The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society
Breeding Programme

EU Animal Breeding Regulation 2016/1012

Approved by the Council of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society
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CONNEMARA
PONY BREEDERS
SOCIETY

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The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society Breeding Programme

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SECTION 1. The Breed

The Breed

1.1. The Connemara pony, an Irish native breed, originated in the part of County Galway known as Connemara, west of Lough Corrib and bordering the Atlantic Ocean in the Republic of Ireland.

1.2. The Connemara pony is considered an endangered breed under EU law.

1.3. The interests of the Connemara pony breed are protected by the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society (CPBS) which is recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under EU Animal Breeding Regulations.

Geographical Area

1.4. The geographical area in which the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society carries out the breeding programme is the island of Ireland (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland).

Breeding Population in the Society

1.5. Breeding figures for 2024 are: Breeding Mares 3741 and 463 Stallions.

Characteristics of the Connemara Pony and the Breed Standard

1.6. The Connemara pony's unique set of ten characteristics establishing a breed standard are:

1.6.1. Type: Compact, well-balanced pony 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 athletic ability.

1.6.2. Height: 128cm to 148cm.

1.6.3. Colour: black, bay, brown, chestnut, buckskin (dun), palomino, smokey black, (blue-eyed cream) perlino, cremello and smokey cream), bay roan, strawberry roan and blue roan, and Grey.

1.6.4. 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;

1.6.5. Front: 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.

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

1.6.7. Limbs: Good length and strength in forearm, well-defined knees and short cannon with flat bone measuring 18cm to 21cm, elbows should be free, pasterns of medium length, feet well-shaped, of medium size, hard and level;

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

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

Traits of the Connemara Pony

1.7. The Connemara pony is a sturdy, self-reliant, agile, careful, compact, well-balanced, versatile pony with good conformation with a willingness to work. It is nimble and sure-footed. It is known for its natural jumping ability It is known for its excellent bone and hard hooves. Originally a utility pony to work the land, carry turf and transport the family, its size made the Connemara easy to harness and the pony's natural strength enabled it to pull a carriage with several adults. The less able were weeded out until with each succeeding generation the Connemara pony stabilised as a willing, even-tempered animal able to respond to a wide range of work requirements under a variety of conditions.

1.8. This pony breed has proven beyond doubt its willingness to work with human partners, today excelling in many sporting activities, being an eager confident jumper, known for its relatively big stride and even bigger heart.

1.9. Such is its versatility the Connemara pony is suitable for youngsters and adults in all areas of modern horsemanship.

SECTION 2. Information on the Studbook of Origin

Studbook of Origin Definition and Location

2.1. The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society maintains the herd book recording the origins and subsequent lineages of the Connemara pony. The herd book is known as the Studbook of Origin.

2.2. The Studbook of Origin was closed in 1964 and since then no further outside blood has been introduced. Only ponies registered in the Studbook are permitted to take part in the breeding programme.

2.3. The Studbook of Origin is held in the registered offices of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society at The Showgrounds, Clifden, Co. Galway H71 YA09 in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulations 2016/1012.

Brief History of the Origin of the Studbook

2.4. In 1923 the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society and Studbook was founded with the declared intention for the preservation and improvement of the Connemara pony.
The first studbook was published in 1926, with details of 93 breeding mares and 9 stallions. The list of stallions included three ponies who became founders of two of the five main lines which survive today.

For ease of reference these five recognised lines are each distinguished by a colour. Amongst the first ponies recorded in the Studbook are Cannon Ball (1) and his son Rebel (7) founders of the Blue Line, and Connemara Boy (9) founder of the Red Line. The Green Line was founded when Mountain Lad was registered in 1938. These three male lines are the only ones which can be traced to the foundation sires from today's ponies.

To increase the gene pool, the CPBS introduced outside blood, and during the 1940's used three Irish Draught stallions, May Boy being the most effective. Three thoroughbred stallions were also used. Of these Little Heaven was the most influential of the introduced sires and his half-bred son, Carna Dun founded the Purple Line.

In 1954 the CPBS bought a dun colt by the Arab stallion Naseel, out of a Connemara mare. This half-bred colt was registered in 1958 as Clonkeehan Auratum and was the founder of the Orange Line.

Each pony can be also traced back through its dam and her dam line to a founding mare; however, since more mares than stallions breed, the descendants from any mare over several generations tend to be more branched and so instead of 'line', 'mare family' is the term used. The earliest born Connemara pony to have her dam identified in the Studbook was Grey Lass in 1932.

SECTION 3. Aims, Selection and Breeding Objectives of the Breeding Programme

Definition of a Breeder within the Breeding Programme

3.1 An accepted definition of a breeder is a person who brings animals from conception to birth, produces and rears them, and plays the important part in implementation of the breed standard thus contributing to the success of the breeding programme. **However**, **the breeder for the purposes of this breeding programme is the applicant for registration of that foal, according to the rules of the Studbook.**

Aims /Breeding goals

3.2 The breeding programme aims to preserve and improve the breed as per the characteristics and traits of the breed.

3.3 These aims are accomplished via all measures and activities which are considered by the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society to be conducive to these objectives.

