

# **NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF OWNERS OF STALLIONS/COLTS**

## **BCPS INSPECTION PROCEDURES 2025**

**It is the responsibility of the owner, or his/her representative, to have read and fully understood these notes.**

A pony's date of birth is taken as 1<sup>st</sup> January each year i.e. a pony is regarded as being one year old on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year following its birth even though its actual date of birth is later in the year.

A colt that is eligible for Classes 1 and 2 of the Stud Book cannot be used to sire registered stock eligible for Classes 1 and 2 until it has been inspected and passed as a stallion by three BCPS Colt Inspectors, and passed the Society Veterinary Examination on the same day. No entire male may be shown or take part in any competition restricted to Connemara or registered Mountain and Moorland ponies after 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year in which he attains the age of three years, unless he is registered as a stallion in Class 1 or 2 of the BCPS Stud Book or other recognised Connemara Pony Society stud book.

The minimum age for a colt to be presented for Inspection is three years old. There is no maximum age for Inspection, or re-inspection if the colt does not attain Class 1.

Colts which pass the visual inspection for Class 1, and the Society Veterinary Examination, are eligible for entry as a stallion in Class 1 of the Stud Book.

Colts which do not receive the required marks for Class 1 in the visual inspection **must** pass the Society Veterinary Examination on the same day to be eligible for entry as a stallion in Class 2 of the Stud Book.

Note: in both case above, a hair sample will need to be taken for HWSD testing unless the pony has already been tested through the Society.

Any colts which do not receive the required marks for Class 1 or Class 2 will remain in Class 3, as will any higher graded colts who are not presented for, OR FAIL, the Society Veterinary Examination. The progeny of any Class 3 colts will also remain in Class 3.

Class 2 or 3 ponies can be presented for re-inspection in any subsequent calendar year, provided a minimum period of nine months has elapsed. All colts that are re-presented will come before a different panel of Inspectors but will not need to be re-vetted if they have already passed a recognised Society Veterinary Examination. If this is not the case, a further fee for the Society Veterinary Examination would be payable, together with the repeat Inspection fee.

Any owner who does not present their colt for the Society Veterinary Examination will have their payment for the vetting refunded.

## APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION

**A colt must be registered in one of the Foal Sections of the BCPS Stud Book or in the stud book of an Approved Connemara Pony Society, in the name of the owner at the date of application.**

Owners who have colts that they wish to have inspected in any one year should notify the Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> December of the previous year. It is in the best interests of the colt owners and the Society to have as much prior knowledge as possible so that inspections can be arranged early in the New Year. If a colt is purchased/requires inspection after the stated date the Secretary must be contacted as soon as possible.

There will be central Inspection Centres, held on neutral ground, and these will have been arranged taking into account the locations of the colts that are tentatively being put forward. Stables will be available for colts to be accommodated overnight (at the Society's expense) before the Inspection, and/or on the day of the Inspection. Colts must be up to date under the regulations in force at the time, for equine influenza, and must have had at least two vaccinations, not more than 60 days apart.

The Secretary will send out an Application Form and a list of venues and dates for the Society's Colt Inspections to owners who have notified the Society of their intention to present a colt for inspection. If the colt has been presented previously, the Secretary **MUST** be informed. The Application Form should be completed and signed by the registered owner of the colt and should be returned to the Secretary together with: -

### **Inspection Fee**

Where the colt is registered in the BCPS Stud Book Members £200.00 - (Non Members £250.00)

**Veterinary Examination Fee.....£250.00 - TBC**

**Please pay the full amount either by cheque (made payable to the British Connemara Pony Society) or by BACS (Sort Code:- 60-14-30, Account Number:- 44434006). Use pony name as a reference. Payments cannot be taken over the phone.**

**If owners elect not to have their colt examined by the Veterinary Surgeon then the Veterinary Examination Fee will be refunded following the inspection.**

Owners must return the application form advising which Inspection Centre they wish to attend no later than two weeks before the inspection. If an owner withdraws from his/her nominated venue within 14 days of the inspection, without a veterinary certificate, half the Inspection Fee will be forfeited.

Colt Inspectors are appointed for each Inspection by the BCPS Council.

## THE INSPECTION

The inspections will be held in public. Photographs and videos may be taken by stewards and or Inspectors and may be used in BCPS publications, on the BCPS website and social media, and in case any queries arise in the future requiring accuracy of recollection. By signing the Application Form the applicant is agreeing to this. Owners, their representatives and the general public are NOT allowed to take photographs or videos of the individual inspections whilst these are in progress. Owners are required to bring the colt's passport to the Inspection.

At the Inspection Centre, the owner/ handler must report to the steward on the morning of the Inspection either immediately on arrival, or at least an hour before the inspection is due to start. This ensures that he/she is aware that the pony is forward, can confirm the time of the inspection, and arrange for a stable for the colt if he has not been stabled the night before.

