

Open Letter to Stallion Owners

HWSD Testing

If your stallion is actively breeding we strongly advise you to have him tested for HWSD and the BCPS will pay for the processing cost of the test with the lab.

The Society will retain a copy of the results in the office and, rest assured, all results will be confidential and no results will be published without the consent of the owner.

Any stallions that have already been tested N/N without the sample having been taken by a vet may need a second test but, in the first instance, please send the certificate to the office. Ponies that have tested positive (HWSD/HWSD) or tested as carriers (N/HWSD) just need to send a copy of their certificate sent to the office.

The current testing procedure is that you request a sample bag from the office (identical to the DNA bag you will all be familiar with, it now has the option of HWSD test on it as well as parentage test). You would ask your vet (at his next visit) to take a hair sample, checking the microchip and passport to establish the correct identity of the pony. You would send the bag with the hair sample and a cheque for £30 to the office and it will be sent to Weatherbys Scientific in the Republic of Ireland. The results will then be sent back to the office with a copy for the owner.

If you use the UCL Davies Lab or Animal Genetics then the test result will be yours to do with as you wish, but we would strongly advise you to contact the office and submit a copy of the lab result, along with the evidence that the vet has identified the pony and taken the hair sample. Just to confirm again, test results will not be added to stud adverts or any published details of ponies without the prior consent of owners and confirmation that the sample was taken by a vet who had carried out the appropriate identity checks.

Please talk to the secretary or Sue Gillingham if you have any questions about your stallion but we do want as many results as possible in order to gauge the overall picture and help Connemara breeders.

(to attach Chronicle article)