

Cumann Lucht Capaillíní Chonamara

**THE CONNEMARA PONY BREEDERS' SOCIETY
BREEDING PROGRAMME**

EU Animal Breeding Regulation 2016/1012



***Approved by the Council of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society
15th February 2024***

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Appendix 1: Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD)

<http://cpbs.ie/hwsd-hoof-wall-separation-disease-testing-services/>

Appendix 2: Linear Profiling <http://cpbs.ie/linear-profiling/>

Appendix 3: Linear Profiling Scoring Sheet - Colts <https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-linear-profiling/>

Appendix 4: Linear Profiling Scoring Sheet - Fillies <https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-linear-profiling/>

Appendix 5: CPBS Fees <https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-price-list/>

Appendix 6: Official Marking Chart <https://cpbs.ie/markings-chart/>

Appendix 7: Zootechnical Certificate <https://cpbs.ie/zotechnical-certificate/>

Appendix 8: Equine Premises Registration <https://cpbs.ie/equine-premises-number-2/>

Cumann Lucht Capaillíní Chonamara
THE CONNEMARA PONY BREEDERS' SOCIETY
BREEDING PROGRAMME

EU Animal Breeding Regulation 2016/1012¹

Approved by the Council of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society
28th February 2024

SECTION 1 - The Breed

The Breed

- 1.1 The Connemara pony, an Irish native breed, originated in the part of County Galway known as Connemara, west of Lough Corrib and bordering the Atlantic Ocean in the Republic of Ireland.
- 1.2 The Connemara pony is considered an endangered breed under EU law.
- 1.3 The interests of the Connemara pony breed are protected by the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society (CPBS) which is recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under EU Animal Breeding Regulations.

Geographical Area

- 1.4 The geographical area in which the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society carries out the breeding programme is the island of Ireland (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland).

Breeding Population in the Society

- 1.5 In 2023, 3,139 breeding mares and 411 stallions were recorded in the Republic of Ireland, and 77 breeding mares and 17 stallions in Northern Ireland.

Characteristics of the Connemara Pony and the Breed Standard

- 1.6 The Connemara pony's unique set of ten characteristics establishing a breed standard are:
 - 1.6.1 **Type:** compact, well-balanced pony with good depth and substance and good heart room, standing on short legs, covering a lot of ground, good temperament, hardiness, staying power, intelligence, soundness, surefootedness, with athletic ability;
 - 1.6.2 **Height:** 128cm to 148cm inclusive;
 - 1.6.3 **Colour:** grey, black, bay, brown, dun (may also be known as buckskin), palomino, dark-eyed cream, blue-eyed cream, and occasional roan or chestnut;
 - 1.6.4 **Head:** well-balanced head of medium length with good width between large kindly eyes, pony ears, well-defined cheekbone, jaw relatively deep but not coarse;
 - 1.6.5 **Front:** well set onto neck, crest should not be over developed, neck not set on too low, good length of rein, well-defined withers, good sloping shoulders;

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/1012>

- 1.6.6 **Body:** body should be deep, with strong back, some length permissible, but should be well ribbed up with strong loins;
- 1.6.7 **Limbs:** Good length and strength in forearm, well-defined knees and short cannon with flat bone measuring 18cm to 21cm, elbows should be free, pasterns of medium length, feet well-shaped, of medium size, hard and level;
- 1.6.8 **Hind:** strong, muscular with some length, well-developed second thigh (gaskin) and strong low-set hocks;
- 1.6.9 **Movement:** free, easy and true, without undue knee action, but active and covering the ground.

Traits of the Connemara Pony

- 1.7 The Connemara pony is a sturdy, self-reliant, agile, careful, compact, well-balanced, versatile pony with good conformation with a willingness to work. It is nimble and sure-footed. It is known for its natural jumping ability. It is known for its excellent bone and hard hooves. Originally a utility pony to work the land, carry turf and transport the family, its size made the Connemara easy to harness and the pony's natural strength enabled it to pull a carriage with several adults. The less able were weeded out until with each succeeding generation the Connemara pony stabilised as a willing, even-tempered animal able to respond to a wide range of work requirements under a variety of conditions.
- 1.8 This pony breed has proven beyond doubt its willingness to work with human partners, today excelling in many sporting activities, being an eager confident jumper, known for its relatively big stride and even bigger heart.
- 1.9 Such is its versatility the Connemara pony is suitable for youngsters and adults in all areas of modern horsemanship.

SECTION 2 - Information on the Studbook of Origin

Studbook of Origin Definition and Location

- 2.1 The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society maintains the herd book recording the origins and subsequent lineages of the Connemara pony. The herd book is known as the Studbook of Origin.
- 2.2 The Studbook of Origin was closed in 1964 and since then no further outside blood has been introduced. Only ponies registered in the Studbook are permitted to take part in the breeding programme.
- 2.3 The Studbook of Origin is held in the registered offices of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society at The Showgrounds, Clifden, Co. Galway H71 YA09 in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulations 2016/1012.

Brief History of the Origin of the Studbook

- 2.4 In 1923 the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society and Studbook was founded with the declared intention for the preservation and improvement of the Connemara pony.

The first studbook was published in 1926, with details of 93 breeding mares and 9 stallions. The list of stallions included three ponies who became founders of two of the five main lines which survive today.

For ease of reference these five recognised lines are each distinguished by a colour. Amongst the first ponies recorded in the Studbook are Cannon Ball (1) and his son Rebel (7) founders of the Blue Line, and Connemara Boy (9) founder of the Red Line.

The Green Line was founded when Mountain Lad was registered in 1938. These three male lines are the only ones which can be traced to the foundation sires from today's ponies.

