

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

## **BCPS INSPECTION PROCEDURES 2020**

A pony's birthday 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 birthday 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 the BCPS Colt Inspectors and obtained a Veterinary Certificate. 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> June in which he attains the age of three years unless he is registered as a stallion in Class 1 or 2 of the BCPS or CPBS 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.

If a colt passes the visual inspection for Class 1 and the veterinary examination, it can then be entered in Class 1 of the Stud Book. In addition, a hair sample will need to be taken for HWSD testing unless the pony has already been tested through the Society.

For Class 2 colts – colts that do not receive the required marks for Class 1 in the visual inspection – they must also undergo a veterinary examination if they are to be officially entered as Class 2 Stallions in the Stud Book. (A hair sample will need to be taken for HWSD testing unless the pony has already been tested through the Society.) Any ponies in Class 2 can be presented for re-inspection in any subsequent calendar year provided a minimum period of nine months has elapsed. All colts that are represented will come before a different panel of Inspectors and will need to be re-vetted. In this case further fees for Inspection and the Veterinary examination would be payable.

Any colts who are not considered suitable for Class 1 or Class 2 will remain in Class 3, as will any higher graded Colts who are not presented for the veterinary examination. The progeny of any Class 3 colts will also remain in Class 3.

Any owner who does not present their colt for the veterinary examination will have their cheque for the vetting returned.

## **APPLICATION FOR INSPECTION**

A colt must be registered in the Foal Section of the BCPS Stud Book or in the Stud Book of an approved Connemara Pony Society.

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 please contact the Secretary 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 so that colts can be accommodated overnight (at the Society's expense) before the Inspection.

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. This form should be completed and signed by the registered\_owner of the colt and should be returned to the secretary together with: -

**The correct fee for the Society Inspection.**

**A separate cheque for the Veterinary Inspection**

Owners must return the application form advising which Inspection Centre they want to attend no later than three 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 Registrations Committee or in the case of last minute withdrawal, by the BCPS Council.

## THE INSPECTION

The inspections will be held in public. Photographs may be taken and may be published in BCPS publications and on the BCPS website and social media. By signing the Application Form you are agreeing to this.

Owners are required to bring the colt's passport to the Inspection.

At the Inspection Centre, you should report to the steward on the morning of the Inspection either as soon as you arrive or if you have been stabled the night before at least an hour before the inspection is due to start. This means that he/she is aware of your arrival, can confirm the time of your inspection and arrange for a stable for your colt if you have not been stabled the night before.

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 your colt in a loose box, checking the markings against his Foal Passport and reading his microchip. He should be presented in a bridle. The colt will also be measured by one of the Inspectors. All colts should measure between 128cms to 148cms 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 might pass him subject to a height certificate being obtained. This height certificate should be obtained from a vet from the JMB Panel not later than a month following the inspection. It is important to remember this cannot be a JMB official measurement if the pony is less than 4 years old. Height measurements from vets done before the inspection will not be accepted by the Inspectors on the day. The owner will be liable for any expenses incurred in connection with the height certificate. Ponies four years and over may be presented for inspection with shoes on. 13mm will be allowed at measuring.

The Inspectors may wish to run their hands down his 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 he is unmanageable.

The colt is then taken outside and looked at standing still. It is then walked and trotted outside on a hard surface.

Lunging facilities will be available and the inspectors will wish to see him lunged on both reins, including cantering. It is recommended that colts are lunged in a lunging cavesson. They can wear brushing boots while 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 Steward accompanying the Inspectors will tell you the result of the Inspection on the day but will not be in a position to give details of the marks. The Secretary will post on to each owner a copy of a summarised marking sheet after the inspection. This will detail the marks awarded by the Inspectors and remarks on the colt. If your colt passes as Class 2 for the visual inspection, you may, if you wish, request that the Inspectors should briefly give you the reason(s) for classification on the day in order for you to decide whether or not it is worth going to the expense of having your colt vetted. This will not be done immediately after the colt has been inspected, but if you tell the steward you wish to be told the reason(s), they will ask the inspectors to speak to you 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 he will take a hair sample for HWSO testing (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 be using 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 HWSO test result to be stamped in the passport please keep the passport with the pony until the Secretary advises Results have 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 should send the passport into 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 OWNERS 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.

Video/Photographs may be taken and may be used in BCPS publications, and on the BCPS Website and social media.

**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. Hard hats must be worn by handlers at all times**