



# Breeding Programme

Registered in Scotland No. 135563 Registered as a charity in Scotland No. SCO14784  
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# Breeding programme of the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society

## Stud Book of the Society

The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society (SPS-BS) holds the stud-book of origin for the breed of Shetland ponies. It has had the same format since 1890 (eighteen hundred and ninety). In 1992 the Society gained official recognition as the stud-book of origin for the breed of Shetland ponies throughout the world

The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society maintains and publishes a stud-book of registrations for the pedigree of Shetland ponies.

## Breed Characteristics

The UK Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society sets the breed standard for registered Shetland ponies world-wide.

## Breed Description

**Height** - Registered stock must not exceed 42 inches (107cm). Ponies are measured from the withers to the ground, by measuring stick, and a level stance, preferably concrete, should be used.

**Colour** - Shetland ponies may be any colour known in horses except spotted.

**Coat** - A double coat in winter with guard hairs which shed the rain and keep the pony's skin completely dry in the worst of the weather and, in summer a short coat which should carry a beautiful silky sheen. At all times the mane and tail hair should be long, straight and profuse.

**Head** - The head should be small, and in proportion. Ears should be small and erect, wide set but pointing well forward. Forehead should be broad with bold, dark, intelligent eyes. Muzzle must be broad with nostrils wide and open. Teeth and jaw must be correct.

**Body** - The neck should be properly set onto the shoulder, which in turn should be sloping, not upright, and end in a well-defined wither. The body should be strong, with plenty of heart room, well sprung ribs, the loin strong and muscular. The quarters should be broad and long with the tail set well up on them.

**Forelegs** - These should have good, flat bone. Strong forearm. Short balanced cannon bone. Springy pasterns.

**Hindlegs** - The thighs should be strong and muscular with well-shaped strong hocks. When viewed from behind, the hindlegs should not be set too widely apart, nor should the hocks be turned in.

**Feet** - Tough, round and well-shaped.

**Action** - Straight, free action using every joint. Tracking up well.

**General** - A most salient and essential feature of the Shetland pony is its general air of vitality (presence), stamina and robustness.

### **Aims of the Breeding Programme**

The aims of the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society are:

- i. To maintain unimpaired the purity of the breed of Shetland ponies; and
- ii. To promote, preserve and improve the breed of Shetland ponies.

### **Geographical territory and breeding population**

The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society operates throughout the United Kingdom.

### **Population of breeding animals**

There are approximately 110,000 breeding animals and the United Kingdom represents approximately 38% of this total. There are approximately 600 breeders in the UK.

### **Filial Stud-Books**

- Austrian Stud Book Soc. for Ponies, Ellends 31, A-3812 Groß Siegharts, Austria.
- Belgian Shetland Pony Soc, Blankaart 54 bis, 3061 Leefdaal, Belgium.
- The Breeding Association of Shetland Ponies in Denmark, Baekkevej 8, Rosmus, 8444 Balle, Denmark.
- Suomen Hippos ry – Jalostuspalvelut, Tulkinkuja 3, 02650 Espoo, Finland.
- Haras Nationaux, Road of Troche - BP 6 19 231 Arnac-Pompadour Cedex, France.
- Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung, Freiherr-von-langen-Strasse 13, 48231 Warendorf, Germany.
- Nederlands Shetland Pony Stamboek, Burg. Smitstraat 21, 7221 BH Steenderen, Netherlands.
- The Norwegian Pony Breeding Association, Paland, 1892 Degernes, Norway.
- Polskie Towarzystwo Kuce Szetlandzkie, Imno, 72-200 Nowogard, Poland.
- Sveriges Shetlandssällskap, Box 314, 523 24 SKARA, Sweden.
- Schweizerischen Shetlandpony-Verbandes (SSPV), Bahnhofstrasse 2, 6170 Schüpfheim, Switzerland.
- Schweizerischer Verband für Ponys und Kleinpferde (SVPK), Schoenauring 86, 8052 Zuerich, Switzerland.
- Australian Pony Stud Book Society Inc., PO Box 267 Glenbrook NSW 2773.
- New Zealand Shetland Pony Breeders' Society (Inc.), The Secretary, 530 Marshland Road, Christchurch 8083, New Zealand.

### **System for Identifying Breeding Animals**

- i. Outline diagrams must be completed by the breeder or a veterinary surgeon.
- ii. All ponies when registered must have a microchip inserted by a veterinary surgeon.
- iii. All ponies are named when first registered as foals. Ponies can be named using a breeder's prefix or suffix. A prefix or suffix that is registered for use with one breeder may not be used by another breeder, without written consent from the prefix or suffix owner.
- iv. All ponies when registered are issued with a lifetime identification document.
- v. Ponies are identified by a fifteen-digit Universal Equine Life Number (UELN). The UELN remains the unique identification number of the pony for its life.
- vi. Where the mare owner was not also the stallion owner when the mare was covered, then a stinging certificate is required from the stallion owner to confirm covering has taken place. Where no signature can be obtained, DNA testing of the foal against its sire is required before registration.

