CUMANN LUCHT CAPAILLÍNÍ CHONAMARA

CONNEMARA PONY BREEDERS SOCIETY

Report of the CPBS Breeding Committee 2024

The Breeding Committee, following feedback from members, breeders and owners throughout the country and the 100th CPBS AGM, set out in November 2023 to review the CPBS Breeding Programme and identify areas where changes to the existing processes would benefit the reintroduction of rare breed lines being lost to the CPBS Studbook, the promotion of the more traditional type Connemara pony and the maintenance of the more popular breeding lines in use at present.

In February 2024 the Breeding Committee working with the Inspection Committee and in consultation with breeders and owners brought their proposal for the Amnesty of Class 3 ponies to run over the four phases of Inspections throughout 2024/2025 to the CPBS Council. This was approved by Council at the February 2024 meeting of Council and the Breeding/Inspection Committees set out to rewrite those sections of the Breeding Programme and have the changes approved before the Spring inspection schedule for 2024 began. With a great deal of work and the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine the revised programme incorporating the two-year Amnesty was ratified and approved to come into effect from the commencement of the Spring 2024 inspection phase.

Due to the work done by the Council and the Committees a total of 180 ponies – who would not otherwise be eligible for Inspection - availed of the Amnesty for Class 3 inspections in 2024.

The full breakdown of Amnesty ponies presented at CPBS Inspections in 2024 is as follows:

1. (a) 17 out of Class 3 mares and class 3 stallions;
   (b) 23 by Class 3 stallions;
   (c) 140 out of Class 3 mares.

2. Change in mark requirement for 138cm ponies and under:
   As it is becoming more difficult for people to purchase a smaller Connemara pony and the ponies in general are going above the 148cm height when fully grown, the Committee felt this was an important trait to encourage in the breed. To encourage this trait in the breeding of ponies, the Breeding Committee brought a proposal to

Council that ponies measuring under 138cm should be awarded 5 additional marks to their Breed Standard mark for being under 138cm.

The Council discussed this at length and as an alternative to the 5 marks being added to Breed Standard the Council proposed setting the mark for the 138cm and under pony at a lower threshold across all categories. This was unanimously agreed and the following addition made to the marking system for 138cm ponies:

(a) Colts measuring 138cm and under – to achieve Class 1 had to get 75 Confirmation; 75 Breed Standard; 75 Movement and 65 Jump;
(b) Class 2 Colt threshold was 55 Confirmation; 55 Breed Standard; 55 Movement and 45 Jump;
(c) Colts not achieving the threshold for Class 2 would remain in Class 3

(d) Fillies measuring 138cm and under – to achieve Class 1 had to get 65 Confirmation; 65 Breed Standard; 65 Movement.
(e) Fillies measuring 138cm and under – to achieve Class 2 had to get 45 Confirmation; 45 Breed Standard; 45 Movement.
(f) Fillies not achieving the threshold for Class 2 would remain in Class 3.

The Amnesty was massively supported by smaller ponies in the Inspections this year with the first 128cm stallion getting Class 1 in 50 years.

3. The Breeding Committee also liaised with Horse Sport Ireland to introduce a Colt Retention Grant and Semen Collection Grant for rare stallion lines to be approved by the DAFM so breeders and owners with suitable ponies can avail of these grants for the preservation of these pedigree lines.

12th January 2025