

The following breed standards are included herein as a basic guide to the pony breeds registered in the Australian Pony Stud Book. **These standards do not form part of the preceding Regulations.**

THE AUSTRALIAN PONY

Not exceeding 14 hands high

HEAD:

Head should show quality, with alert well proportioned ears, flat forehead, large dark well-filled eyes, with open nostrils. The head should be set on a well defined gullet.

NECK:

Neck should be slightly crested with good length of rein and no sign of coarseness.

SHOULDERS:

Shoulders should slope back to well defined withers. The shoulders should show no trace of heaviness or coarseness and the chest should be neither too narrow nor too wide.

BACK:

Back should be strong and the loins well coupled with deep girth and well ribbed.

HIND QUARTERS:

The hind quarters should be well rounded and showing good proportionate length of croup.

TAIL:

The tail should be well set on, perfectly straight and gaily carried.

LEGS:

Bone should be quite flat, showing strength without coarseness.

Joints should be well shaped and proportionate to the pony. Cannon bones should be short and straight and pasterns of moderate slope and with proportionate length.

HOOVES:

The hooves should be strong, neat and well shaped.

GAIT:

Action should be smooth showing free flexion of joints without exaggeration.

The stride should be of good length, straight and true.

GENERAL:

The pony should have good presence and should show quality, character, alertness and good ground coverage. The feet should be well placed, standing square and true.

THE CONNEMARA PONY

Features of the Connemara inherent qualities:

HEIGHT:

12 hands to 14.2 hands high.

COLOUR:

Grey, dun, brown, bay and black with occasional roans and chestnuts.

The predominant colour is grey, though many years ago the dun was quite common, but unfortunately this is not so today.

TYPE:

The body should be compact and deep, standing on short legs.

SHOULDERS:

Riding.

HEAD:

Well balanced head and neck.

ACTION:

Free, easy and true movement.

BONE:

Clean, hard and flat, measuring approximately 7 to 8 inches below the knee.

The characteristics of the Connemara pony are hardiness of constitution, staying power, intelligence and soundness.

To sum up, the Connemara pony is a first class utility animal, equally suitable to carry a child or adult, and owning such a pony has many advantages for a family. He pays handsome dividends in safety be it riding for fun or competition and as has happened in every other country where he's been introduced, he'll make lots of friends and admirers and will always do his best.

THE DARTMOOR PONY

The Dartmoor is a very good looking riding pony, sturdily built yet with quality. The maximum height is 12.2 hands high.

HEAD:

Small, well set on to the neck and topped with tiny, alert ears.

EYES:

Large and kindly with an 'interested in everything' expression.

NECK:

Of average length, strong but not heavy. Stallions carrying a moderate crest.

SHOULDERS:

Well laid back giving the Dartmoor pony generally such a good front that when ridden it gives the feel of a 'little horse'.

BACK:

Is of medium length with the loin and quarters strong and well covered with muscle and tail set high and full.

LEGS:

Good, medium bone and tough, well shaped feet are necessary and expected in a breed indigenous to a boulder strewn moorland terrain.

ACTION:

Movement is low, straight and free flowing.

COLOUR:

The usual colours are bay, brown, black and grey; chestnuts and roans are not often seen, while piebalds and skewbalds are not allowed.

White markings on the head and/or legs are acceptable to the Stud Book but should be kept to a minimum.

In all, the Dartmoor pony presents an attractive collage of Thoroughbred quality and British moorland toughness in its outlook, make and shape. Never bored, very willing, always interested, kind and lovable little ponies who captivate the hearts of all who know them.

THE HACKNEY

Points to look for in the Breed

1. Small convex head
2. Large eyes
3. Small ears and muzzle.
4. Long and well formed neck.
5. Powerful shoulders and low withers.
6. Compact body with great depth of chest.
7. Tail well set on quarters and carried high.
8. Forelegs straight - gentle slope of pastern and well shaped feet.
9. Strong hocks well let down.
10. Fine silky coat.
11. Usual colours: Bay, Dark Brown, Chestnut, Black
12. Brilliance and correctness of action must always be paramount. The head erect - neither too high nor low - the ears pricked and the whole animal a portrait of elegance and beauty. For the purpose of judging, Hackneys are divided into horses and ponies. Ponies are up to 14 hands and horses over 14 hands.