### **Registration of Animals and Recording pedigrees.**

Rules of entry for Registration of Pedigree Shetland Ponies in the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society Mother Stud-Book (Stud-Book of origin) are:

- i. All pedigree Shetland ponies, whose sire and dam are already registered in the SPS-BS Mother Stud-Book, have a legal right of entry into the main body of the Mother Stud-Book. The Society will enter into the breeding book, animals of the same breed that are eligible for entry under the Society's breed criteria, without discrimination on account of their country of origin;
- ii. All foals must be registered within twelve months of their birth. Any pedigree Shetland pony, who has missed the twelve month deadline for registration, may still be registered by the Breeder but will incur additional registration fees and will have to prove parentage with full DNA parentage testing, paid for in full by the breeder at the correct fee in place at that time. The Shetland pony over twelve months old will need to have its own DNA compared to that of its Sire and Dam. Only once DNA has been provided and parentage proven will the pony be accepted for entry into the Stud-Book;
- iii. The breeder is the only person who can register a pedigree foal;
- iv. The breeder applies to the SPS-BS and must complete a registration application form and lodges this form together with the correct fee at the office of the SPS-BS. Any Identification Rules (the "Identification Rules") in force at the time of application must be met by the breeder of the foal/pony. The Identification Rules may be amended by a resolution of the Board of Directors (as constituted from time to time) of the Society (passed by simple majority by the Board of Directors);
- v. The Sire and Dam must already be registered in the main body of the Shetland Pony Stud-Book;
- vi. No pony shall be accepted for registration whose sire and dam are not already entered in the Stud-Book of an officially recognised Shetland pony Stud-Book, recognised as a Daughter (Filial) Stud-Book either by the Mother Stud-Book

- (SPS-BS) who is the Stud-Book of origin of the breed of Shetland ponies or as recognised by the legislation of the European Union;
- vii. All Shetland ponies that are registered in the main body of the SPS-BS Mother Stud-Book will have full rights and privileges of a breeding animals and have no restrictions placed upon them;
  - viii. The rules of registration for pedigree Shetland ponies cannot be changed, altered or added to, or amended other than by special resolution of the members of the Society passed at a lawfully convened General Meeting at which at least 40% of the members of the Society are present in person, or except as specifically set out in Paragraph iv of these rules;
  - ix. The pedigree of all ponies, to be entered and registered within the SPSBS stud-book, must be shown to trace back to the stud-book of origin. No pony will be accepted unless the pedigree is proven to the satisfaction of the SPSBS.
  - x. Any pony being transferred out-with the UK must be registered in the name of the seller/vendor, whose signature must be obtained before any transfer can be recorded;
  - xi. Any pony being exported from the UK must have an International Pony Movement Certificate (IPMC) completed by both a veterinary surgeon, who verifies the identification of the pony, and the registered owner. A zootechnical certificate will also accompany the animal.

### **Breeding objectives and selection**

The Society's breeding objectives are to maintain unimpaired the purity of the breed of Shetland ponies.

### **Selection of breeding animals**

Animals are selected by owners to be registered in the Stud-Book. Any registered pedigree Shetland Pony can be selected for breeding.

Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer are permitted following the rules laid out in appendices 1 and 2 of this document.

### **Performance Testing and Genetic Evaluation**

The SPS-BS does not undertake performance testing or genetic evaluation.

DNA testing is carried out on all colts passing the Voluntary Vetting Examination for stallion licensing. All colts born 2017 onwards need to be parentage tested against both parents before being licensed as stallions.

All foals must have a DNA profile of the sire completed prior to registration for the purposes of parentage verification.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 all first foaling, maiden, mares must be DNA profiled for the purposes of parentage verification.

## **Division of Herd Book**

All Shetland ponies that are registered in the main body of the SPS-BS Mother Stud-Book Society will have full rights and privileges of a breeding animal and have no restrictions placed upon them.

The SPS-BS Mother Stud-Book for the origin of the breed of Shetland ponies is comprised of a main section, broken down into four classes. There are no supplementary sections and the grading-up of non pure-bred ponies is not permitted in this closed Stud-Book.

