

(1<sup>st</sup> January 2007)

## **SPSBS INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY VETERINARY EXAMINATION**

Ponies should be identified, measured, 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 deemed acceptable. 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 at the owner's expense.

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

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 should 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 at the discretion of the Veterinary Surgeon.

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 the day of examination, owners must be asked to sign a declaration, **before the examination begins**, stating that the animal has not had any temperament altering drugs or remedies administered nor had any corrective surgery.

**Veterinary Surgeons are asked to take specific note of the following points:**

1. DEFECTIVE GENITAL ORGANS
2. HEART AND LUNGS NORMAL AT REST
- 3(a) UPWARD FIXATION OF PATELLA
- 3(b) LUXATION OF PATELLA
- 3(c) ABNORMALITY OF THE STIFLE  
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. Laxity of the patella must be judged severely. Overfilling in any joint must be judged severely.
4. ABNORMALITY OF THE HOCKS
5. OTHER ABNORMALITIES OF MUSCULO SKELETAL SYSTEM
6. EYES : Abnormalities of the eyes and associated structures ( including examination for cataracts) .
7. MOUTH : Undershot  
Overshot  
(At least three quarters of bearing surface in contact is mandatory)  
Any other abnormality of the mouth
8. EVIDENCE OF UMBILICAL AND INGUINAL HERNIA OR EVIDENCE OF REPAIR
9. ABNORMALITIES OF THE FEET
10. ACTION AND CONFORMATION : Flexion test may be carried out.
11. ANY OTHER REASONS DEEMED CAUSE FOR FAILURE

**The Veterinary Surgeon, therefore, is requested to:**

- a) obtain the colt/stallion owner or handler's signature on the "drugs declaration" form
- b) examine the colt and certify that, on that day, he/she considers the colt suitable or not suitable for use as a breeding stallion as laid down under the guidelines of the UK Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society, making notes as required on any of the points noted below.
- c) identify the colt by the completion of an identification paper to include all whorls, markings and any form of permanent identification.
- d) measure the colt on a hard, level surface. The measurement must be taken at the highest point of the withers (i.e. immediately above the spinous process of the 5th thoracic vertebra). Please note that unless a measurement is undertaken under JMB conditions, it cannot be guaranteed to be highly accurate but this is not a compulsory requirement.
- e) take a hair sample for DNA purposes. The Veterinary Surgeon should post this directly to the Animal Health Trust in the envelope provided.
- f) microchip the colt, unless already microchipped.

**Order of Procedure for Voluntary Veterinary Examination**

1. Vet checks that the passport matches the pony. Owner/handler signs declaration that colt has not had any corrective surgery prior to the assessment or temperament altering or pain relieving drugs or remedies immediately prior to the assessment.
2. Vet watches movement with the colt moving in straight lines and on circles both ways, in walk and trot on soft and hard ground. A flat level surface is essential. The Vet carries on to undertake a full examination of the colt to the Society requirements above. **The new identification form is completed by the Vet and the colt is measured** (PLEASE COMPLETE A NEW ID FORM EVEN IF YOU FEEL THE EXISTING PASSPORT IS ACCURATE). The Vet takes a hair sample. The colt is then micro-chipped if applicable. The completed forms are then signed by the Vet.
3. The owner is advised of the result – ACCEPTABLE OR NOT ACCEPTABLE.
4. Hair sample is posted to AHT by Vet and forms (owner's drugs declaration and two identification/examination forms) are returned by Vet to SPSBS, Shetland House, 22 York Place, Perth PH2 8EH.