3.4 Measures and Activities to achieve these goals are carried out in compliance with current EU Regulations. To achieve the aims and maintain the health of the herd there are considerations for breeders that should be observed as outlined in 3.5 to 3.10.

Breeding Objectives

3.5 In accordance with the aims of the breeding programme and the breed standard, the breeding objective is to breed compact, well-balanced ponies with good depth and substance and good heart room, standing on short legs, covering a lot of ground, good temperament, hardiness, staying power, soundness, surefootedness, and with jumping and athletic ability.

3.6 To achieve the breed standard, a pony should

- measure at 5 years of age between 128cm and 148cm, with the thickness of the cannon bone being between 18cm to 21cm / 8in to 8.25in
- on the liner profile sheet obtain scores
    - for conformation in the range of d,e,f.
    - for movement/trait and Athleticism/jump/trait in the range of d,e,f
    - on certain traits (listed below) the animal scores better if it goes into a,b,c.
        - Colts – Movement Trait – 23, 25 to 38
        - Fillies – Movement Trait – 23, 25 to 29

Please see appendices link on linear profiling. Click Here

Selection Objectives

3.7 Breeders are encouraged to meet the breeding objective by way of improved breeding practice using mindful and selective pairings. Breeders should make parental choices and assessments of the potential of all future breeding stock with the aid of the official performance evaluation of colts and mares through Society inspections in accordance with the breed standard and classification within the Studbook.

3.8 The Society advises that only Class 1, Class 2 and Class Over Height (OH) ponies should be used for breeding;

3.9 Breeders in making their selections should endeavour to safeguard the genetic diversity and look to maintain a high level of genetic diversity within the breed through mindful and responsible breeding by reviewing the ancestry records of the animals;

3.10 Breeders should use the results from the linear profile sheets available from the online database, whilst considering the height and bone measurement

3.11 Breeders should strive to eliminate undesirable genetic defects that are recognised in the breeding programme (HWSD) through mindful and responsible breeding and nurture one that is genetically disease free. This can be achieved by mating animals that are tested negative (N/N) forHWSD to obtain a carrier free animal (See Appendix 1 Hoof Wall Separation Disease.)

SECTION 4. Implementation of the Breeding Programme

4.1 Only purebred Connemara ponies can be accepted into the Breeding Programme.

4.2 In making parental choices-Breeders should always strive to keep the level of inbreeding as low as possible.

4.3 Inspections are organised twice yearly by the Society both in Spring and in Autumn at suitable venues throughout the country.

4.4 Ponies are inspected according to the Rules of Procedure (Inspections) by a qualified team of inspectors.

4.5 Separate inspections are held for colts and fillies.

4.6 All equines for breeding must be kept at a DAFM registered equine premises. (See *Rules of Procedures* 14.21.)

SECTION 5. The Studbook and Division of the Studbook

General

5.1 The Studbook is composed of a main section only which is divided into five sections, Class 1, Class 2, Class OH and Class 3.

5.2 At time of registration all purebred Connemara ponies are entered in Class 3.

5.3 Ponies from all recognised Connemara pony breed societies and breed bodies, listed in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulations 2016/1012, will be entered into the class of the studbook whose criteria it meets.

Conditions for Entry into the Studbook

General

5.4 A pony must be descended from parents entered in the main section of the Studbook for the breed or any other approved studbook for the breed;

5.5 A pony must be proven purebred and parentage verified by DNA parentage analysis;

5.6 A pony must be identified according to EU Equine Lifetime Document/Passport Regulations EU Animal Breeding Regulation 2016/1012 and the rules set out in the breeding programme;

5.7 In the case of trade in or entry into the EU where that breeding pony is intended to be entered or registered for entry in the Studbook, that pony must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate (sample as per EU2017/717, Appendix 7) issued by the relevant breed society or breeding body.

5.8 Where a pony is produced from a germinal product which is traded or which entered into the Union and where that pony is intended to be entered or registered in the breeding book, the germinal product shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate.

Derogation: Covering Certificates

Under EU Animal Breeding Regulations (2016/1012) the CPBS is authorised by the competent authority not to require the production of a covering certificate to enter purebred animals into the Studbook**;** DNA sampling is used for parentage identification.

Studbook Division

Class 1

5.9. Division Class 1 records ***colts*** that are a minimum of three years of age and ***mares*** and ***geldings*** that are a minimum of two years of age. Any pony seeking entry into Class 1 must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for Class 1:

(i) With the exception of geldings. both parents must be entered in Class 1, Class 2 or Over Height or have met the amnesty requirements as noted in 5.22;

(ii) Both parents must have passed a mandatory veterinary inspection at time of inspection according to the inspection rules of the breed society;

(iii) A pony must measure between 128 – 148cm without shoes.

(iv) Only measurements that are conducted on behalf of the CPBS at official inspections are recognised, measurements from other competition bodies or private measurements are not recognised by the CPBS.

(v) Colts and fillies must pass a mandatory visual inspection and achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 1 (80%) according to the rules of the breed society;

(vi) Colt scoring is calculated by the combined average of the inspectors' marks. The total marks available are 400. Class 1 is awarded where the colt receives 80-100% (minimum of 320 marks) and is within the height requirements in section (iii).

(vii) Filly scoring is calculated by the combine average of the inspectors' marks. The total marks available is 300. Class 1 is awarded where the filly receives 80-100% (Minimum of 240) and is within the height requirements in section (iii).

