



**The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society**

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**INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY STANDARDS**

**June 2004, revised Feb 2007**

Ponies should be identified, measured, blood-typed or DNA-typed and examined to ascertain that, at the time of examination, they are clinically free from hereditary diseases.

The examination must include checks for the following :

**Temperament** : if the pony's temperament is such that it is unable to be examined fully, the pony must not be accepted. Should there be suspicions of the pony being medicated, it must be blood/urine sampled.

**Teeth** : the central incisors may be overshot by not more than 25% of the surface area of the teeth. Undershot mouths are not acceptable. All six incisors in the upper and lower jaws must be in a normal position. Any abnormal position of a tooth/teeth e.g. rotated tooth/teeth, must be deemed cause for failure. The teeth/jaw must be examined whilst the head is in a normal position, not held high.

**Eyes** : cataract - total bilateral opacity of the lens is not acceptable. Eyes should be checked in a darkened room using an ophthalmoscope. Should the Veterinary Surgeon feel the pony has a cataract problem, the animal may be referred to an eye specialist for further examination.

**Sweet Itch** : If the pony shows signs of sweet itch it should not be accepted. The use of false hair is not permissible at assessment.

Evidence of signs of **umbilical or inguinal hernia** will disqualify the pony.

**Heart and lungs** should be normal at rest by auscultation.

**Genital Organs** : both testicles should be equal in normal size, shape and consistency and their position consistent with the age of the colt. Both testicles must be fully descended in the scrotum. Rotated testicles should be noted but must not exclude the pony.

**Limbs** : the stifle should be examined by palpation whilst weight bearing as well as with the leg raised for evidence of lateral luxation of the patella and for upward fixation of the patella. Any luxation of the patella must be deemed cause for failure. Overfilling in any joint must be judged severely. Sub luxation of the pastern joint, sub luxation of the lower joints and full luxation of the upper joints must all be deemed cause for failure.

**Hooves** must be strong, sound and correctly shaped and not severely trimmed. The use of corrective shoeing is not permitted.

**Action** must be sound and straight. Particular attention should be paid to the function of the joints in the limbs and abnormalities in the stifle, hock or pastern will be judged severely. Action in walk and trot should be checked on a hard, smooth surface on a straight line and on small circles on both sides. Flexion tests may be carried out.

Any other relevant comments should be noted. If any defect is caused by accident or injury, the pony must be accompanied by a certificate from the Veterinary Surgeon who treated the animal at the time of injury.

On application for assessment, owners must be asked to sign a declaration stating that the animal has not had any temperament altering drugs or remedies administered nor had any corrective surgery.

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