The Stud-Book is set out as below:

- i. Main body, pedigree foal register for all foals, (one pedigree foal register only in the main body of the studbook, where all pedigree Shetland foals are recorded, no restrictions at all placed on any foal);
- ii. Main body, pedigree mare register for all pedigree mares producing a first foal, (one pedigree mare register only in the main body of the Stud-Book, where all pedigree mares producing first foal are recorded, no restrictions at all placed on any mare);
- iii. Main body, pedigree stallion register for all colts that have passed the voluntary veterinary examination in accordance with the International Shetland Pony Committee, International Veterinary Standards, (one pedigree Stallion register only in the main body of the Stud-Book, where all stallions passing the Voluntary Veterinary Examination, are recorded, no restrictions at all placed on any stallion);
- iv. Main body, pedigree gelding register for all colts gelded and the owner has forwarded an authentic castration certificate completed by a veterinary surgeon to the office of the SPS-BS, (one pedigree gelding register only in the main body of the Stud-Book, where all geldings are recorded, no restrictions at all placed on any gelding).

## **Technical Activities**

Herd Book services will be sourced from Grassroots Pedigree Software Solutions, PO Box 251, Exeter EX2 8WX, and include:

- i. The maintenance of a database containing the SPS-BS Stud-Book, including all foaling details;
- ii. Maintaining stud-book inventories; and
- iii. Provision of online inbreeding checker.

DNA testing services will be sourced from Animal Genetics, 1 Mount Charles Road, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL25 3LB, United Kingdom.

## **Rules of procedure**

The Society ensures the equal treatment of breeders participating in the breeding programme, no matter their country of origin.

All complaints should be made in writing by post in the first instance to the Office Manager, S.P.S-B.S., Shetland House, 22 York Place, Perth PH2 8EH or by email to [registrations@spsbs.co.uk](mailto:registrations@spsbs.co.uk)

## **How we will handle your complaint**

- i. You will receive written acknowledgement of receipt by return post or email;
- ii. You will receive written confirmation by post or email within 15 days advising you how the complaint will be dealt with. In the first instance, any complaint which is received is circulated to the President and all of the Council members. If the complaint is against a Judge or the conduct of member, the Society would write to the individual to whom the complaint is concerning to obtain their account of events. Council would then decide how best to resolve the matter.
- iii. You will receive written confirmation of the outcome;
- iv. If you wish to appeal the decision this should be done in writing stating your grounds for the appeal and submitted to the next council meeting;
- v. Council will re-examine your complaint, taking into account the grounds for your appeal and advise you of the outcome in writing. You will receive written confirmation of the outcome and this decision will be final.

Reviewed by Council 18 April 2024

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**Shetland House, 22 York Place, Perth, Perthshire PH2 8EH**  
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## **Artificial Insemination**

### ***Rules for the use of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen Semen***

The following Rules as set down by the Council of The Shetland Pony Stud Book Society (SPSBS) must be strictly adhered to for Artificial Insemination (AI) by licensed Shetland pony stallions. Failure to comply with these Rules will result in the offspring being ineligible for registration in the Stud Book. Members are advised to contact their veterinary surgeon with regard to complying with the 'Guide to the Use of Artificial Insemination in Equine Reproduction' which must be followed. This guide is available online and is published by the British Equine Veterinary Association, Mulberry House, 31 Market Street, Fordham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5LQ. Tel: 01638 723 555 Email: [info@beva.org.uk](mailto:info@beva.org.uk) Website: [www.beva.org.uk](http://www.beva.org.uk)

#### **Rules:**

1. Stallion and mare owners/lessees must be members of the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society.
2. Semen may only be collected from stallions who have passed the SPSBS Voluntary Veterinary Examination and the certificate of collection must be lodged with the SPSBS immediately following collection.
3. The Collection of semen must be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or approved AI technician who MUST complete and sign two copies of the Certificate of Collection clearly marked showing the date of the collection. One copy should be given to the stallion owner/lessee for submission to the SPSBS immediately following collection and one copy given to the semen owner, if different, for retention.
4. Members importing semen MUST provide evidence that all of these requirements are met in full. The onus remains entirely with the member to ensure the resulting foal will be eligible for registration with the SPSBS.
5. The insemination of a mare must be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or approved AI technician who MUST complete and sign two copies of the Certificate of Insemination clearly marked showing the date of the insemination. One copy should be given to the mare owner/lessee for submission to the Society with the foal registration application and one copy given to the semen owner for retention if different.
6. There is a limit of a maximum of 15 pregnancies per stallion per annum.

#### **Other Information:**

1. The cost of registration of a foal conceived by AI is the same as a foal from a natural covering.
2. When a foal registration application is received it will be checked against the society register of Stallions who have had semen collected.
3. Foals conceived by AI will require to have their parentage verified via DNA
4. The mare's DNA is required for parentage verification of the Foal for registration.
5. DNA testing kits are supplied by the Society and must be paid for (£60.00) prior to being sent out.
6. All veterinary expenses and stud expenses incurred are solely the responsibility of the mare owner/lessee and the stallion owner/lessee.