(viii) All ponies other than geldings must pass a mandatory veterinary inspection according to the inspection rules of the breed society:

(ix) Colts and stallions **must** be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) by genetic testing in accordance with 6.11 to 6.15 and have a result which is N/N Not Affected/Not a Carrier and N/HWSD (Carrier) to be eligible for Class 1

(x) All mares over two years brought for inspection, if not of already recorded of non-carrying (N/N) parentage, must be tested for HWSD at inspections and have a result which is N/N Not Affected/Not a Carrier and N/HWSD (Carrier) to be eligible for Class 1

(xi) Geldings are reclassified according to their height only and require no mandatory visual inspection, linear profiling nor to be tested for HWSD.

(xii) Geldings must present to an inspection phase for measurement to meet requirements in section 5.9 (iv).

Class 2

5.10. Division Class 2 records ***colts*** that are a minimum of three years of age and ***fillies*** that are a minimum of two years of age and meets all the following criteria;

(i) Both parents must be entered in Class 1, Class 2, Class OH, have met the amnesty requirements as noted in 5.22;

(ii) Both parents must have passed a mandatory veterinary inspection at time of inspection according to the inspection rules of the breed society;

(iii) colts and fillies must pass a mandatory visual inspection and achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 2 but do not achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 1 according to the rules of the breed society;

(iv) a pony that meets the necessary visual inspection marking standard for Class 2 and measures under 148cm without shoes;

(v) Only measurements that are conducted on behalf of the CPBS at official inspections are recognised, measurements from other competition bodies or private measurements are not recognised by the CPBS;

(vi) Colts and fillies must pass a mandatory visual inspection and achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 2 60-79% but do not achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 1 80% according to the rules of the breed society;

(vii) Colt scoring is calculated by the combined average of the inspectors' marks. The total marks available are 400. Class 2 is awarded where the colt receives 60-79% (minimum of 240 marks) and is within the height requirements in section (iii);

(viii) Filly scoring is calculated by the combine average of the inspectors' marks. The total marks available is 300. Class 2 is awarded where the filly receives 60-79% (minimum of 180marks) and is within the height requirements in section (iii);

(ix) all ponies other than geldings for entry into Class 2 must pass a mandatory veterinary inspection according to the rules of the breed society ;

(x) Colts and stallions **must** be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) by genetic testing in accordance with 6.11 to 6.15 and have a result which is N/N Not Affected/Not a Carrier and N/HWSD (Carrier) to be eligible for Class 2;

(xi) all mares over two years brought for inspection, if not of already recorded of non-carrying (N/N) parentage, must be tested for HWSD at inspection and have a result which is N/N Not Affected/Not a Carrier and N/HWSD (Carrier) to be eligible for Class 2;

Class OH

5.11. Division Class OH records ***colts*** that are a minimum of three years of age and ***mares*** and **geldings** that are a minimum of two years of age and meets all the following criteria:

(i) Ponies that meet all the criteria of Class 1 or Class 2 **except** for the height requirements and breeders accept the pony to be classified in Class OH

(ii) The height requirements for the OH Class is above 148cm

Class 3

5.12. Division Class 3 records the following ponies:

(i) All foals when parentage tested will be entered in Class 3;

(ii) All ponies will remain in Class 3 until eligible to be presented for CPBS Inspection;

(iii) In order to seek reclassification to either Class 1, Class 2, Class OH a pony must be presented for inspection;

(iv) A pony that does not meet the requirements of Class 1, Class 2 or Class OH will remain in Class 3. a mare that is not presented for CPBS inspection will remain in Class 3 as will their progeny unless the amnesty requirements were met prior to 31st October 2029 .

Inspection for Reclassification in the Studbook

General

5.13. An Inspection Committee is appointed by the council of the society annually. This committee is responsible for the implementation of the breed standard by way of inspections.

5.14. These inspections evaluate the performance of ponies in accordance with the breed standard and thereby the inspectors assign or confirm a reclassification in the Studbook.

5.15. Inspection results for individual ponies are maintained by the CPBS office. Inspection statistics are reported to CPBS members at the Annual General Meeting, are notified to members via newsletter and recorded on the website and social media.

5.16. A pony presented for reclassification in Ireland shall be inspected by at least two inspectors who have been trained and/or approved by the CPBS; in respect of member countries the height measurement of ponies and the health status of mares shall be according to the rules of the breed society or breeding body of the country in which the pony resides.

Linear Profiling as Part of the Inspection Process

5.17. In 2019 linear profiling (Appendices 2, 3 and 4) was introduced as part of the inspection process.

5.18. Linear profiling, a descriptive method used to assess a pony, describes visually where a pony lies between the biological extremes for any given trait. It is used to assess conformation, movement, performance in accordance with the breed standard, and jump/athletic ability where applicable. The linear profile for each pony outlines the pony's strengths and weaknesses: essential information for any breeder choosing how to identify a complementary stallion to their mare's attributes.

