

HOOF WALL SEPARATION DISEASE



From the BCPS HWSD Advisory Group

ABOUT

Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) is not a 'disease' or 'infection'. It is a **genetic mutation** caused by a single mutated gene.



Two copies of this mutated gene, will make the pony an **'affected' animal**.



GENE TEST RESULTS

POSITIVE
Test Results
say
HWSD/HWSD

CARRIER
Test Results
say
N/HWSD

NEGATIVE
Test Results
say
N/N

will **not** show clinical signs of the disease

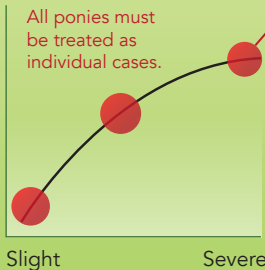
HWSD is **incurable** its effects are

- hoof wall breaks away
- problems with weight bearing
- difficult to shoe
- lameness



CONDITION PRESENTATION

This condition presents from slightly affected, to severely affected.



Some severe cases can't be managed at all and the pony will need to be euthanased.

The environment although playing no part in creating the condition, may help the less severely affected pony to be managed.

Management is critical and trimming as often as every 3 weeks, can be necessary.

TESTING

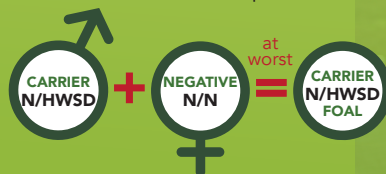
We are **strongly advising** pony owners to **TEST** for HWSD as it will, in future, be an important factor in Pony Breeding and Sales.



This is because ponies bought as riding ponies are in some cases proving to be affected by the condition and the new owners are devastated to find that the feet are not going to be treatable. Only palliative care can be given, as there is **NO CURE**.

RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS

Breeders need to be responsible and **MUST NOT** breed an N/HWSD to an N/HWSD, or in simple terms a Carrier pony to a Carrier pony which results in more HWSD positive foals.



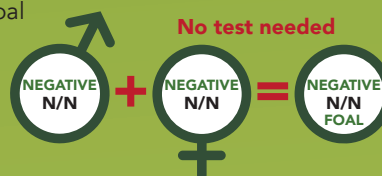
It works in a similar way to the Blue Eyed Crème gene in that it is a one in four chance of producing a positive. A Carrier stallion if mated to a negative mare can, at worst, only produce a Carrier offspring, but it could also produce a negative offspring! Because it can't be predicted, which genes will be passed on.



HWSD TEST AT REGISTRATION

All daughter Societies will be asked to HWSD TEST foals at registration and to stamp their passports with their test result. Ponies will not move out of Class 3 until they have been tested. Owners will be able to make informed breeding decisions. Also it will greatly advance the knowledge of this genetic condition and enable further scientific research to be carried out.

A foal from a stallion that is N/N and a mare that is N/N will **NOT** need to be tested, as that foal can **NOT** inherit a mutated gene as its parents did not have the mutated gene to pass on!



LATEST INFORMATION

There are 'affected' ponies, leading useful lives that are manageable, it is not all doom and gloom, but we must make sure that the welfare of the pony is paramount.

Please go to www.britishconnemaras.co.uk click on Owners and Breeding, then HWSD to see the **latest information** and the HWSD testing procedure.