The points to look for in the show-ring are:

1. The action must be fine, the leg raised and thrown forward to cover the ground, not just raised up and back to the elbow. The legs must go 1-2-3-4 and be straight and true
2. To produce this picture, presentation is important. A good animal badly presented, for instance with head on one side or head held too high or low, will be beaten by a lesser animal that is produced well. A horse or pony requires that "look at me" attitude combined with elegance.
3. Cleanliness of the horse or pony, the harness, the show vehicle and the smartness of the driver are all essential.
4. Entrants should have good manners and are judged on conformation and their way of going. Straight correct action is desirable which should be high and progressive and not "up and down".

(Taken from the Year Book of the Hackney Horse Society of the U.K.)

THE FJORD HORSE

TYPE:

The Fjord Horse is a versatile "all purpose" pony renowned for its gentleness of temperament, willingness to work, stamina and vigour. Fjord Horses are well suited for work on farms and in horticulture. They are used in all manner of harness work including competitions. They can be a good ride and, in Australia, have been used for trail and pleasure riding by adults and children, for pony club, riding for disabled and stock work.

In Europe and America they have also been used with great success in vaulting and endurance. The breeding philosophy described by Bob van Bon (controller of Dutch State Fjord Stud and a world renowned expert on the breed) is "If you think of the "original" Fjord Horse as being in the middle of a highway, with the riding type in the left lane and draft type on the right lane, you must not go too far in either direction or you will be off the highway completely".

COLOUR:

This breed characteristic is so obvious that the Fjord Pony is immediately recognisable. Its special features are its dun colouration; the stiff, trimmed bi-coloured mane and the dorsal or eel stripe

which runs from the forelock to the tip of its tail. There are six colour variations:

- a. Brown Dun: light brown, brown and dark brown dun, black dorsal strip; light mane and tail
- b. Red Dun: light red, red and dark red dun; not a very strongly marked reddish brown dorsal stripe, mane and tail have a reddish tint
- c. Light Dun: light with black
- d. Yellow Dun: light with a reddish brown dorsal tripe
- e. Grey Dun: ranging from light to very dark grey, black dorsal tripe
- f. White Dun: white all over with a faint yellowish dorsal strip

In addition to the dorsal stripe, other markings include horizontal (zebra) stripes on legs, dark legs below the knee and sometimes dark stripes across the wither. Hairs around the muzzle may be white, or varying shades of dun. White stars are permitted on the forehead, but not encouraged.

WEIGHT:

400 to 650 kilograms (900 to 1,500 pounds)

HEIGHT:

The height of Section 1 Fjord Horses is not usually under 13 (thirteen) hands high but not to be over 14.2 (fourteen-two) hands high.

HEAD:

The head may be large but never common, with a broad flat forehead and a straight or slightly concave profile. The eyes are large and dark with a gently expression. The nostrils are large. The jowls are well rounded and strong. The ears are of small to medium size and set well apart.

NECK:

The neck tends to be shorter than in other breeds but is well muscled with sufficient suppleness and blends into a deep chest and a sloping shoulder.

WITHERS:

The withers tend to be rounded - not clearly defined.

BODY:

The Fjord Horse has a compact body with a deep girth and well sprung ribs. The back is medium in length with a strong coupling. The loin is broad and strong. The croup is well muscled and well rounded to the tail.

LEGS:

The legs should be straight, conformationally correct, and possess substantial bone. The bones are flat and clean, never coarse. The size of the bone is important to body type (i.e. a heavier cannon bone on a large, heavier Fjord Horse) and the joints are proportionally large and well defined. Pasterns are sloping and of moderate length. Fore-arm and gaskin are well muscled, inside and out. Hooves are ample in size, dark and strong with a wide heel. Fjord Horses have especially had hooves and may be shown unshod.

ACTION:

The Fjord Horse is known for its free easy stride and its natural, balanced action

PREFERRED GROOMING PRESENTATION:

Generally Fjords should not be clipped unless for the pony's well being due to climate or activity (e.g. combined driving, eventing dressage etc.). Feathers should not be clipped, but "goat" hairs under the chin and jowl may be trimmed to define head.

Ear hairs should not be clipped out but also may be neatened. Tail should be left long and full. The

upright mane is clipped in a crescent so as to emphasise the curve of the neck. The silver hairs each side of the dorsal stripe are often cut about 20 millimetres (mm) shorter than the black to emphasise the stripe.

PRESENTATION:

The Fjord Horse is presented square.