To increase the gene pool, the CPBS introduced outside blood, and during the 1940's used three Irish Draught stallions, May Boy being the most effective. Three thoroughbred stallions were also used. Of these Little Heaven was the most influential of the introduced sires and his half-bred son, Carna Dun founded the Purple Line.

In 1954 the CPBS bought a dun colt by the Arab stallion Naseel, out of a Connemara mare. This half-bred colt was registered in 1958 as Clonkeehan Auratum and was the founder of the Orange Line.

Each pony can be also traced back through its dam and her dam line to a founding mare; however since more mares than stallions breed, the descendants from any mare over several generations tend to be more branched and so instead of 'line', 'mare family' is the term used. The earliest born Connemara pony to have her dam identified in the Studbook was Grey Lass in 1932.

SECTION 3 - Aims of the Breeding Programme

Definition of a Breeder within the Breeding Programme

- 3.1 A breeder for the purposes of this breeding programme is the owner and applicant of the foal for registration.

Aim of the breeding programme

- 3.2 The breeding programme aims to preserve and improve the breed as per the characteristics and traits of the breed.
- 3.3 These aims are accomplished via all measures and activities which are considered by the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society to be conducive to these objectives.

SECTION 4 - Implementation of the Breeding Programme

- 4.1 Only purebred Connemara ponies can be accepted into the Breeding Programme.
- 4.2 In making parental choices at least three ancestral generations on both sire and dam side should be considered before common parentage is found in the bloodlines.
- 4.3 A live purebred stallion register *CPBS Stallion Directory 2021* divided by county and to aid breeding choices is available to view and download on the website www.cpbs.ie. (publication date November 2020) as an aid to making choices.
- 4.4 The future of all purebred registered breeding stock is assessed by inspection of purebred ponies only. (Inspections are organised twice yearly by the Society both in Spring and in Autumn at the Society's Clifden Showgrounds and at other suitable venues throughout the country.)
- 4.5 Ponies are inspected individually according to the Rules of Procedure (Inspections) by a qualified team of inspectors.
- 4.6 Separate inspections are held for colts and fillies.
- 4.7 Registered colts may be inspected at the age of three and registered fillies at the age of two. Older stock may also be inspected. Geldings require no mandatory visual inspection, but may apply for reclassification from the age of two.
- 4.8 All equines must be kept at a DAFM registered equine premises. (Appendix 8).

SECTION 5 - The Studbook and Division of the Studbook

- 5.1 The Studbook is composed of a main section only which is divided into three classes, Class 1, 2 and 3.
- 5.2 At time of registration all purebred Connemara ponies are entered in Class 3.
- 5.3 Ponies from all recognised Connemara pony breed societies and breed bodies, listed in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulations 2016/1012, will be entered into the class of the studbook whose criteria it meets.

Conditions for Entry into the Main Section

General

- 5.4 A pony must be descended from parents entered in the main section of the Studbook for the breed or any other breeding book of the same breed;
- 5.5 A pony shall have its pedigree established by verification of its parentage by DNA parentage analysis;
- 5.6 A pony must be identified according to EU Equine Passport Regulations' (*Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/963 as transposed by SI No. 254 of 2023*²) and the rules set out in this breeding programme;
- 5.7 In the case of trade in or entry into the EU where that breeding pony is intended to be entered or registered for entry in the Studbook, that pony must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate (sample as per Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1940³ or Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/602⁴ as relevant Appendix 7 issued by the relevant breed society or breeding body);
- 5.8 Where a pony is produced from a germinal product which is traded or which entered into the Union and where that animal is intended to be entered in the breeding book, that germinal product shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate (sample as per Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/602, Appendix 7) issued by the relevant breed society or breeding body.

Derogation: Covering Certificates

- 5.9 Under EU Animal Breeding Regulations (2016/1012)⁵ the CPBS is authorised by the competent authority not to require the production of a covering certificate to enter purebred animals into the Studbook; DNA sampling is used for parentage identification.

²https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/963

³http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2017/1940

⁴http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/602

⁵ See Footnote 1 p.4

Studbook Division

Class 1

- 5.9 Division Class 1 records **colts** that are a minimum of three years of age and **mares** and **geldings** that are a minimum of two years of age. Any pony seeking entry into Class 1 must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for Class 1:
- (i) both parents must be entered in Class 1 or Class 2 or have met the amnesty requirements as noted in 5.21;
 - (ii) both parents must have passed a mandatory veterinary inspection at time of inspection according to the inspection rules of the breed society or breed body;
 - (iii) a pony must measure between 128cm and 148cm (without shoes) inclusive;
 - (iv) colts and fillies must pass a mandatory visual inspection and achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 1 according to the rules of the breed society or breed body;
 - (v) colts and stallions be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) by genetic testing in accordance with 6.11 to 6.15 if not of already recorded non-carrying (N/N) parentage; all mares over two years brought for inspection, if not of already recorded of non-carrying (N/N) parentage, may now be tested for HWSD at inspection; geldings are not required to be tested for HWSD;
 - (vi) **geldings** are reclassified according to their height only and require no mandatory visual inspection nor linear profiling or have met the amnesty requirements as noted at 5.21;
 - (vii) geldings measuring between 128cm and 148cm (without shoes) inclusive are recorded as Class 1;
 - (viii) all ponies other than geldings must pass a mandatory veterinary inspection according to the inspection rules of the breed society or breeding body.

