



"Protecting and Promoting Scotland's Ancient Hebridean Ponies"

The Eriskay Pony Society **Rules and Regulations**

Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in Scotland No. 161020

Recognised Scottish Charity No. SCO 24277

Registered Office : Farries Kirk & McVean, Dumfries Enterprise Park, Heathhall, Dumfries, DG1 3SJ

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THESE RULES ARE CORRECT AS AT 09/10/25

OBJECTIVES OF SELECTION

- 1) The Eriskay Pony Society (EPS) exists to Preserve the Eriskay Pony and to promote the breeding and use of the Eriskay Pony in the present day, to ensure that the numbers of ponies increase in a healthy population, and to ensure that the breed characteristics are preserved.
- 2) EPS accepts that breeders keeping Eriskay ponies have the right to participate in a breeding programme provided that their animals are kept on holdings within the UK. They have a right to membership of the Society. Breeders participating in the breeding programme can exercise free choice in the selection and breeding of their breeding animals, enter the offspring descended from those breeding animals into the stud book (as per rules below) and retain ownership of their breeding animals. They have the right to participate in performance testing and genetic evaluation of their animals, to be provided with a zootechnical certificate and to have access to all other services provided in relation to the breeding programme.

THE STUDBOOK

- 3) The EPS studbook is a closed studbook. Only the descendants of the foundation stock may be entered in the studbook. No pony will be registered in the Main Section A, B, or C of the studbook unless DNA samples have been provided for both parents. (see DNA Typing below).
- 4) Ponies were previously allocated to studbook classes according to their percentage at birth. The Society will continue to record percentages but will no longer use them as the basis for allocation of ponies to studbook classes. Percentages will not be printed on passports.

Allocation to studbook classes will in future be based on the classes of the parents as follows.

MAIN SECTION

- 5) **Main Section A.** A pony will be entered in Main Section A if the pony is:
 - a) The progeny of a Licensed Stallion and a dam who is Main Section A.
 - b) The progeny of a Licensed Stallion and a dam who is in Main Section B.
 - c) Licensed as a stallion.
 - d) A pony that was entered into Main Section B as the progeny of an unlicensed stallion and Main Section A dam whose sire is subsequently licensed.
 - e) The progeny of a Licensed Stallion and a dam who is in Section Y but who would otherwise be in Main Section A if DNA had been provided.

Main Section B. A pony will be entered in Main Section B if the pony is:

- a) The progeny of an unlicensed stallion and a dam which is in either Main Section A or Main Section B.

It should be noted that the EPS Council retain the right to move a pony from Main Section B to Main Section A in exceptional circumstances, these circumstances being decided solely by said Council.

Main Section C. A pony will be entered in Main Section C if the pony is:

- a) The progeny of a sire and dam who are already in Main Section C.
- b) The progeny of a dam in Main Section D and a Licensed Stallion.

All colts entered in this part of the register should be gelded unless, in exceptional circumstances, the Council agree that a particular colt remain entire pending inspection and licensing as a stallion. Should the colt subsequently fail stallion inspection it should then be gelded.

Main Section D.

This register is closed to new entrants.

Main Section E.

A pony will be entered in this Section if it is a pony that meets other stud book requirements but where its parentage cannot be confirmed by DNA typing.

- a) Any foal that would otherwise meet the requirements for entry into the Main Sections A, B and C, but where parental DNA has not been provided for both sire and dam will go into Section Main Section E.
- b) If the parental DNA that is missing from either of, or both, the sire and dam is later provided the offspring will transfer into the appropriate section of the stud book.
- c) Progeny of ponies in Main Section E may be registered in the appropriate section of the stud book provided they conform to the breed standard, have a licensed sire and a registered dam, and meet all other relevant DNA requirements.

NOMINAL CLASSES FOR PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED PONIES

- 6) For the purposes of identifying which class their offspring will be registered in, existing ponies registered prior to 01/01/2019 will be assigned a nominal class. Their recorded studbook class will not be changed as this would require the issue of a replacement passport (see below).

The nominal class will be assigned as follows:

- a) Ponies 97% and above will be assigned to the Main Sections A.
- b) Ponies 94% and above but less than 97% will be assigned to Main Section B.
- c) All other registered Eriskays will be assigned to Main Section C.

PART BRED REGISTER

- 7) In addition to the studbook, there is a part bred register. This contains ponies which are the result of a cross between a registered Eriskay pony and one of another breed.

REPLACEMENT PASSPORTS FOR PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED PONIES

- 8) Members can apply for a replacement passport in the new format that does not show percentages for their previously registered ponies. Where a replacement passport is issued, the updated class according to the above formula will be shown and recorded in the studbook.