5.19. Colts are inspected on 39 traits for each section, conformation out of 100, movement out of 100 and breed standard out of 100 and athleticism/jump out of 100 Class 1 will require an overall 80% above 320 result or above, Class 2 will require overall 60% (240). Class OH is 60% and over 148cm. Colts will have their height and bone measured at the inspection, and these measurements will be regarded as the official measurements for Studbook classification. A veterinary examination, which includes compulsory lunging, will also take place; this is the part of the inspection that the veterinarian will either pass or fail. Therefore, all colts must be properly trained for lunging in advance.

5.20. Fillies are marked on 27 traits conformation out of 100, movement out of 100 and breed standard out of 100 Class 1 will require an overall 80% (240) result or above, Class 2 will require overall 60% (180) Class OH is 60% and over 148cm. A veterinary inspection of the eyes, heart and soundness, this is another part of the inspection that the filly can pass or fail.

Visual Inspections as Part of the Inspection Process

5.21. A visual inspection for type, conformation and movement is used in the inspection evaluation and comparison with the breed standard. A true to breed standard pony will incorporate all the defined characteristics of the breed standard for each section as listed in 1.6.1 to 1.6.9.

i. All colts are inspected by two inspectors on a hard surface, standing at opposite ends. The pony is required to stand, walk and trot in a straight line.
ii. colts will be loose for free movement and jumped up to 90cm with two different inspectors.
iii. All mares and fillies are inspected by two inspectors on a soft surface, standing at opposite ends. The pony is required to stand, walk and trot in a straight line.
iv. Fillies will be let loose in an enclosed arena with the same two inspectors to show free movement; fillies must be able to be caught easily after this section.

Inspection of progeny of Class 3 parents; Time Limited Amnesty

5.22 The CPBS introduced an amnesty for the uninspected progeny of Class 3 parents on 1st March 2024, allowing these ponies to be presented for inspection and classified according to the Studbook Rules, with the aim of preserving breeding lines that might otherwise be lost. Originally running from 1st March 2024 to 31st October 2025, the amnesty permitted owners to present eligible progeny at regular Society-organised inspections during that period, with the amnesty set to cease after the Autumn 2025 inspections. However, following a review of the amnesty's impact on genetic diversity, financial performance, and feedback from daughter societies, the CPBS has resolved to extend the amnesty. It will now remain in effect until the conclusion of the Autumn inspections in 2029, during which eligible ponies may continue to be presented for inspection and classified in accordance with the Studbook Rules.

Reference to Current Rules on Inspections

5.23 Breeders/owners are advised to visit the website www.cpbs.ie and *CPBS Rules to Procedures* for full current rules on inspections and application form. Also note Recording Pedigrees (Section 6) and Registration Procedure (Section 7) below.

5.24 The CPBS will inspect ponies and issue lifetime identification documents for ponies located in their geographical area or where an extension has been formally approved in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/1012.

SECTION 6. Recording Pedigrees

General

6.1. All pedigree information for ponies in the breeding programme must be verified, identified and recorded.

Pedigree Verification

6.2. Pedigree is proven by verification of parentage (sire and dam) via DNA sample analysis (7.7), and testing thereof outsourced to Weatherbys Scientific laboratory (9.1). See also Section 7 *Procedures for Registration*.

6.3. Results from parentage verification DNA analysis are the property of the Society.

Naming of Ponies at time of DNA sampling for Pedigree Verification

6.4. All foals are named for life at time of DNA sampling for purpose of registration. (See *CPBS Rules to Procedures* www.cpbs.ie Registration of Ponies.)

Prefix/Suffix

6.5. A unique one-word prefix or suffix, registered with the CPBS, may be used by owners in the naming of ponies. (See *Rules to Procedures* www.cpbs.ie Registration of Ponies.)

Pedigree Identification

6.6. A dual method is used for pedigree identification and recorded (i) via a unique identification number Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) (see 6.9, 7.14 and 7.15) and (ii) transponder (microchip) barcode which corresponds to a transponder implanted in the pony (7.12 and 7.13).

Pedigree Record/Animal Management System

6.7. All pedigree information on CPBS registered Connemara ponies is recorded electronically on an online Animal Management System, the CPBS *Official Pedigree and Performance Database*, maintained by the CPBS office.

6.8. This database can be accessed by members and non-members alike, by simple registration and log-in on www.cpbs.ie.

CPBS Official Pedigree and Performance Database

6.9. The following details are recorded on the CPBS database for registered ponies:

registered animal name
year of birth
use of germinal products in mating/embryo transfer if applicable
UELN
country of origin
breed
colour
sex
CPBS Hoof Wall Separation Disease genetic test result (6.11)
private Hoof Wall Separation Disease Test* - denoted by asterisk* (recording optional)
height
sire name
dam name
dam sire name
dam line
generations of pedigree – up to six
progeny
linear profiling CPBS official sheet if applicable (6.10 and Appendices 3 and 4))
photos of registered pony (optional)
performance record (optional)
option to contact owner via message/email/phone (subject to CPBS Privacy Policy)
name and address of breeder and owner (subject to CPBS Privacy Policy).

Linear Profile Record

6.10. Linear profiling sheets of ponies compiled at time of inspection are published on the database since linear profiling's introduction in 2019 (see Appendix 2). Should a pony be inspected more than once the most recent linear profiling sheet will be published.

