 1/1/2016 and have their passport stamped with the result.
- (8) Ponies that meet the necessary marking standard for Class 1 but that measure under 128cms or over 148cms (without shoes), will be classified as Class 2.

### **Class 3**

- (1) All foals when parentage tested and tested for HWSD are entered in Class 3
- (2) Ponies will remain in Class 3 until they are eligible to be presented for inspection (*see point 4.2*)
- (3) In order to move to a higher class ponies must be presented for Inspection
- (4) Ponies that are not presented for Inspection will remain in Class 3 as will their progeny unless they meet amnesty requirements as detailed below.
- (5) Ponies that do not meet the minimum marking standard at the visual inspection for Class 1 or 2 will remain in Class 3 as will their progeny unless they meet amnesty requirements as detailed below.

### **In Addition**

- (1) Ponies from other Connemara Pony studbooks will be entered into the class of the studbook whose criteria it meets.
- (2) All ponies in the studbook are permitted to breed
- (3) The inspection for classification will take into account the individual merits of the pony on the day of Inspection
- (4) The CPBS does not require compulsory performance testing. Societies for the Connemara Pony Breed may implement performance testing, if desired, however, this can have no impact on the classification of the pony. Additional stars or merits may be awarded, if desired.
- (5) Ponies presented for classification must be classified by at least two classifiers, who have been trained and/or approved by the Studbook of origin in Ireland

### **Note on Amnesty Criteria**

The CPBS has introduced an amnesty for the progeny of class 3 parents which permits them to be presented for inspection and be classified according to the studbook rules. The amnesty registration period will run from 1st April 2017 to 31 October 2019. The amnesty does not apply to stallions or geldings.

### **Note on HWSD**

Progeny of parents which are both tested negative (N/N) for HWSD through the CPBS or another society for the Connemara breed will not have to be tested for HWSD.

## 5. System of Registration

### 5.1 System of identifying ponies in the studbook

- (i) Marking charts must be completed by a veterinary surgeon or other person authorised by the competent authority of the country in which the pony resides.
- (ii) All ponies when registered are issued with a lifetime identification document.
- (iii) Ponies are identified by a fifteen digit Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) prefixed with a 2-character code to signify the sex and classification of the pony.  
For example: S1 372004000004321
  - 372 indicates that the pony is registered in Ireland i.e the country code
  - 004 indicates that the pony is registered in the Connemara Pony Breeders Society studbook
  - 00 are gap digits.
  - 0004321 represent the individual registration number of the pony in the studbook.
  - S1 indicates the ponies classification S= stallion and 1= Class 1
- (iv) The UELN number remains the unique identification number for the pony for its life. If the pony is registered in another Connemara daughter studbook, the UELN should be used to identify this pony in another studbook for the breed.
- (v) The classification number at the beginning of the UELN number may change from foal to adult following classification. For example, a male foal when born will have a classification code S3 before his UELN number to indicate he is a male (stallion) foal registered in Class 3. If and when this males classification changes, e.g. to Class 1, then the code will change to S1 to indicate this pony is a stallion registered in Class 1.

The classification codes are as follows:

S	Stallion
M	Mare
G	Gelding
1	Class 1
2	Class 2
3	Class 3

- (iv) All ponies when registered are inserted with a microchip issued by the Connemara Pony Society or the Central Authorised Organisation. Microchips must only be inserted by a veterinary surgeon or other authorised person approved by the National Government.
- (v) All ponies are named when first registered as foals and the name cannot be changed once the lifetime document is issued.
- (vi) Please notify the CPBS or the relevant EU approved studbook if a foal is born by embryo transfer. Visit [www.cpbs.ie](http://www.cpbs.ie) for additional information on embryo transfer.

- (vii) Ponies can be named using a breeder's prefix or suffix. A prefix or suffix that is registered for use with one breeder may not be used by another breeder, without written consent from the prefix or suffix owner. A prefix or suffix is one word. Further information on prefixes and suffixes is available from the cpbs website, [www.cpbs.ie](http://www.cpbs.ie).

## **5.2 System of Recording Pedigrees**

The following details are required in order to record the pedigree of a pony in the studbook:

- (i) All ponies must have their parentage information verified by DNA or blood typing. Samples of DNA or blood must be taken by and verified by a Veterinary surgeon or other authorised person approved by the National Government at the time of marking the pony.
- (ii) Ponies from non-EU approved studbooks for the Connemara Pony breed that have not had their pedigree information confirmed by DNA/bloodtyping must be DNA/bloodtyped before being registered in a studbook for the breed.