Class 2

- 5.10 Division Class 2 records **colts** that are a minimum of three years of age and **fillies** and **geldings** that are a minimum of two years of age. Any pony seeking entry into Class 2 must meet the following criteria to qualify for Class 2:
- (i) both parents must be entered in Class 1 or Class 2 or have met the amnesty requirements as noted in 5.21;
 - (ii) both parents must have passed a mandatory veterinary inspection at time of inspection according to the inspection rules of the breed society or breed body
 - (iii) colts and fillies must pass a mandatory visual inspection and achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 2 but do not achieve the minimum marking standard for Class 1 according to the rules of the breed society or breed body;
 - (iv) a pony that meets the necessary visual inspection marking standard for Class 1 but measures under 128cm or over 148cm (without shoes) will be reclassified in Class 2;
 - (v) colts and stallions be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) by genetic testing in accordance with 6.11 to 6.15 if not of already recorded non-carrying (N/N) parentage; all mares over two years brought for inspection, if not of already recorded of non-carrying (N/N) parentage, may now be tested for HWSD at inspection; geldings are not required to be tested for HWSD;
 - (vi) **geldings** are reclassified according to their height only and require no mandatory visual inspection or have met the amnesty requirements as noted in 5.21
 - (vii) geldings under 128cm or over 148cm will be recorded as Class 2;
 - (viii) all ponies other than geldings for entry into Class 2 must pass a mandatory veterinary inspection according to the rules of the breed society or breed body.

Class 3

- 5.11 Division Class 3 records the following ponies:
- (i) all foals when parentage tested will be entered in Class 3;
 - (ii) all ponies will remain in Class 3 until eligible to be presented for CPBS inspection;
 - (iii) in order to seek promotion to either Classes 1 or 2 a pony must be presented for inspection;
 - (iv) a mare that is not presented for CPBS inspection will remain in Class 3 as will their progeny unless the amnesty requirements (5.21) are met prior to 31st October 2025;
 - (v) a pony that does not meet the minimum marking standard for Class 1 or Class 2 at the visual inspection will remain in Class 3 as will their progeny unless they have met the amnesty requirements detailed in 5.21;

- (vi) colts and stallions must be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) by genetic testing in accordance with 6.11 to 6.15 if not of already recorded non-carrying (N/N) parentage; all mares over two years brought for inspection, if not of already recorded of non-carrying (N/N) parentage, may now be tested for HWSD at inspection; geldings are not required to be tested for HWSD.

Inspection for Reclassification in the Studbook

General

- 5.12 An Inspection Committee is appointed by the council of the society annually. This committee is responsible for the implementation of the breed standard by way of inspections.
- 5.13 These inspections evaluate the performance of ponies in accordance with the breed standard and thereby the inspectors assign or confirm a reclassification in the Studbook.
- 5.14 Inspection results for individual ponies are maintained by the CPBS office. Inspection statistics are reported to CPBS members at the Annual General Meeting, are notified to members via newsletter and recorded on the website.
- 5.15 A pony presented for reclassification in Ireland shall be inspected by at least two inspectors who have been trained and/or approved by the CPBS; in respect of member countries the height measurement of ponies and the health status of mares shall be according to the rules of the breed society or breed body of the country in which the pony resides.

Linear Profiling as Part of the Inspection Process

- 5.16 In 2019 linear profiling (Appendices 2, 3 and 4) was introduced as part of the inspection process as a pilot scheme.
- 5.17 Linear profiling, a descriptive method used to assess a pony, describes visually where a pony lies between the biological extremes for any given trait. It is used to assess conformation, movement, performance in accordance with the breed standard, and jump/athletic ability where applicable. The linear profile for each pony outlines the pony's strengths and weaknesses: essential information for any breeder choosing how to identify a complementary stallion to their mare's attributes.
- 5.18 Colts are scored on 39 traits and must achieve a minimum mark of 80 in each section for Conformation, Movement and Breed Standard and a minimum mark of 70 for Athleticism/Jump for entry into Class 1. Where colts are measured in the 128cm – 138cm (12.2hh to 13.2hh) height range they must achieve a minimum mark of 75 in each section for Conformation, Movement and Breed Standard and a minimum mark of 65 for Athleticism/Jump for entry into Class 1.
- 5.19 Fillies are scored on 27 traits and must achieve a minimum mark of 70 in each section for Conformation, Movement and Breed Standard for entry into Class 1. For fillies there is no jumping/athleticism option and they are not required to demonstrate jumping ability. Where fillies are measured in the 128cm – 138 cm (12.2hh to 13.2hh) height range they must achieve a minimum mark of 65 in each section for Conformation, Breed Standard and Movement for entry into Class 1.

Visual Inspection as Part of the Inspection Process

- 5.20 A visual inspection for type, conformation and movement is used in the inspection evaluation and comparison with the breed standard. A true to type pony will incorporate all the defined characteristics of the breed standard as listed in 1.6.1 to 1.6.9.

Inspection of progeny of Class 3 parents; Time Limited Amnesty

5.21 The CPBS introduced an amnesty for the uninspected progeny of Class 3 parents on 1st March 2024 which allows for these ponies to be presented for inspection and to be classified according to the Studbook rules. The purpose of this amnesty is to draw in breeding lines which may have been otherwise lost. The amnesty registration period is from 1st March 2024 until 31st October 2025 inclusive and owners of such progeny can present them for classification at the regular inspections organised by the Society between those dates. This amnesty will cease following inspections in the Autumn of 2025.

Reference to Current Rules on Inspections

5.22 Breeders/owners are advised to visit the website www.cpbs.ie and *CPBS Rules to Procedures* for full current rules on inspections and application form. Also note Recording Pedigrees (Section 6) and Registration Procedure (Section 7) below.

5.23 The CPBS will inspect ponies and issue lifetime identification documents for ponies that are from the geographical area in which the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society carries out the breeding programme according to the rules of the Society and EU Regulations 2016/1012⁶.

SECTION 6 - Recording Pedigrees

General

6.1 All pedigree information for ponies in the breeding programme must be verified, identified and recorded.

Pedigree Verification

6.2 Pedigree is proven by verification of parentage (sire and dam) via DNA sample analysis (7.7), and testing thereof outsourced to Weatherbys Scientific laboratory (9.1). See also Section 7 *Procedures for Registration*.