PONIES REGISTERED WITH COMANN EACH NAN EILEAN

- 9) Eriskay ponies registered with Comann Each nan Eilean (CEnE) are legally of a different breed*. However, the Eriskay Pony Society recognises that these are genetically the same ponies as those in the Eriskay Pony Society studbook and that they have descended from the same foundation stock.
- 10) As CEnE registered Eriskay ponies are legally a different breed, they must be explicitly identified in our rules as being eligible for entry into the EPS studbook.
- 11) CEnE issues passports for any pony born in the Western Isles. It is only those registered by them as Eriskay ponies who are eligible for entry to the Eriskay Pony Society studbook.
- 12) Eriskay ponies for which CEnE has issued a passport are eligible for entry into the Eriskay Pony Society studbook by over stamping.
- 13) To be over stamped, evidence of the full pedigree of the CEnE registered pony must be supplied, along with the percentage of each ancestor, as far back as either ponies already registered in the EPS studbook, or the foundation stock.
- 14) The offspring of ponies that which have one or both parents who are registered with CEnE can be entered in the Society studbook by the following process:
 - a) The parent pony or ponies not entered in the EPS studbook will be done so by over stamping (see 16 above).

- b) Evidence that any parent pony registered with CEnE has had a DNA test must be supplied, or a DNA test will be required.
- c) The pony or ponies registered with CEnE will be assigned a nominal Eriskay Pony Society studbook class.
- d) The offspring pony will be allocated to a studbook classed based on the nominal parental class of each parent as above.

STALLION LICENSING

- 15) EPS will only inspect Main Section A colts, except at the discretion of the Council.
- 16) Stallion inspections will not take place until the colt has achieved the age of two but may be deferred, at the discretion of the owner, until the colt is older.
- 17) The inspection consists of three mandatory elements namely -
 - a) An examination by a Veterinary Surgeon for soundness and hereditary disease or deleterious conditions in accordance with the standard laid down by EPS. Copies of the required standard and the form of certificate required by EPS will be supplied to the Veterinary Surgeon.
 - b) DNA testing. Hair samples must be taken from the colt and dispatched to the laboratory for DNA testing in accordance with explanatory notes available from the Registrar. This can be done by the Veterinary Surgeon during inspection or by another party at any time. Refer to the 'DNA Typing' section below.
 - c) An examination, which may include video footage, by inspectors appointed by EPS for breed conformation.

There is no requirement as to the order in which these inspections take place. This will be arranged between EPS and the owner.
- 18) The owner of the colt must pay for the veterinary examination referred to above plus a reasonable charge to cover the costs of the inspection on behalf of EPS although this may be deferred at the discretion of the Council.
- 19) All Licensed Stallions will be entered in Main Section A of the studbook.

SYSTEM FOR RECORDING PEDIGREES.

- 20) The following approach will be used to ensure that a full pedigree for all ponies entered into the EPS studbook is recorded:
 - a) All ponies entered into the EPS studbook whose sire and dam are already in the EPS studbook will have their parentage recorded on their studbook entry.
 - b) Any ponies entered into the EPS studbook that have one or both parents who are not already in the studbook must provide evidence of pedigree as defined in section 'PONIES REGISTERED WITH COMANN EACH NAN EILEAN' above. This pedigree will be recorded in the EPS studbook to provide a record of the pony's pedigree.

LINEAGES ENTERED IN ONE OR MORE OTHER STUD BOOKS.

- 21) As we are a holder of the studbook of origin it is a legal requirement that we include in our rules a provision for lineages entered in one or more studbooks for the same breed. The rules governing the entry in the EPS studbook of the offspring of ponies registered with CEnE, and the steps to ensure the full lineage is obtained, are covered above in the section 'PONIES REGISTERED WITH COMANN EACH NAN EILEAN'.
- 22) There is currently no daughter society. Should a daughter society be formed at any time in the future, rules are required to ensure that complete lineages for any ponies registered in their studbook are also recorded in the EPS studbook to ensure there is a complete, central record of all lineages.
- 23) Information will flow both ways. EPS will also ensure that the daughter society also has a complete record of lineages.
- 24) To achieve this, the studbooks of the mother and daughter societies will be reconciled at agreed intervals (to be agreed by the societies depending on a number of factors such as volumes) which will not be more than a year.
- 25) All ponies will be uniquely identified in both studbooks by their unique equine life number (UELN), and the registration number and passport numbers assigned to them by the society which issued their passport.
- 26) For older ascendant ponies, if a UELN is not available, then the registration and (if available) passport number will be used.

27) All details in both studbooks will be identical. No changes to name or other details are permitted.

PONY IMPORTED FROM AN EU MEMBER STATE

- 28) Where a pony entered in a studbook in an EU State is entered in the EPS studbook following import from that State—
- a) the pony will, subject to paragraph (33), be entered under the same name as that in the first studbook; and
 - b) the entry in the EPS studbook must be accompanied with an indication, in accordance with international agreements, of the initials of the country of foaling of the pony.
- 29) The name of the pony as entered in the first studbook may be entered into the EPS studbook preceded or followed by another name provided that the original name is, at a minimum, retained in brackets as part of the entry in the EPS studbook.

SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING PONIES

- 30) The system for identifying ponies used by EPS will be that defined in EPS's rules for registering a pony as required to comply with the current legislation governing the issuing of an equine passport in Scotland. Currently all ponies are identified by:
- a) an outline diagram
 - b) a description of colour and markings
 - c) a microchip.
 - d) forms signed by the breeder and stallion owner.
- 31) All breeding stock must have DNA samples taken and recorded.