Genetic Disease (HWSD) Testing and Record

6.11. Since 2016 it is a prerequisite of the Society that all foals should be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) prior to registration. The result has no influence on the registration of the pony. Ponies of N/N parentage (sire and dam) are not required to be tested. It is a prerequisite of the Society that all ponies other than geldings be tested for HWSD prior to registration.

6.12. Owners may avail of HWSD testing at time of the DNA sample extraction used for verification of parentage at registration.

6.13. Private HWSD test results are accepted by the CPBS on application to the Society and on production of a copy of the test certificate from an approved laboratory. This copy is held on file at the CPBS Office. Private test results published on the official database and in publications of the Society are distinguished by an asterisk.

6.14. The CPBS HWSD results are published on the CPBS Online Pedigree Database and recorded in the Lifetime Identification Document on the back page.

6.15. It is a prerequisite of the Society that older stallions be tested for HWSD prior to Inspection unless both parents test result is N/N. DNA sample for this test may be taken on day of inspection. The final classification will not be advised to the owner until the results of the test have been received from Weatherbys Scientific.

SECTION 7. Procedures for Registration

General

7.1. In 2019 the number of foals and ponies registered for that calendar year in the Studbook was 2,629.

7.2. All purebred Connemara ponies in Ireland are eligible for registration in the Studbook of the CPBS. The form for *Registering a Pony* can be downloaded from the website www.cpbs.ie.

7.3. Sire and dam must be certified by the parent body before a foal can be registered.

7.4. All foals must be registered within 12 months of birth to comply with EU animal health regulations. It is an offence to keep an unidentified equine and there is a liability of a summary conviction and Class A fine (max €5,000). Breeders are encouraged to register their progeny before the age of six months due to time DNA testing may take (up to ten weeks).

Natural Covering/One Parent Registered with Daughter Breed Society/Body

7.5. If either of the parents used for natural covering is registered with a daughter society/body a copy of the DNA/profile/parentage test of the parent must be obtained from the laboratory where the pony was originally tested and **sent directly** from that laboratory to CPBS approved technical outsource Weatherby's Scientific Laboratory (9.1).

Germinal Products and Embryo Transfer in Assisted Service/Registration

7.6. For progeny born from embryo transfer or if any germinal products have assisted in service this fact must be recorded on the application form for registration of that pony. Use of germinal products in service will also be recorded on the CPBS Official Pedigree and Performance Database following registration (6.9).

7.7. When it is intended to breed a pony to be entered or registered for entry in the Studbook via embryo transfer or where germinal products will assist, if either donor is recorded in another studbook, that product when traded must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate (best described as a breeding certificate, see 7.34 to 7.37) issued by the relevant breed society or body.

7.8. Where germinal products are used for assisted fertilisation, parentage is officially identified by DNA comparison analysis at time of registration of the resulting progeny.

Official CPBS Marking Chart

7.9. At registration an **official CPBS marking chart** (visual identification chart) must be completed by a recognised veterinary practitioner (Ireland) or other person authorised by the competent authority of the country in which the pony resides. The official marking chart may be downloaded from the website www.cpbs.ie.

Parentage Verification/DNA Sampling/Transponder Implantation

7.10. When applying for registration of a pony the DNA sample kit required for the official sampling to verify parentage will only be issued to the registered owner of the pony.

7.11. Currently the same sample as taken by a qualified veterinary practitioner for parentage verification may also be used for CPBS HWSD testing (6.11 to 6.13).

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Transponder (Microchip) Implantation

7.12. All foals will be implanted with a unique **transponder code (microchip)** in the neck by the attendant veterinarian for identification, at time of DNA sampling. Transponders are issued by the CPBS or an approved PIO. They shall only be inserted by a veterinary practitioner (Ireland) or other authorised person approved by the national government in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulations.
The corresponding number to the transponder implanted shall be placed in the identification document for that pony by way of barcode sticker.

7.13. Appropriate measures shall be taken to verify that no such identification has already been issued to older ponies. All older ponies must be scanned by the attendant veterinary practitioner for transponders as a passport/Lifetime Identification Document may have been issued by another organisation previously. Under EU regulation a pony may only have one passport or Lifetime Identification Document. Should a previously implanted transponder be revealed the CPBS shall issue a replacement identification document in accordance with 7.23 to 7.27 below, depending on the information available.

Information on the System for Identifying Ponies

UELN

7.14. At registration ponies are assigned a unique 15digit **Universal Equine Life Number** (UELN)

For example: 372004000004321

372 indicates that the pony is registered in Ireland;
004 indicates that the pony is registered in the CPBS Studbook;
00 are gap digits;
0004321 is the individual registration number of the pony in the Studbook.

7.15. The UELN remains the unique identification number for any pony for life; if the pony is registered in a Connemara daughter society studbook, the UELN is used to identify that pony in that studbook for the breed.

Transponders (Microchips)

7.16. For details on transponders and their application see 7.12 and 7.13 above.

Classification Codes

7.17. At registration the CPBS employs a two-character code to signify the sex and classification of that pony which precedes the UELN in the identification document. The **classification codes** are as follows:

S – stallion, M – mare, G – gelding, 1 – Class 1, 2 – Class 2, OH- Class Over Height, 3 – Class 3
For example, as all registrations are recorded in Class 3 a male foal when born will have a classification code S3 preceding his UELN to indicate he is a male (colt) foal registered in Class 3. This classification prefix to the UELN may change from foal to adult following inspection; for example, if the pony's classification as a stallion changes status to Class 1 the classification code will change from S3 to S1 to indicate that this pony following inspection has been placed in Class 1.