6.3 Results from parentage verification DNA analysis are the property of the Society.

Naming of Ponies at time of DNA sampling for Pedigree Verification

6.4 All foals are named for life at time of DNA sampling for purpose of registration. (See [CPBS Rules to Procedures](#) Registration of Ponies.)

Prefix/Suffix

6.5 A unique prefix or suffix, registered with the CPBS, may be used by owners in the naming of ponies. (See *Rules to Procedures* <http://cpbs.ie/other-services/> Prefix Registration.)

Identification within the breeding book

6.6 The unique identifier of a pony in the studbook is via a unique identification number Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) (see 6.9, 8.14 and 8.15) which is linked to the identification document by a transponder (microchip) number transponder implanted in the pony (8.12 and 8.13).

⁶ See Footnote 1 p.4

Pedigree Record/Animal Management System

- 6.7 All pedigree information on CPBS registered Connemara ponies is recorded electronically on an online Animal Management System, the CPBS *Official Pedigree and Performance Database*, maintained by the CPBS office.
- 6.8 This database can be accessed by members and non-members alike, by simple registration and login on www.cpbs.ie.

CPBS Official Pedigree and Performance Database

6.9 The following details are recorded on the CPBS database for registered ponies:

- Registered animal name
- UELN
- Breed
- Colour
- Dam name
- Sire name
- DNA number
- Generations of pedigree – up to 6
- CPBS Hoof Wall Separation Disease genetic test result (7.0)
- Name and address of breeder (subject to CPBS Privacy Policy).
- Progeny
- Linear profiling CPBS official sheet if applicable (6.10 and Apps 3 and 4)
- photos of registered pony (optional)
- Year of birth
- Microchip number
- Height
- Sex
- Dam – dam/sire name; dam line
- Sire – dam/sire name; sire line
- Date of registration
- Country of origin
- Private Hoof Wall Separation Disease Test* - denoted by asterisk* (recording optional)
- Name and address of owner (subject to CPBS Privacy Policy).
- Performance record (optional)
- Use of germinal products in mating/embryo transfer if applicable
- Option to contact owner via message/email/phone (subject to CPBS Privacy Policy)

Linear Profile Record

6.10 Linear profiling sheets of ponies compiled at time of inspection are published on the database since linear profiling's introduction in 2019 (see Appendix 2). Should a pony be inspected more than once the most recent linear profiling sheet will be published.

SECTION 7 - Hoof Wall Separation Disease

Genetic Disease (HWSD) Testing and Record

- 7.1 Since 2016 it is a prerequisite of the Society that all foals should be tested for Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) prior to registration. The result has no influence on the registration of the pony. Ponies of N/N parentage (sire and dam) are not required to be tested. It is a prerequisite of the Society that all ponies other than geldings be tested for HWSD prior to registration.
- 7.2 Owners may avail of HWSD testing at time of the DNA sample extraction used for verification of parentage at registration.
- 7.3 Private HWSD test results are accepted by the CPBS on application to the Society and on production of a copy of the test certificate from an approved laboratory. This copy is held on file at the CPBS Office. Private test results published on the official database and in publications of the Society are distinguished by an asterisk.

- 7.4 The CPBS HWSD results are published on the CPBS Online Pedigree Database and recorded in the Lifetime Identification Document and on the zootechnical certificate for the pony.
- 7.5 It is a prerequisite of the Society that older stallions be tested for HWSD prior to Inspection unless both parents' test result is N/N. DNA sample for this test may be taken on day of inspection. The final classification will not be advised to the owner until the results of the test have been received from Weatherbys Scientific.
- 7.6 Genetic testing of a pony will give one of three results:
1. Affected (HWSD/HWSD)
 2. Carrier (N/HWSD)
 3. Non-Carrier (N/N)
- An Affected x Affected cross should not be considered as this will result in an Affected offspring i.e HWSD x HWSD will always produce an Affected.

A Carrier pony alone merely carries a single copy of the gene and will not display any HWSD related disability. However, a Carrier pony bred to another Carrier pony, will result in the following

- 25% of matings: likely Affected
- 50% of matings: likely result Carriers
- 25% of matings: likely result Non-Carriers

To maintain diversity in the herd it is acceptable to breed a Carrier to a Non-Carrier.

N/HWSD x N/N this cross cannot result in an Affected (HWSD/HWSD) pony as genetically it is not possible. It cannot be predicted which other genes will be passed on, but regarding HWSD, within this mating there is either a

- 50% chance of a Non-Carrier pony or a
- 50% chance of a Carrier pony

It is important to distinguish from this cross that there is then the option for the breeder to choose future breeding animals that are free of the condition, thus potentially further reducing the carrier percentage within future generations. The breeder can make a choice and this is where responsible breeding is important, the responsibility being for the good of the herd, to strive for a healthy HWSD free population.

The Non-Carrier x Non-Carrier cross also has its part to play i.e. N/N x N/N will always produce a Non-carrier. As this cross excludes carriers it is entirely free of the HWSD gene and is therefore totally free from genetic condition. However, if the N/N x N/N cross is used exclusively by breeders in the coming generations it will limit the gene pool.

SECTION 8 - Procedures for Registration

General

- 8.1 In 2020 the number of foals and ponies registered for that calendar year in the Studbook was 3,082.
- 8.2 All purebred Connemara ponies in Ireland are eligible for entry in the Studbook of the CPBS. The form for [Registering a Pony](#) can be downloaded from the website www.cpbs.ie.
- 8.3 Sire and dam must be certified by the parent body before a foal can be registered.
- 8.4 All foals must be registered within 12 months of birth to comply with EU animal health regulations. It is an offence to keep an unidentified equine and there is a liability of a summary conviction and Class A fine (max €5,000). Breeders are encouraged to register their progeny before the age of six months due to time DNA testing may take (up to ten weeks). Owners/breeders must submit a completed equine registration application form to the Society for a foal within 6 months of the date of birth of the animal. Owners/breeders will be issued with an equine Lifetime Identification

Document (passport) and a zootechnical certificate no later than 12 months from the date of birth of that animal (or on movement of the foal from the holding other than as a foal at foot, if that date is earlier) from the Society. Late registrations must go through the Issuing of Duplicate Passports process (8.23 to 8.27) which incurs additional fees.