THE HIGHLAND PONY

The Highland Pony, ranging in height from 13 hands to 14.2 hands high, is one of the most versatile of British native breeds. It is hardy and of sound constitution, while the winter coat, consisting of a layer of strong, badger-like hair over a soft, dense undercoat, enables it to live out in all weathers. As the breed has a height range of 6 inches, obviously some of the smaller ponies will be of lighter type than the larger ones. All, however, should have the same assets of good bone and substance for their height, thus making them stronger, and up to more work and weight than most other ponies of similar size.

Highlands of all heights should be compact, with good fronts, shoulders, and withers and with well-developed quarters. They should move straight and freely and show true 'pony' character. They are good rides, and make excellent "family" ponies, many being natural jumpers. They are easily broken to harness and because of their docility, sure-footedness and native intelligence, are invaluable as pack ponies and for farm and forestry work. Highland Ponies also make good foundation stock for the breeding of high-class hunters and event horses, the transmission to their off-spring of much of their natural sagacity being here of inestimable value.

The Highland Pony Breed characteristics are as follows:

HEAD:

Well carried; broad between alert and kindly eyes; short between eyes and muzzle; muzzle not pinched, nostrils wide.

NECK:

Strong, not short; good arched top-line; throat clean and not fleshy.

SHOULDER:

Well laid back, withers pronounced.

BODY:

Compact; back with slight natural curve; chest deep, ribs well-sprung and carried well back.

QUARTERS:

Powerful; strong, well-developed thigh and second thigh.

LEGS:

Flat, hard bone, forearm strong, knee broad, short cannon, pasterns oblique, not too short; well shaped, hard, dark hooves. Forearm placed well under the weight of the body, hocks clean, flat and closely set. Feathers silky, and not over-heavy, ending in a prominent tuft at the fetlock.

MANE AND TAIL:

Hair should be long, silky and flowing, not coarse. Tail set fairly high and carried gaily.

COLOURS:

Various shades of dun: mouse, yellow, golden, grey, cream, fox, etc

Also grey, brown, black and occasionally bay and liver chestnut with silver mane and tail. Most ponies carry the dorsal eel-stripe and many have zebra markings on the inside of the forelegs. Apart from a small star, white markings (blazes, socks etc.) are disliked and discouraged

THE NEW FOREST PONY

HEIGHT:

The top limit is 14.2hh. The ponies are not often under 12hh but there is no lower limit.

COLOUR:

Any colour except piebald, skewbald and blue eyed cream (cremello). White markings are looked upon with approval.

ACTION:

Should be straight, with free movement, not exaggerated with pointed toes. Movement should come from the top of the shoulder, not from the elbow and the hocks should really be used.

BODY:

Length of body should exceed height and Depth of body should be equal to length of leg.

GENERAL:

Over refined heads and light bone are neither typical nor desirable.

The New Forest Pony is divided into two types:-

Both type A & B should have a pony head - well set on, a long sloping clean shoulder, strong quarters, plenty of bone and depth of body, straight limbs and good hard round feet.

TYPE A:

Ponies 13.2hh n.e. 14.2hh- A riding pony of substance, capable of carrying an adult, but narrow enough for children and fast for his size

TYPE B:

Ponies under 13.2hh-The same basic description as type A but an ideal riding pony for children, not up to quite so much weight, but often showing more quality than the bigger ponies.

THE SHETLAND PONY

The Shetland Pony should provide a versatile hardy pony ideally suited as a child's saddle pony or a harness pony either single harness or up to six in hand using a recognised show class vehicle. It should possess a kindly nature free of vice (Kicking, biting, etc.) be of a tractable "level headed" nature but still retain an alert bright manner.

It is by nature an intelligent pony and is easy to train and control.

COLOUR:

In the pure bred Shetland, black is the foundation colour with black/brown, grey, brown, bay, chestnut, palomino, buckskin, piebald & skewbald. White stars, socks, stripes, blazes and snips are all acceptable. Colour should not count against a pony.

COAT:

The coat changes according to the season of the year - double coat in winter and smooth in summer. Clipping and dying of coats is not allowed.

HEAD:

The head should be relatively strong without coarseness and be in balance with the body. It should present a fairly straight foreface in profile (not over dished or roman nosed), broad in forehead with large, kindly eyes well placed, with small ears presenting almond shape when viewed from front, carried alertly and large open nostrils.