# Shetland Pony Stud Book Society

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## CERTIFICATE OF SEMEN COLLECTION

I (insert name).....hereby certify that I have

Collected semen from the stallion named: .....

Stud Book No: ..... Microchip No: .....

Stallion Owner/Lessee: .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

The semen will be used \*fresh/stored chilled/stored frozen (\*delete as appropriate)

Date and Time of Collection: ...../...../..... (dd/mm/yyyy) at ..... hrs

Address Where Collection took place: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Name (in block capitals): .....

Address of Veterinary Practice or approved AI Technician: .....

.....

Postcode: ..... Tel No: .....

*Two Certificates of Collection must be completed by the veterinary surgeon or approved AI technician undertaking the collection. One certificate should be given to the Stallion owner/lessee and the second certificate lodged with the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society at the address above immediately following collection.*

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## CERTIFICATE OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

I (insert name)..... hereby certify that I have  
inseminated the mare named: .....

Stud Book No:..... Microchip No: .....

Mare Owner/Lessee: .....

Address: .....  
..... Postcode: .....

with \*fresh/chilled/frozen (\*delete as appropriate) semen from the stallion named: .....  
.....

Stud Book No:..... Microchip No: .....

Date and Time of Insemination: ...../...../..... (dd/mm/yyyy) at ..... hrs

Address Where Insemination took place: .....  
..... Postcode: .....

I also certify that any unused semen was destroyed and none was retained.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Name (in block capitals): .....

Address of Veterinary Practice or approved AI Technician: .....  
.....

Postcode: ..... Tel No: .....

*Two Certificates of Insemination must be completed by the veterinary surgeon or approved AI technician undertaking the insemination. One Certificate should be given to the mare owner/lessee and the second certificate given to the semen owner for retention. The mare owner will be required to submit their Certificate of Insemination to the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society at the time of the foal's registration.*

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## **Embryo Transfer**

### *Rules for the use of Embryo Transfer*

The following Rules as set down by the Council of The Shetland Pony Stud Book Society (SPSBS) must be strictly adhered to for Embryo Transfer. Embryos' must be the produce of licensed Shetland pony stallions and registered mares. Failure to comply with these Rules will result in the offspring being ineligible for registration in the Stud Book. Members must use an approved collection and production team. Equine embryo collection and storage centres must be licensed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to operate. APHA approve and inspect these premises on behalf of Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government. Details of approved premises and teams which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/livestock-and-equine-embryo-collection-approved-premises>.

#### **Rules:**

1. Stallion and mare owners/lessees must be members of the SPSBS.
2. Embryo transfer is only permitted when using a stallion who has passed the SPSBS Voluntary Veterinary Examination.
3. The donor mare and recipient mare must be registered with the SPSBS.
4. The conception arrangements preceding embryo transfer, if not natural, must follow the same requirements as for Artificial Insemination.
5. Both stages of embryo transfer – recovery from the donor mare and transfer to the recipient mare - must be carried out by an approved team at approved premises.
6. The approved insemination team MUST complete and sign two copies of the Certificate of Embryo Transfer showing the date of the transfer. One certificate should be given to the donor mare owner/lessee and the second certificate lodged with the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society at the address above immediately following transfer.
7. The onus remains entirely with the member to ensure the resulting foal will be eligible for registration with the SPSBS. In any one year the recovery of embryos from a mare may only be carried out so that a maximum of four embryos are used for transfer purposes.

#### **Other Information:**

1. The cost of registration of a foal produced via Embryo Transfer is the same as a foal from a natural covering.
2. When a foal registration application is received it will be checked against the society register of Embryo Transfers.
3. Foals produced by Embryo Transfer will require to have their parentage verified via DNA
4. The mare's DNA is required for parentage verification of the Foal for registration.
5. DNA testing kits are supplied by the Society and must be paid for (£60.00) prior to being sent out.
6. All veterinary expenses and stud expenses incurred are solely the responsibility of the donor/recipient mare owner/lessee and the stallion owner/lessee.

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## CERTIFICATE OF EMBRYO TRANSFER

I (insert name).....hereby certify that I have

Transferred an embryo from the donor mare named: .....

Stud Book No:..... Microchip No: .....

In to the recipient mare named: .....

Stud Book No:..... Microchip No: .....

Stallion Details – Name: .....

Stud Book No:..... Microchip No: .....

Donor Mare Owner/Lessee (insert name/s): .....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Date and Time of Embryo Transfer: ...../...../..... (dd/mm/yyyy) at ..... hrs

Address of approved premises where Embryo Transfer took place: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Tel. No: ..... Email: .....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Name (in block capitals): .....

**Two Certificates of Transfer must be completed and signed by the approved Insemination Team. One certificate should be given to the donor mare owner/lessee and the second certificate lodged with the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society at the address above immediately following transfer.**