Natural Covering/One Parent Registered with Daughter Breed Society/Body

- 8.5 If either of the parents used for natural covering is registered with a daughter society/body a copy of the DNA/profile/parentage test of the parent must be obtained from the laboratory where the pony was originally tested and **sent directly** from that laboratory to CPBS approved laboratory (Weatherby's Scientific).

Germinal Products and Embryo Transfer in Assisted Service/Registration

- 8.6 For progeny born from embryo transfer or if any germinal products have assisted in service this fact must be recorded on the application form for registration of that pony. Use of germinal products in service will also be recorded on the CPBS Official Pedigree and Performance Database following registration (6.9). Extraction of embryos from any one mare is restricted to two times in any one season. The technique of cloning is not allowed in the breeding programme.
- 8.7 When it is intended to breed a pony to be entered in the Studbook via germinal products or embryo transfer, if either donor is recorded in another studbook, that product when traded must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate (best described as a breeding certificate, see 8.34 to 8.37) issued by the relevant breed society or body.
- 8.8 Where germinal products or embryo transfer are used in fertilisation, parentage is officially identified by DNA comparison at time of registration of the resulting progeny.

Official CPBS Marking Chart

- 8.9 At registration an **official CPBS marking chart** (visual identification chart) must be completed by a recognised veterinary practitioner (Ireland) or other person authorised by the competent authority of the country in which the pony resides. The official marking chart may be downloaded from the website www.cpbs.ie.

Parentage Verification/DNA Sampling/Transponder Implantation

- 8.10 When applying for registration of a pony the DNA sample kit required for the official sampling to verify parentage will only be issued to the registered owner of the pony.
- 8.11 Currently the same sample as taken by a qualified veterinary practitioner for parentage verification may also be used for CPBS HWSD testing (7.1 to 7.3).

Transponder (Microchip) Implantation

- 8.12 All foals will be implanted with a unique **transponder code (microchip)** in the neck by the attendant veterinarian for identification, at time of DNA sampling. Transponders are issued by the CPBS or an approved PIO. They shall only be inserted by a veterinary practitioner (Ireland) or other authorised person approved by the national government in accordance with EU Animal Breeding Regulations.
The corresponding number to the transponder implanted shall be placed in the identification document for that pony by way of barcode sticker.
- 8.13 Appropriate measures shall be taken to verify that no such identification has already been issued to older ponies. All older ponies must be scanned by the attendant veterinary practitioner for transponders as a passport/Lifetime Identification Document may have been issued by another organisation previously. Under EU regulation a pony may only have one passport or Lifetime Identification Document. Should a previously implanted transponder be revealed the CPBS shall issue a duplicate identification document in accordance with 8.23 to 8.27 below, depending on the information available.

Information on the System for Identifying Ponies

Universal Equine Life Number - UELN

8.14 At registration ponies are assigned a 15 digit **Universal Equine Life Number (UELN)**
For example: 372004000004321

372 indicates that the pony is registered in Ireland;
004 indicates that the pony is registered in the CPBS Studbook;
00 are gap digits;
0004321 is the individual registration number of the pony in the Studbook.

8.15 The UELN remains the unique identification number for any pony for life; if the pony is registered in a Connemara daughter society studbook, the UELN is used to identify that pony in that studbook for the breed.

Transponders (Microchips)

8.16 For details on transponders and their application see 8.12 and 8.13 above.

Classification Codes

8.17 At registration the CPBS employs a two-character code to signify the sex and classification of that pony which precedes the UELN in the identification document. The **classification codes** are as follows:

S – stallion; M – mare; G – gelding; 1 – Class 1; 2 – Class 2; 3 – Class 3.

For example, as all registrations are recorded in Class 3 a male foal when born will have a classification code S3 preceding his UELN to indicate he is a male (colt) foal registered in Class 3. This classification prefix to the UELN may change from foal to adult following inspection; for example, if the pony's classification as a stallion changes status to Class 1 the classification code will change from S3 to S1 to indicate that this pony following inspection has been placed in Class 1.

Lifetime Identification Document

8.18 A single identification document will be issued by the CPBS for the lifetime of all ponies entered into the breeding programme in accordance with the sample as approved under Equine Passport Regulation (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 only after the pony's parentage is verified to the CPBS by Weatherbys Scientific laboratory.

8.19 All equines imported into the state must have an accompanying identification document issued by the competent authority in its state of origin.

8.20 Complete identification documentation must accompany any equine at all times.

8.21 The Lifetime Identification Document records the date of registration, the registered name, the unique identification number (UELN) applicable to that animal only, details of its transponder code (microchip) bearing a unique number inserted by an official veterinary practitioner, an authorised record of all individual markings as recorded on the official marking chart (Appendix 6), verified pedigree, date of birth, breeder, owner, Hoof Wall Separation Disease status of the animal.

8.22 The identification document is the property of the Society.

Issuing Duplicate Identification Documents

8.23 A duplicate identification document shall be issued by the CPBS where the original document is lost and the identity of the animal can be established, notably through the code transmitted by the transponder (microchip) or verification by DNA sampling comparison. On issue of such a document the animal will be permanently excluded from the food chain. This will be stamped in the duplicate document.