Lifetime Identification Document

7.18. A single identification document will be issued by the CPBS for the lifetime of all ponies entered into the breeding programme in accordance with the sample as approved by EU Animal Breeding Regulations (2016/1012) only after the pony's parentage is verified to the CPBS by outsource Weatherbys Scientific laboratory (9.1).

7.19. All equines imported into the state must have an accompanying identification document issued by the competent authority in its state of origin.

7.20. Complete identification documentation must accompany any equine at all times.

7.21. The Lifetime Identification Document records the date of registration, the registered name, the unique identification number (UELN) applicable to that animal only, details of its transponder code (microchip) bearing a unique number inserted by an official veterinary practitioner, an authorised record of all individual markings as recorded on the official marking chart (Appendix 6), verified pedigree, date of birth, breeder, owner, Hoof Wall Separation Disease status of the animal.

7.22. The identification document is the property of the Society.

Issuing Duplicate Identification Documents

7.23. A duplicate identification document shall be issued by the CPBS where the original document is lost and the identity of the animal can be established, notably through the code transmitted by the transponder (microchip) or verification by DNA sampling comparison.

7.24. (a) Where the pony has not been identified with the twelve-month time limit required for registration, parentage verification will be by DNA sampling, or in the case of embryo transfer and where a copy of the zootechnical certificate is available and the foster dam is identified in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulations.
(b) or the CPBS has proof that certain identification details in the existing identification document do not match the corresponding equine animal and the provisions in Article 12(3)(a) cannot be applied.

7.25. In the above cases the CPBS shall on application by the keeper or at the request of the competent authority:
(a) apply a transponder to the animal by the authorised method (see 7.12);
(b) issue a duplicate identification document clearly marked as 'duplicate identification document' with a reference to the unique lifetime number recorded in the database of the issuing body which:
(i) carried out the first identification of the animal and issued the lost original identification document; or
(ii) issues the duplicate identification document for a pony referred to in 7.25a above;
(c) classify the pony in Part II of Section II of the duplicate identification document as not intended for slaughter for human consumption;
(d) the duplicate passport will record the inspection record and the HWSD record if available, otherwise HWSD testing will be part of the duplicate passport application process.

7.26. Details of the duplicate identification document issued in accordance with 7.25 shall be entered with a reference to the UELN in the CPBS database.

7.27. For ponies imported into the EU the issuing of duplicate identification documents shall be in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulations 2016/1012.

Change of Ownership

7.28. It is a legal requirement to transfer the ownership of a pony within 30 days of acquiring ownership in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulation 2016/1012. Information relating to Transfer of Ownership and fees can be downloaded from the website www.cpbs.ie.

Movement and Transport of Ponies

7.29. The identification documents issued for registered ponies for breeding and production shall accompany those ponies for which they were issued at all times, including, where required by national legislation, during the transport of the carcass of the pony for processing in an establishment approved in accordance EU Animal Breeding Regulations.

Derogation: Movement and Transport of Ponies

7.30. By way of derogation the identification document shall not be required to accompany registered ponies when they are:

(a) stabled or pastured, and the identification document can be presented without delay;

(b) temporarily ridden, driven, led or taken either:

(i) in the vicinity of the holding within a member state so that the identification document can be presented without delay; or

(ii) during transhumance of ponies to and from registered summer grazing grounds provided that the identification documents can be presented at the holding of departure;

(c) not yet weaned and accompany their dam or foster mare;

(d) moved or transported in an emergency situation relating to the animals themselves or to the holding on which they are kept.

Importation of Ponies

7.31. Legislation requires that owners of imported equines to Ireland, whose identification document was originally issued by a Studbook/Passport Issuing Body (PIO) based in another Member State, to have the passport details recorded by the CPBS as the appropriate passport issuing body.

7.32. Owners/keepers who import equines into the geographical area must notify the CPBS within 30 days of importing the pony.

7.33. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that each Member State has a record for all of the equines located in their jurisdiction. The relevant form for importation may be downloaded from the website www.cpbs.ie.

Zootechnical Certificate

7.34. Breeders participating in the breeding programme have the right to receive a breeding or *zootechnical* certificate (model format as EU 2017/717) from the Society for their breeding animals. It is divided into two parts (see Appendix 7 Zootechnical Certificate).

7.35. The breeder or owner of a pony is responsible for ensuring that all details given in the zootechnical certificate are correct. Any errors or deviations must be notified to the Society immediately. In addition, the breeder or owner is obliged to keep the breeding certificate carefully with the lifetime identification document, as a later entry of the pony in the Studbook can only be made if a valid zootechnical certificate is presented. Only in the event of change of ownership will the zootechnical certificate be reissued with the name of the new owner.