A properly fitted and secured riding hat/skull cap and safe, sensible footwear, suitable for the Inspection procedure **must** be worn by handlers at all times; there will be no exceptions to this rule.

The Inspection will be carried out by three Inspectors who may be accompanied by a Probationer Inspector. The Inspectors will assess type, conformation and action.

The Inspectors will start by looking at the colt in a loose box, checking the markings against his Foal Passport and reading his microchip. He must be presented in a bridle. The colt will also be measured as part of the Veterinary Examination. All colts must measure between 128cm. to 148cm. to be eligible for Class 1. If a colt has passed the inspection in every other respect, but the Inspectors are not satisfied that he is 148 cm. or under, they may pass him subject to a height certificate being obtained. This height certificate must be obtained from a veterinary surgeon from the JMB Panel not later than a month following the Inspection. It is important to note that this cannot be a JMB official measurement if the pony is less than 4 years old. The owner will be liable for any expenses incurred in connection with the height certificate.

Height measurements from veterinary surgeons carried out before the inspection will not be accepted by the Inspectors on the day. Ponies four years old and over may be presented for inspection with shoes on, and 13mm will be allowed at measuring.

The Inspectors may wish to run their hands down the colt's legs and open his mouth. It is imperative that the colt is well-handled and the Inspectors will refuse to carry on with an inspection if they think that any colt is unmanageable.

The colt is then taken outside and assessed standing still before being walked and trotted on a hard surface.

Lunging facilities will be available and the Inspectors will need to see the colt lunged on both reins, including cantering. It is recommended that colts are lunged in a lunging cavesson, and brushing boots may be worn while the colt is being lunged. The Inspectors will each complete one marking sheet and will not confer during the Inspection. They may, however, discuss the Inspection afterwards.

The result of the Inspection will be communicated to the owner on the day. If the colt passes as Class 2 for the Visual Inspection, a request may be made asking that the Inspectors briefly provide the reason(s) for the classification on the day, in order that the owner may decide whether or not it is worth going to the expense of having the colt vetted. The discussion may not take place immediately after the colt has been inspected, but if the steward is informed that an owner wishes to be told the reason(s), they will ask the Inspectors to speak to him/ her at a convenient moment.

If the colt passes the Society's Visual Inspection as Class 1 or Class 2 , and the colt owner wishes him to

be registered as a Stallion, the colt will be required to have a Veterinary Examination on the day. The Veterinary Surgeon will carry out the Veterinary Examination and will take a hair sample for an HWSD test (unless the colt has already been tested through the Society) and confirm the colt's identity by reading his microchip. He will also take a routine blood sample to test for the presence of any prohibited substances, which may be processed at a later date. The Veterinary Surgeon will be appointed and paid by the Society. If a colt's condition and/or behaviour preclude the Veterinary Surgeon from carrying out a proper examination, the owner will be responsible for all the expenses of a veterinary examination at a later date. The Veterinary Surgeon will use the International Connemara Pony Stallion Veterinary Assessment Form, a sample copy of which is enclosed for your information. If the Veterinary Surgeon finds any irregularities, he/she has permission to investigate further after consultation with the owner, who has the right to withdraw. Any further investigations will be paid for by the owner.

If the colt is graded as Class 1 or Class 2 and passes the veterinary inspection, the owner must send the passport to the Secretary once the pony has returned home so that it can be upgraded to an adult stallion registration. It is illegal for any animal not to have a passport when travelling. If the owner wishes the HWSD test result to be stamped in the passport they must keep the passport with the pony until the Secretary advises the result has been received in the Office.

If the owner decides not to present their colt for veterinary inspection, with a view to having the colt castrated once it has returned home, they must send the passport in to the Office once the certificate of castration has been completed, so that the passport can be updated to an adult gelding.

## PLEASE NOTE

If a colt owner is unhappy with the result of the **Visual Inspection**, an Appeal Inspection may be arranged later in the year with a different panel of inspectors. Colt owners will be responsible for the **FULL COST** of such an inspection. An Appeal needs to be received within one month of the original inspection.

If a colt fails the **Veterinary Examination**, the owner is entitled to request the Society to arrange for a Referee Veterinary Examination **AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE**.

The BCPS Council or their agents/staff will not accept any liability for any accident, damage, injury or illness to any pony, handler or spectator or any other person or property whatsoever.

If there are any accidents or incidents involving a colt owner or a pony during the visual inspection, the owner will be asked to stand down for 30 minutes while the fitness of the owner and pony are assessed to see if they are able to continue.

It is requested that the Inspectors be allowed to perform their assessment of the pony without any interference from owners or spectators. Owners, their representatives and the general public are not allowed to take photographs or videos of any person acting for the Society during the inspection procedure.

Owners (or their representatives) attending a colt inspection must have their own third party liability insurance, which also covers handlers.

\*\*\* The colt's passport must be brought to the Inspection, with the ownership in the correct name, or the colt cannot be inspected \*\*\*