- 8.24 (a) Late Registration: Equines for which passports issue later than 12 months from the equine's date of birth (see 8.4) are deemed to be 'late registrations' and only a duplicate passport may issue, permanently excluding the animal from the food chain. Parentage verification will be by DNA sampling; or
- (b) the CPBS has proof that certain identification details in the existing identification document do not match the corresponding equine animal and the provisions in Equine Passport Regulation (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 cannot be applied.
- 8.25 In the above cases the CPBS shall on application by the keeper or at the request of the competent authority:
- (a) apply a transponder to the animal by the authorised method (see 8.12);
- (b) issue a duplicate identification document clearly marked as 'duplicate identification document' with a reference to the unique lifetime number recorded in the database of the issuing body which:
- (i) carried out the first identification of the animal and issued the lost original identification document; or
- (ii) issues the duplicate identification document for a pony referred to in 8.25a above;
- (c) classify the pony in Part II of Section II of the duplicate identification document as not intended for slaughter for human consumption;
- (d) the duplicate passport will record the inspection record and the HWSD record if available, otherwise HWSD testing will be part of the duplicate passport application process.
- 8.26 Details of the duplicate identification document issued in accordance with 8.25 shall be entered with a reference to the UELN in the CPBS database.
- 8.27 For ponies imported into the EU the issuing of duplicate identification documents shall be in accordance with Equine Passport Regulation (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262.

Change of Ownership

- 8.28 It is a legal requirement to transfer the ownership of a pony within 30 days of acquiring ownership in accordance with Statutory Instrument 201 of 2016. Information relating to procedures for Transfer of Ownership and fees can be downloaded from the website www.cpbs.ie.

Movement and Transport of Ponies

- 8.29 The identification documents issued for registered ponies shall accompany those ponies for which they were issued at all times, including, where required by national legislation, during the transport of the carcass of the pony for processing in an establishment approved in accordance Equine Passport Regulation (commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2015/262.

Derogation: Movement and Transport of Ponies

- 8.30 By way of derogation the identification document shall not be required to accompany registered equine when they are:
- (a) stabled or pastured, and the identification document can be presented without delay;
 - (b) temporarily ridden, driven, led or taken either:
 - (i) in the vicinity of the holding within a member state so that the identification document can be presented without delay; or
 - (ii) during transhumance of ponies to and from registered summer grazing grounds
 - (iv) provided that the identification documents can be presented at the holding of departure;
 - (c) not yet weaned and accompany their dam or foster mare;
 - (d) moved or transported in an emergency situation relating to the animals themselves or to the holding on which they are kept.

Importation of Ponies

- 8.31 Legislation requires that owners of imported equines to Ireland, whose identification document was originally issued by a Studbook/Passport Issuing Body (PIO) based in another Member State, have the passport details recorded by the CPBS as the appropriate passport issuing body (Equine Passport Regulations (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262).
- 8.32 Owners/keepers who import equines into the geographical area must notify the CPBS within 30 days of importing the pony.
- 8.33 The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that each Member State has a record for all of the equines located in their jurisdiction. The relevant form for importation may be downloaded from the website www.cpbs.ie.

Zootechnical Certificate

- 8.34 Breeders participating in the breeding programme have the right to receive a breeding or *zootechnical* certificate from the Society for their breeding animals (model format as Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1940) or for the germinal products from these breeding animals where their offspring is intended to be entered in another studbook (model format as Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/602⁷). It is divided into two parts (see Appendix 7 Zootechnical Certificate).
- 8.35 The breeder or owner of a pony is responsible for ensuring that all details given in the zootechnical certificate are correct. Any errors or deviations must be notified to the Society immediately. In addition, the breeder or owner is obliged to keep the zootechnical certificate carefully with the lifetime identification document, as a later entry of the pony in the Studbook can only be made if a valid zootechnical certificate is presented. Only in the event of change of ownership will the zootechnical certificate be reissued with the name of the new owner.
- 8.36 The zootechnical certificate, in provision for proof of ancestry, as a birth certificate and as a breeding certificate for transfer of breeding material for EU trading purposes must accompany breeding animals or their germinal products (semen, oocytes) and embryos thereof at all times (EU Animal Breeding Regulation 2016/1012). The zootechnical certificate shall contain at least the following information:
- (i) that the animal in question is a purebred breeding animal, or, if accompanying germinal products that the consignment is intended for trade or for entry into the EU, and the name of the issuing breed body;
 - (ii) the name of the breeding organisation and website, studbook and date and place of issue;
 - (iii) the classification in the studbook,
 - (iv) the name of the pony;

⁷ http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/602

- (v) sex;
- (vi) the entry number in the breeding book;
- (vii) the system of identification and individual identification number (UELN) in accordance with EU Animal Health Regulations;
- (viii) the method used for identity verification of purebred animals used for the collection of germinal products and the results of verification of that identity, the name, address and where available the email address of the breeder (see Definition of Breeder 3.1);
- (ix) information on genetic defects (HWSD status);
- (x) the name, address and, where available the email address of the owner;
- (xi) the pedigree (two generations with breeding book numbers, classification, and in the case of in foal mares: the date of insemination or mating and the identification of the fertilising male, which may be indicated in a separate document);
- (xii) the date and place of issue of the zootechnical certificate, the name, capacity and signature of the individual authorised to sign that certificate by the issuing breed society, or, in the case of entry into the EU of a purebred breeding animal, by the issuing breeding body; that individual shall be a representative from that breed society or breed body, or a representative from the relevant competent authority;

8.37 The recording of insemination/covering method is recorded on Part 2 of the zootechnical certificate and is certified by a registered veterinary practitioner (see 8.40 and 8.41) for EU trading purposes.