7.36. The zootechnical certificate, in provision for proof of ancestry, as a birth certificate and as a breeding certificate for transfer of breeding material for EU trading purposes must accompany breeding animals or their germinal products (semen, oocytes) and embryos thereof at all times (EU Animal Breeding Regulation 2016/1012). The zootechnical certificate shall contain at least the following information:

(i) that the animal in question is a purebred breeding animal, or, if accompanying germinal products that the consignment is intended for trade or for entry into the EU, and the name of the issuing breed body;
(ii) the name of the breeding organisation and website, studbook and date and place of issue;
(iii) the classification in the studbook,
(iv) the name of the pony;
(v) sex;
(vi) the entry number in the breeding book;
(vii) the system of identification and individual identification number (UELN) in accordance with EU Animal Health Regulations;
(viii) the method used for identity verification of purebred animals used for the collection of germinal products and the results of verification of that identity, the name, address and where available the email address of the breeder (see Definition of Breeder 3.1);
(ix) information on genetic defects (HWSD status);
(x) the name, address and, where available the email address of the owner;
(xi) the pedigree (two generations with breeding book numbers, classification, and in the case of in foal mares: the date of insemination or mating and the identification of the fertilising male, which may be indicated in a separate document;
(xii) the date and place of issue of the zootechnical certificate, the name, capacity and signature of the individual authorised to sign that certificate by the issuing breed society, or, in the case of entry into the EU of a purebred breeding animal, by the issuing breeding body; that individual shall be a representative from that breed society or breeding body, or a representative from the relevant competent authority;

7.37. The recording of insemination/covering method is recorded on Part 2 of the zootechnical certificate and is certified by a registered veterinary practitioner (see 7.42 and 7.43) for EU trading purposes.

Zootechnical Certificates for Germinal Products and Embryos of Purebred Breeding Equines

7.38. With regard to semen, oocytes and embryos of a purebred breeding equine the zootechnical certificate shall include all the details as set out in 7.36 and in addition:

Information allowing identification of the product, the number of straws/doses/quantity to be dispatched, the place and date of collection, the name, address and the approval number of the EU approved collection or storage centre and the name and address of the consignee; the date and place of issue of the zootechnical certificate, the name, capacity and signature of the individual authorised to sign that certificate by the issuing breed society, or, in the case of entry into the EU of semen, by the issuing breeding body; that individual shall be a representative from that breed society or breeding body, or a representative from the relevant competent authority;

Derogation: concerning the issuing, content and format of zootechnical certificates for entry into EU member states of purebred breeding ponies and their germinal products

7.39. Cross border cooperation to ensure free entrepreneurship and the removal of obstacles to the free movement of animals and their germinal products between breed societies and breeding operations is facilitated by derogation under EU Animal Health Regulations.

7.40. On behalf of the relevant breed society or breeding body on the basis of the information received from that breeding body, germinal products of breeding equines for entry into the EU must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate in the model format issued in accordance with EU Animal Health Regulations 2017/717 by approved semen collection centres or by an embryo collection or production team in the country of origin.

7.41. The zootechnical certificate for breeding material consists of several sections, whereby the Society issues the intended sections for the donated animals and at the end of section 8 confirms the information there with location, date, signature and capacity of authorised individual by the Society to sign, and signature of the Society.

7.42. Traceability of the copies made by the breeding material establishments of the zootechnical certificates completed by the society must be guaranteed at all times.

7.43. The CPBS breeding programme permits the services of the following EU approved AI collection and storage centres (7.44) when it is intended that germinal products are to be used in assisted breeding and also for the issuing of zootechnical certificates and information pertaining to the issuing of zootechnical certificates.

7.44 The CPBS have not availed of the derogation provided under Article 31.1 at this time.

7.44. EU Approved Equine AI Storage Centres

Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Rockmount AI Centre	Rockmount, Claregalway, Co Galway	091-739685	rockmountaicentre@gmail.com

SECTION 8. Genetic Testing/Evaluation and Performance Evaluation

Genetic Testing/Evaluation

8.1 Genetic testing for parentage verification by DNA sample forms part of the Breeding Programme.

8.2 Genetic testing is used in classification and to evaluate the prevalence of the Hoof Wall Separation Disease genotype in the herd. Affected HWSD/HWSD ponies remain in Class 3.

Performance Evaluation

8.3 Indication of success of the breeding programme for all colts and mares inspected is dependent on the performance evaluation as per the breed standard at time of inspection, with Class 1 being the highest standard and Class 3 the lowest. See Section 5 and Rules for Procedures (Inspections) www.cpbs.ie.

8.4 Performance evaluation as per the breed standard (Section 1) is by way of:

(a) visual inspection;
(b) linear profiling.

8.5 Correct type, conformation and movement are visual integral components for performance evaluation (assessment) and comparison with the breed standard. On achieving a sufficient grade, a classification is awarded for acceptance into the breeding programme. See 5.18 and 5.19 for details of scoring and also Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

8.6 From 2019 the classification result of every pony inspected and its associated linear marking profile sheet are published on the CPBS database.

8.7 Performance evaluation results for all ponies inspected are maintained by the CPBS office and published on the CPBS Online Pedigree Database. Overall annual performance evaluation statistics (classification results) are reported at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, published on the website and in the Society periodical newsletter.

8.8 Geldings are inspected for height only (see Section 5). Geldings are included in the Studbook and in time if future performance evaluation prevails through the Merit Scheme (8.9 to 8.14) an assessment of genealogical quality will be permanently introduced based on their performance evaluation in the competition field.

