

LINEAR PROFILING

Drawing a picture of the Pony

Linear profiling involves a detailed assessment of the conformation, movement and loose jumping of a pony, carried out by trained and experienced inspectors.

The detailed profile is preferable to the subjective assessment (opinion) of the judge/inspector as it avoids personal likes/dislikes and looks thoroughly at the pony in forty-five different traits.

26 points/traits look at conformation

10 points/traits look at movement

8 points/traits look at athleticism/jumping

1 point describes type (ie. breed standard)

Who uses Linear Profiling already?

Since 1989 The Dutch DWPN, Switzerland 1991, Belgium BWP 2003, Ireland HIS since 2010, Germany Holstein 2010, Oldenburg 2011, Denmark 2012, Sweden 2012/2014.

Since 2010 in Ireland, the Irish Draught and the Sport Horse assessment inspections have used the profile to describe the horse/mare. Naturally the profile only describes the pony/horse. Judgement as to its suitability for a particular job or for its contribution to the breed is still decided by experienced judges/inspectors whose knowledge and experience with the particular breed is invaluable.

What are the benefits?

To an ordinary/inexperienced breeder the profile helps to identify good points or a weakness in their animal. Therefore helping to choose a suitable stallion for the mare to continue and improve their stock. The Stallion owner can show strong characteristics of his animal to both a national and international audience. This avoids constantly showing the pony. It brings mar owners to him who already know that his stallion suits their mare.

The breed as a whole benefits because profiling highlights areas of genetic strengths which are desirable. It also clearly highlights areas that need improvement that possibly should be bred out of the herd. The profile shows a potential purchaser/user of a pony the good points towards its suitability for their purpose and also shows areas of concern regarding possible long term soundness. The conformation traits show aspects of the makeup of the pony which will indicate likelihood of soundness and also likelihood of athleticism. Even with an in-foal mare, who is not jumped, aspects of the profile indicate likely athletic points which give confidence to the person buying the foal.

When a filly goes through a jumping/athletic assessment at inspection and is deemed to have ability, in later life, when she is in foal and can't be jumped, purchasers will know that if she jumped as a young mare she can pass this on to her progeny. Profiling can accurately and cost-effectively predict/ensure a pony's type, breed standard, movement, conformation and jumping ability at a young age, which otherwise takes years to demonstrate. The traits/points assessed correspond to the breeding goal of the studbook, ie. the CPBS.

In summary, Linear Profiling as part of a pony's assessment, gives a very thorough look at the entire animal from head to tail. It is part of an overall assessment process and not the entire inspection.

To date breed societies, that include profiling as part of their assessment, are happy that it has helped them improve their herd in all its functions – better mares, better stallions, better performance in a chosen discipline. This discipline could be foal production, dressage, show jumping, cross-country, pleasure riding or driving.

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