

CONNEMARA PONY BREEDERS SOCIETY



Report of CPBS Inspection Committee 2024

The 2024 inspections have witnessed far more ponies being brought to inspections than ever before; this was due to a few reasons:

- An amnesty for the progeny of unclassified sires and/or dams brought in excess of 180 extra applications for inspection in 2024.
- Due to the amnesty being introduced in 2024 it encouraged breeders that normally wouldn't bring their ponies to inspections to bring them in 2024. The reason for this was that certain breeding lines would not be looked on favourably or that their pony was out of a Class 3 sire and/or Class 3 dam and therefore would normally mean their pony could not be classified.
- Removing the triangle for inspections meant more breeders felt more confident preparing their ponies for inspections.
- Autumn inspections also saw higher numbers than normal- this was due to using the locations that breeders had chosen following an online survey prior to the Spring inspections.
- Deferrals happened with ponies brought to inspections, the inspectors assessed some of the colts and fillies. Ones that were not suitable got informed owners/breeders of any reason that may cause their pony to not achieve the grade and advised them on how to put this right. They were then invited to represent their pony at the later in Spring or Autumn inspections rather than incurring extra charges to the member to go through the inspection process and not pass due to lack of preparation, i.e. Getting hoofs done.
- Breeders were also allowed to ask the inspector questions about the basis for the marks given. This changed the atmosphere of inspections resulting in owners feeling more comfortable in bringing their ponies out and getting a full assessment.
- Scheduling the inspection days at weekends made it possible for owners/breeders who would otherwise have to work to bring their own ponies to inspection.
- Closing dates and locations in each province were staggered so owners/breeders would have the next option closest to them if their nearest centres date did not suit.

- Owner/breeders of ponies under 138 cm were also encouraged to bring them out for inspection as in addition to the Amnesty a reduction in the points required for classification for u-138 cm ponies was introduced.

The number of ponies that came out for inspection during the year are as follows (Spring Filly, Spring Gelding, Autumn Colts, Autumn Filly, Autumn Geldings), with corresponding numbers for "Entered," "Presented," and classifications (Class 1, Class 2, Class 3). Here's a summary of each:

- **Spring Filly:** 90 entered, 88 presented, with the majority in Class 1 (73), followed by Class 2 (13), and Class 3 (2).
- **Spring Gelding:** 523 entered, 511 presented, with most in Class 1 (495) and a small number in Class 2 (16).
- **Autumn Colts:** 62 entered, 55 presented, with a spread across Class 1 (28), Class 2 (24), and Class 3 (3).
- **Autumn Filly:** 546 entered, 495 presented, with a majority in Class 1 (467) and minor numbers in Class 2 (27) and Class 3 (1).
- **Autumn Geldings:** 4 entered, 4 presented, all in Class 1 (4).

Totals:

- **Total entered:** 1,237 animals.
- **Total presented:** 1,163 animals.
- **Class 1:** 1,076.
- **Class 2:** 81.
- **Class 3:** 4.

This breakdown provides insight into the number of animals entered and presented, along with their classification distribution across the different categories. The majority of animals are classified in Class 1, with much smaller numbers in Class 2 and Class 3.

The inspection Committee identified the following requirements following inspections this year:

- The need for measuring for all ponies at 7/8/9 years of age as many 2/3/4 year-olds were full up 148cm which would indicate they would be well above the 148 cm max height for Class 1 when fully grown.
- Added training and refresher courses required for inspectors; the inspectors stood separately this year and their score sheets have shown a marked inconsistency in the awarding of scores, indicating the additional training and refresher courses are essential to standardise the inspections.
- A follow up inspection or merit is being discussed by the Inspection Committee as the need for further assessment after the initial inspection was identified as a requirement;

- Genetic scoring or methodology to ensure the Society are encouraging owners/breeders to bring the rarer lines to inspections. This would be used to ensure the coefficient of inbreeding (COI) does not increase from where it is presently at and act as a guide in informing breeders how to reduce COI in its breeding population over the next 10 years.