Merit Scheme

8.9 A pilot merit scheme was introduced (2019) with the intention to accumulate data in order to assist evaluate sire contribution and dam contribution to the athletic performance in the breed in conjunction with the Society's breeding standard and breeding goals.

8.10 Geldings have an important part to contribute through their genealogical records and thus to the integrity of the ranking of breeding animals based on results from their athletic performance.

8.11 The Merit Scheme is based on subjective judgement of Show jumping, eventing, dressage, working hunter, ridden and loose jumping competition results all of which take into account type, conformation and way of going as well as athletic performance. Whilst it cannot ever be considered to be an overall conclusive evaluation as only part of the complete herd will ever participate, it will in time provide an indicator to influential bloodlines. The data collected for 2019 is available on the website www.cpbs.ie.

Purposes of the Merit Scheme

Three main purposes for the Merit Scheme are:

8.12 To provide a platform to contribute to the evaluation the athletic performance of ponies registered with the Society, and which information accumulated can be used and evaluated in conjunction with the Society's breeding standard and breeding goals;

8.13 To recognise any sire's contribution and any dam's contribution to athletic performance in bloodlines in conjunction with the Society's breeding standard and breeding goals;

8.14 To encourage those ponies which are outside of high-profile mainstream competition to compete, and thereby assess their performance and contribution to the breeding goals of the Society.

SECTION 9. Technical Activities Outsourced

Laboratory and Technical Testing

9.1. Currently laboratory and technical testing (DNA parentage analysis, comparison testing and HWSD), undertaken as part of CPBS registrations, inspections and importations is outsourced to Weatherbys Scientific, Unit F1, M7 Business Park, Newhall, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 VX86. Weatherbys Scientific is one of Europe's premier facilities for DNA testing and provides top quality service and control to the equine industry.

Veterinary Services

9.2. Each year under rules of the DAFM grants, quotations are received from Veterinary Practices all over the country.

SECTION 10. Daughter Breed Societies (EU) and Breed Bodies (non-EU)

General

The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society has seventeen affiliated daughter member breeding societies and breeding bodies worldwide, each with their own relevant studbook. Collectively known as the **International Committee for Connemara Pony Societies**, or ICCPS, they form a voluntary organisation and which operates under an independent constitution), holding its Annual General Meeting in Ireland at the CPBS Annual Connemara Pony Show in Clifden, County Galway in August. (http://www.connemarapony.org/site)

International Committee for the Connemara pony Societies (ICCPS) Members a voluntary organisation

The following countries are members of the ICCPS: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Ireland as parent society automatically has three delegates on the board of the ICCPS. CPBS delegates are appointed annually on recommendation from the Council of the CPBS as per the ICCPS Constitution. A full list of current ICCPS delegates is published on their website.

Breeding Objectives

The ICCPS oversees the development, promotion and preservation of the Connemara pony as a distinctive breed internationally, **in accordance with the aims and objectives of the CPBS** by promoting and fostering high standards of breeding, as well as nurturing cooperation between member societies.

Strategic Plan

At the 2017 ICCPS Technical Meeting in Clifden an ICCPS Strategic Plan was presented and updated to 2018 for 2018-2020. Strategic priorities include: Connemara Pony Studbooks each daughter society to be functional and accurate; inspector and judge growth to be supported and approved by the CPBS; international membership engagement and expansion; promotion of the Connemara pony; and that all daughter societies have administrative secretariats.

Registration and Inspections

In the case of member countries of the ICCPS all purebred Connemara ponies should be registered with the daughter society in the country where the relevant studbook resides.

A pony presented for classification in a member country of the ICCPS must be classified by inspectors who have been trained and/or approved by the Studbook of origin in Ireland. Due to differing national systems for inspections the number of inspectors may vary, but a minimum of two inspectors plus a mandatory veterinary inspection for stallions is obligatory.

In respect of member countries of the ICCPS the height measurement and health status of mares and geldings must be verified by a veterinary surgeon or other person authorised by the competent authority of the country in which the pony resides.

Amnesty

Geographical constraints due to long distances and consequentially high costs to breeders to attend inspections are to the detriment of the breed in some countries, as outlying ponies and their offspring may have escaped classification. Political constraints may also from time to time have an effect. To embrace the breeding lines and mare families that are at risk because of these limitations it is anticipated that the CPBS and ICCPS will consider a time-limited amnesty to provide an opportunity to maintain a complete record of the worldwide herd.

Database

Having connections via the ICCPS throughout the world provides the CPBS and its members with valuable links to a wide market as well as receiving valuable feedback on breeding, bloodlines etc. There is a proposal to link the databases of these daughter societies to the main database held for Ireland and located in Clifden. To provide such a link will allow the CPBS access a full record of breeding, ancestry, performance and other relevant data on the breed throughout the world and allow for the identification and conservation of rare breeding lines.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD)

https://cpbs.ie/hwsd-hoof-wall-separation-disease-testing-services/

Appendix 2: Linear Profiling Sheet (Fillies)

https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-breeding-programme

Appendix 3: Linear Profiling Scoring Sheet (Colts)

https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-breeding-programme

Appendix 4: CPBS Fees

https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-breeding-programme

Appendix 5: Official Marking Chart

https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-breeding-programme