Zootechnical Certificates for Germinal Products and Embryos of Purebred Breeding Ponies

8.38 With regard to semen, oocytes and embryos of a purebred breeding equine the zootechnical certificate shall include all the details as set out in 8.36 and in addition:

Information allowing identification of the product, the number of straws/doses/quantity to be dispatched, the place and date of collection, the name, address and the approval number of the EU approved collection or storage centre and the name and address of the consignee; the date and place of issue of the zootechnical certificate, the name, capacity and signature of the individual authorised to sign that certificate by the issuing breed society, or, in the case of entry into the EU of semen, by the issuing breeding body; that individual shall be a representative from that breed society or breed body, or a representative from the relevant competent authority;

Derogation: concerning the issuing of zootechnical certificates for trade in germinal products of Purebred Breeding Ponies

8.39 The CPBS breeding programme permits the following EU approved AI collection and storage centres (8.40 and 8.41) to issue zootechnical certificates on their behalf for germinal products of the Connemara pony breed. Traceability of the copies of the zootechnical certificates completed by the breeding material establishments by the society must be guaranteed at all times.

8.40 EU Approved Equine AI Collection Centres

[EQUINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRES - 1f54f87e-4506-4608-b4c2-13473436692c.pdf](https://www.gov.ie/en/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115448/equine-semen-collection-centres-1f54f87e-4506-4608-b4c2-13473436692c.pdf)
(www.gov.ie)

List of approved semen collection centres for intra-Community trade in semen of domestic animals of the equine species (Directive 92/65/EEC)			Version 02/05/2023
Approval Date	Name	Contact Details	Remarks
1995	Hartwell Stud	Address: Kill Naas, County Kildare Tel No.: 045 877494 Fax No.: 045 877745 Email: hartwellstud@gmail.com	

IR E11	26/02/2020	Rockmount AI Centre	Address: Rockmount, Claregalway, Co Galway Tel. No.091 739685 Email: rockmountaicentre@gmail.com	
IR E12	11/10/2016	Kylemore Stud	Address: Ballyscully, Kylebrack, Loughrea, County Galway Tel No: 090 9745599 Fax no: 090 9745599 Email: info@kylemorestud.com	
IR E18	12/02/2021	Diamond's Equine Centre	Address: Renvyle, Connemara, Co Galway Tel. No. 095 43486 Fax No. 095 43914 Email: ldiamond@iol.ie	
IR E18	28/04/2023	Hilton View Stud	Address: Gortnana, Scotshouse, Co Monaghan H23 V006 Tel. No. 087 0690912 Email: annemarie_j71@icloud.com	

8.41 EU Approved Equine AI Storage Centres

[gov - List of Approved Establishments in Veterinary Fields and Approved Laboratories](https://www.gov.ie/en/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115448/equine-semen-collection-centres-1f54f87e-4506-4608-b4c2-13473436692c.pdf)
(www.gov.ie)

Member State Ireland		List of approved semen storage centres for intra-Community trade in semen of domestic animals of the equine species (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/686)		Version 02/05/2023
Approval No.	Approval Date	Name	Contact Details	Remarks
IR E003	01/05/2015	Rockmount AI Centre	Philip McManus Rockmount Claregalway Co Galway Tel. No. 00353 (0) 91739685 Email: rockmountaicentre@gmail.com	
IR E055	18/02/2019	Stallion AI Services	Lower Goggins Hill, Ballinhassig, Co Cork, T12 F89E Tel. No. 087 7821439 Email: ireland@stallionai.com	
IRE 19	28/04/2004	Hilton View Stud	Gortana Scotshouse Co Monaghan H23 V006 Tel No: 087 0690912 Email: annemarie_j71@icloud.com	

- 8.42 Germinal products for entry into the EU must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate in the model format issued in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/602 by approved semen collection centres or by an embryo collection or production team in the country of origin on the basis of the information received from that breeding body.

SECTION 9 - Selection and Breeding Objectives

- 9.1 To achieve the aims and maintain the health of the herd there are considerations for breeders that should be observed as outlined in 9.2 to 9.7.

Considerations for Breeders in Order to Achieve the Breeding Goals

- 9.2 In accordance with the aims of the breeding programme and the breed standard the objective is to breed compact, well-balanced ponies with good depth and substance and good heart room, standing on short legs, covering a lot of ground, good temperament, hardiness, staying power, soundness, surefootedness, and with jumping/athletic ability and of breed standard height 128cm-148cm.
- 9.3 Breeders are encouraged to breed for the characteristics of the breed standard by way of improved breeding practice using mindful and selective pairings.
- 9.4 Breeders should make parental choices and assessments of the potential of all future breeding stock with the aid of the official performance evaluation of colts and mares in accordance with the breed standard and classification within the Studbook.
- 9.5 The Society advises that only Class 1 and Class 2 ponies be used for breeding;
- 9.6 Breeders in making their selections should endeavour to safeguard the genetic diversity and look to maintain a high level of genetic diversity within the breed through mindful and responsible breeding;
- 9.7 Breeders should strive to eliminate undesirable genetic defects that are recognised in the breeding programme (HWSD) through mindful and responsible breeding and nurture one that is genetically disease free. (See Appendix 1 *Hoof Wall Separation Disease*.)

SECTION 10 - Performance Testing

Performance Testing

- 10.1 Performance testing of the Connemara pony is conducted by way of:
- (a) visual inspection;
 - (b) linear profiling from 2019;
 - (c) athletic performance (merit scheme)
- 10.2 Correct type, conformation and movement are visual integral components for performance evaluation (assessment) and comparison with the breed standard (Section 1). On achieving a sufficient grade, a classification is awarded within the breeding programme. See 5.18 and 5.19 for details of scoring and also Appendices 2, 3 and 4 for details of the traits considered.
- 10.3 From 2019 the classification result of every pony inspected and its associated linear marking profile sheet are published on the CPBS database.
- 10.4 Performance testing results for all ponies inspected are maintained by the CPBS office and published on the CPBS Online Pedigree Database. Overall annual performance testing statistics (classification

results) are reported at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, published on the website and in the Society periodical newsletter.