NECK:

Head and neck should rise off a well laid, oblique shoulder, strong and muscular with a crest especially in stallions (not straight out between the shoulders with crest reversed). The length of neck must be in proportion to the size of the pony. The head well set on with sufficient room at the gullet.

BODY:

Thick set with deep, well-sprung ribs, relatively short back with broad chest and quarters, nice sloping shoulder, tail well set on with profuse mane, tail and feathering all of straight hair. Loins strong and muscular.

LEGS:

Forelegs - well placed under the shoulder and chest and standing plumb (not knock-kneed nor too wide apart, pigeon toed or splay foot) with well muscled forearm, strong though not coarse of knee (flat faced in profile), followed through by good flat bone and not back in knee. Short strong cannon bone with nicely sprung pasterns.

Hind legs - thighs strong and muscular with broad, well developed hocks carried under the body, followed through by good flat bone and pasterns (not cow hocked or wide behind) in balance with the forelegs. Disproportionately long legs which produce too much light under the body are a weakness in conformation.

FEET:

Tough, round and well shaped (not short, narrow and contracted).

ACTION:

Straight free movement fore and aft with sufficient action to show all four soles when viewed from rear. Action not exaggerated nor stilted.

HEIGHT:

The height shall not exceed 10.2 hands high.

Shetland Ponies must be shown in natural coat and full feather, Shetlands must not be clipped or dyed when shown as a representative of their breed.

THE WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY - Section A

Not exceeding 12 hands high

GENERAL CHARACTER:

Hardy, spirited and pony-like.

COLOUR:

Any colour, except piebald and skewbald.

HEAD:

Small, clean-cut, well set on and tapering to the muzzle.

EYES:

Bold

EARS:

Well-placed, small and pointed, well up on the head, proportionately close.

NOSTRILS:

Prominent and open.

JAWS AND THROAT:

Clean and finely-cut, with ample room at the angle of the jaw.

NECK:

Lengthy, well-carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of matured stallions.

SHOULDERS:

Long and sloping well back. Withers moderately fine, but not "knifey". The humerus upright so that the foreleg is not set in under the body.

FORELEGS:

Set square and true, and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearm, well developed knee, short flat bone below knee, pasterns of proportionate slope and length, feet well-shaped and round, hooves dense.

BACK AND LOINS:

Muscular, strong and well coupled.

GIRTH:

Deep.

RIBS:

Well sprung.

HIND QUARTERS:

Lengthy and fine. Not cobby, ragged or goose-rumped. Tail well set on and carried gaily.

HIND LEGS:

Hocks to be large, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards nor outwards. The hind leg not to be too bent. The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well-shaped, hooves dense.

ACTION:

Quick, free and straight from the shoulder, well away in front. Hocks well flexed with straight and powerful leverage and well under the body.

THE WELSH PONY - Section B

Not exceeding 13.2 hands high

The general description of ponies in Section 'A' of the Stud Book is applicable to those in Section 'B', but more particularly the Section 'B' pony shall be described as a riding pony, with quality, riding action, adequate bone and substance, hardiness and constitution with pony character.

THE WELSH PONY - Section C & D

GENERAL CHARACTER:

Strong, hardy and active, with pony character and as much substance as possible.

COLOUR:

Any colour, except piebald and skewbald.

HEAD:

Full of quality and pony character. A coarse head and roman nose are most objectionable.

EYES:

Bold, prominent and set widely apart.

EARS:

Neat and well set.

NECK:

Lengthy and well carried. Moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of matured stallions.

SHOULDERS:

Strong but well laid back

FORELEGS:

Set square and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearms.

Knees well developed with an abundance of bone below them. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length.

Feet well-shaped. Hooves dense. When in the rough, a moderate quantity of silky feather is not objected to but coarse, wiry hair is a definite objection.

MIDDLEPIECE:

Back and loins, muscular, strong and well-coupled. Deep through the heart and well-ribbed up.

HIND QUARTERS:

Lengthy and strong. Ragged or drooping quarters are objectionable. Tail well-set on. Animals may be docked or un-docked.

HIND LEGS:

Second thighs, strong and muscular. Hocks large, flat and clean, with points prominent, turning neither inwards nor outwards. The hind legs must not be too bent and the hock not set behind a line falling from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well-shaped. Hooves dense.

ACTION:

Free, true and forcible. The knee should be bent and the whole foreleg should be extended straight from the shoulder and as far forward as possible in the trot. Hocks flexed under the body with straight and powerful leverage.

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