BRITISH CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY

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FILLY INSPECTIONS 2026 – Notes for Owners

In line with the Rules of the British Connemara Pony Society, as updated at the EGM held in March 2007, a filly cannot be used to breed registered stock that are eligible for Classes 1 and 2 of the Stud Book until she has been inspected and passed into Class 1 or 2 of the Adult Section of the Stud Book by BCPS Inspectors. She must also pass a Veterinary Examination which will consist of the verification of the filly's markings/ microchip, her approximate height, which must be entered in the passport, and a check of her jaw. The Filly Inspection Veterinary Letter should be read by the owner, before being given to the examining veterinary surgeon prior to the veterinary inspection's taking place.

NOTE: It is strongly advised that the veterinary inspection and approximate height measurement take place BEFORE the inspection; in exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the inspectors, the inspection may be performed before the veterinary inspection, but the passport will NOT be upgraded until the veterinary inspection has been completed and the height entered in the passport.
Fillies presented for inspection MUST be registered with BCPS in the correct ownership, otherwise the inspection will not go ahead.

The minimum age for inspection is 2 years old, and there is no maximum age for inspection or re-inspection, but it is important to remember that a filly which is not presented for inspection will remain in Class 3 of the Stud Book, and all her progeny will only be eligible for Class 3 until she is entered into either Class 1 or 2 . Also, that a mare cannot be shown after 1st January in the year in which she is 4 years old unless, she has been registered as an adult pony, and some shows may restrict entries to mares which are entered in Classes 1 or 2. Fillies ages are calculated from 1st January in their year of birth.

In 2010, for the first time, a marking system was introduced. The inspection has no regard to the value of the pony or its potential in the show ring. Fillies will be inspected for conformation, type and movement. They will not be lunged but must lead well in-hand, at walk and trot, and must stand still enough for the Inspectors to check them. The Inspectors will, for reasons of safety refuse to inspect ponies which are not under proper control or if the conditions do not allow them to carry out a satisfactory inspection. Handlers must wear a suitable riding hat/ helmet and can use either headcollars or bridles. The Inspectors' decision is final. The Inspectors will inform the owner of the inspection result on the day, unless the decision is deferred (see below), but the owner will not be informed of the actual marks awarded; a summary sheet will be sent to the owner when the passport is returned.

It is requested that the Inspectors be allowed to perform their assessment of the pony without any interference from owners or spectators. Photographs may be taken by the inspectors or stewards, and may be used in BCPS publications, and on the BCPS Website and social media. Owners and their representatives will be asked not to take photographs or videos of any person acting for the Society during the inspection procedure.

As mentioned, the filly must have a Veterinary Examination which may be carried out by the owner's own veterinary surgeon. To save costs, this may be done at the same time as he or she is on a routine visit, but must be undertaken in the year of the inspection, and before the BCPS Inspection itself: within three months of the B.C.P.S. Inspection for a two year old filly, or within six months for a three year old or over. Once the filly has been inspected, the registration into the adult Stud Book can be processed straight away. Should a filly show signs of lameness in the opinion of the Inspectors, their decision may be deferred and the owner may be asked to seek a veterinary assessment as to the cause of the unsoundness. Please see the Veterinary Surgeon Letter for more information.

A letter explaining the Veterinary Examination required is enclosed as guidance for the veterinary surgeon. Any queries relating to the Examination should be sent in writing to the secretary for clarification using the form included with the letter.. The Society strongly recommends that fillies should be tested for HWSD if they were born before the mandatory date for testing all foals. A hair sample can easily be taken when the veterinary surgeon carries out the vetting; please mark on the application form if the filly needs testing, or whether the filly has already been tested (please provide a copy of the certificate). **All fillies birth-registered with the BCPS in or after 2017, will have been tested, and the result printed in the passport.**

When the filly has had both her Society Inspection and the Veterinary Examination, she will be issued with her adult passport which will include her Classification and Adult Registration number.

The Classification requirements are :

Class 1 – Fillies that have passed the Society's Visual Inspection, have had a Veterinary Examination and measure between 128 cm. and 148 cm

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Class 2 – Fillies as above but which measure either below 128 cm. or more than 148 cm. or
Fillies who receive insufficient marks for entry into Class 1, but have passed their Veterinary Examination

Class 3 – Fillies that have not been presented for inspection or
Fillies who receive insufficient marks for entry into Class 2
Fillies that are found to have a malocclusion of the jaw.
Fillies that have failed the Veterinary Examination

If a filly does not pass the Visual Inspection, she can remain in Class 3 and be presented for inspection again in subsequent years if the owner so wishes. If the inspectors consider that a filly is immature, they can recommend that she remain in Class 3 and be presented again the following year. Additionally if the filly does not pass the visual inspection, the owner may appeal against the decision, and a further inspection may be allowed later in the year. The owner will be liable for the full cost of such an inspection. Applications must be received within one month of the original inspection.

A hard hat or helmet, along with suitable footwear, must be worn at all times when handling a pony.

Please note that the BCPS staff or their agents 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.
Owners (or their representatives) attending a filly inspection must have their own third party liability insurance.

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