- 10.5 Geldings are inspected for height only (see Section 5). Geldings are included in the Studbook and in time if future performance testing prevails through the Merit Scheme (10.10) an assessment of genealogical quality will be permanently introduced based on their performance evaluation in the competition field.
- 10.6 Indication of success of the breeding programme for all colts and mares inspected is dependent on the performance testing as per the breed standard at time of inspection, classification Class 1 being the highest standard and Class 3 the lowest. See Section 5 and [Rules for Procedures \(Inspections\)](#) www.cpbs.ie
- 10.7 A pilot merit scheme was introduced (2019) with the intention to accumulate data in order to assist evaluate sire contribution and dam contribution to the athletic performance in the breed in conjunction with the Society's breeding standard and breeding goals.
- 10.8 Geldings have an important part to contribute through their genealogical records and thus to the integrity of the ranking of breeding animals based on results from their athletic performance.
- 10.9 The Merit Scheme is based on subjective judgement of working hunter, ridden and loose jumping competition results all of which take into account type, conformation and way of going as well as athletic performance. Whilst it cannot ever be considered to be an overall conclusive evaluation as only part of the complete herd will ever participate, it will in time provide an indicator to influential bloodlines. The data collected for 2019 is available on the website <http://cpbs.ie/merit-scheme/>.

Purposes of the Merit Scheme

Three main purposes for the Merit Scheme are:

- 10.10 To provide a platform to contribute to the evaluation the athletic performance of ponies registered with the Society, and which information accumulated can be used and evaluated in conjunction with the Society's breeding standard and breeding goals;
- 10.11 To recognise any sire's contribution and any dam's contribution to athletic performance in bloodlines in conjunction with the Society's breeding standard and breeding goals;
- 10.12 To encourage those ponies which are outside of high-profile mainstream competition to compete, and thereby assess their performance and contribution to the breeding goals of the Society.

SECTION 11 - Daughter Breed Societies (EU) and Breeding Bodies (non-EU)

General

The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society has seventeen affiliated daughter member breeding societies and breeding bodies worldwide, each with their own relevant studbook. Collectively known as the **International Committee for Connemara Pony Societies**, or ICCPS, they form a voluntary organisation and which operates under an independent constitution), holding its Annual General Meeting in Ireland at the CPBS Annual Connemara Pony Show in Clifden, County Galway in August. (<http://www.connemarapony.org/site>)

ICCPS Members

The following countries are members of the ICCPS: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Ireland as parent society automatically has three delegates on the board of the ICCPS. CPBS delegates are appointed annually on recommendation from the Council of the CPBS as per the ICCPS Constitution. A full list of current ICCPS delegates is published on the website.

Breeding Objectives

The ICCPS oversees the development, promotion and preservation of the Connemara pony as a distinctive breed internationally, **in accordance with the aims and objectives of the CPBS** by promoting and fostering high standards of breeding, as well as nurturing cooperation between member societies.

Strategic Plan

At the 2017 ICCPS Technical Meeting in Clifden an ICCPS Strategic Plan was presented and updated to 2018 for 2018-2020. Strategic priorities include: Connemara Pony Studbooks each daughter society to be functional and accurate; inspector and judge growth to be supported and approved by the CPBS; international membership engagement and expansion; promotion of the Connemara pony; and that all daughter societies have administrative secretariats.

Registration and Inspections

In the case of member countries of the ICCPS all purebred Connemara ponies should be registered with the daughter society in the country where the relevant studbook resides.

A pony presented for classification in a member country of the ICCPS must be classified by inspectors who have been trained and/or approved by the Studbook of origin in Ireland. Due to differing national systems for inspections the number of inspectors may vary, but a minimum of two inspectors plus a mandatory veterinary inspection for stallions is obligatory.

In respect of member countries of the ICCPS the height measurement and health status of mares and geldings must be verified by a veterinary surgeon or other person authorised by the competent authority of the country in which the pony resides.

Amnesty

Geographical constraints due to long distances and consequentially high costs to breeders to attend inspections are to the detriment of the breed in some countries, as outlying ponies and their offspring may have escaped classification. Political constraints may also from time to time have an effect. To embrace the breeding lines and mare families that are at risk because of these limitations it is anticipated that the CPBS and ICCPS will consider a time-limited amnesty to provide an opportunity to maintain a complete record of the worldwide herd.

Database

Having connections via the ICCPS throughout the world provides the CPBS and its members with valuable links to a wide market as well as receiving valuable feedback on breeding, bloodlines etc. There is a proposal to link the databases of these daughter societies to the main database held for Ireland and located in Clifden. To provide such a link will allow the CPBS access a full record of breeding, ancestry, performance and other relevant data on the breed throughout the world and allow for the identification and conservation of rare breeding lines.

Appendices – may be found at the following links:

Appendix 1: Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD)

<http://cpbs.ie/hwsd-hoof-wall-separation-disease-testing-services/>

Appendix 2: Linear Profiling <http://cpbs.ie/linear-profiling/>

Appendix 3: Linear Profiling Scoring Sheet - Colts <https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-linear-profiling/>

Appendix 4: Linear Profiling Scoring Sheet - Fillies <https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-linear-profiling/>

Appendix 5: CPBS Fees <https://cpbs.ie/cpbs-price-list/>

Appendix 6: Official Marking Chart <https://cpbs.ie/marking-chart/>

Appendix 7: Zootechnical Certificate <https://cpbs.ie/zootechnical-certificate/>

Appendix 8: Equine Premises Registration <https://cpbs.ie/equine-premises-number-2/>