REGISTRATION & TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

- 32) In accordance with the Equine Animal (Identification) (Scotland) Regulations, a foal must be issued with a passport by the end of the year of birth, or within six months of birth whichever is later.
- 33) These regulations require that an application for a passport is received 30 days prior to these dates otherwise it will be considered late.
- 34) The regulations require all foals to have a microchip implanted by a veterinary surgeon when their owners apply for a passport.
- 35) The EPS Registrar handles all registrations and other entries for the Stud Book and is the only person authorized to make entries in equine passports on behalf of EPS.
- 36) A person seeking to register a pony must be the owner of the pony. The appropriate application form and related description page are obtainable from the Registrar or from EPS's webpage.
- 37) The registered owner of the dam at the time of birth of the foal is deemed to be the breeder.
- 38) EPS is affiliated to the Central Prefix Register and all breeders of Eriskay ponies must adopt a prefix which will be included in the name of all foals which they breed. The prefix must be registered with the Central Prefix Register via EPS's Registrar who will provide the appropriate form upon request. It is normal for the prefix to be relevant to the breeder's name, house, area etc.
- 39) Once the name, including the prefix, of a pony has been registered it cannot be changed.
- 40) Where any application for registration of a pony does not comply with accepted procedures the Council may call for further evidence at the owner's expense. The Council's decision is final and conclusive on all matters relating to the Studbook.
- 41) A passport is issued when a foal is registered. If the pony is sold or gifted to a new owner, the passport must be returned to EPS for change of ownership. The passport must remain with the pony in the circumstances as defined in the relevant legislation.
- 42) The passport remains the property of EPS.
- 43) It is a statutory requirement that passports are returned to EPS for updating within 30 days of any of the following events:

- a) the animal changes ownership
 - b) If any alterations are required either to the owner (such as change of address) of the pony details (for example: changes that affect the identification such as colour, castration, removal from the food chain etc)
 - c) If extra pages are required for vaccination records, etc
 - d) If the document is damaged
 - e) When the animal dies. Passports for deceased ponies may be returned to the owner if requested.
- 44) Registration of a pony with the Society authorizes the Society to include the pony in the Yearbook or other published list of Eriskay ponies approved by the Council.
- 45) Where the sire or dam of a pony is indicated by the reference "OES" the pony in question is one of the small number of Original Eriskay Ponies in existence when records were first started.

DNA TYPING

- 46) DNA typing is mandatory for all breeding stock. There is a statutory requirement that the parentage of a pony registered in the studbook can be proven and this is achieved by DNA typing for breeding stock. The tests are based on hair samples, with root follicles taken from the mane or tail of the ponies. The tests are processed by an appropriate laboratory designated by EPS.
- 47) Typing can only be achieved where DNA material is available from both the sire and dam of a pony. Once the DNA profile of a pony has been recorded it is not normally necessary to take a further sample when, for example, a mare has a further foal.
- 48) When making an examination of a colt for stallion approval purposes the veterinary surgeon will take appropriate hair samples. The Society will send these off for DNA typing. The cost of this is included in the stallion registration fee.
- 49) Where a foal is put forward for registration and the sire is not a licensed stallion, a DNA sample must be provided for the stallion. The society will not pay for the laboratory fee. Alternatively, the stallion may be put forward for licensing, though this will delay the foal registration process.
- 50) DNA typing of mares will be done when first in foal. Tests on mares will be done at the owner's expense, but the first foal born will be registered free of charge.
- 51) All DNA typing tests will be co-ordinated by the Registrar on behalf of the Society. The testing organisation will only communicate test results to the Society.
- 52) Hair samples can be taken by the owner without involving a veterinary surgeon. **Clean self sealing** bags must be used from the hair samples in all cases, and these can be obtained from the Registrar, together with explanatory notes, on receipt of the relevant fee for each mare. Any foals which have one or both parents registered with CENE will require proof that DNA tests have been done for those parents.

WELFARE

- 53) Any reported welfare problems, which are not otherwise resolved will be brought to the attention of the World Horse Welfare (WHF), or other such appropriate organisation, by the Society.

DISCRIMINATION

- 54) To comply with Commission Decision 92/353/EEC, EPS declares that there will be no discrimination between members. EPS operates on the basis of equal opportunities and non-discrimination on behalf of employees, members and customers. None of these receive more or less favourable treatment on the grounds of Race, Colour, Ethnic or national origin, Gender, Sexual orientation, Marital status, Disability, Religion or Age.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- 55) The EPS Council makes every effort to manage the business of the Society in the best interests of its members and the Eriskay Pony breed. We are committed to providing excellent customer service to everyone who contacts us in a respectful, courteous, and polite manner but we will not tolerate abusive, threatening, demeaning or offensive behaviour either verbally or in writing. Similarly, we do not expect those representing EPS to deal with

someone who, because of the frequency of their contact, places a strain on time and resources. Where we identify this behaviour, we may restrict our contact with that person.

There may be times when there is nothing further that can reasonably be done to assist a member/enquirer or rectify a perceived problem. In such circumstances, we recognise that there are occasions when certain contacts should be drawn to a close if there is no reasonable way of resolving the situation to everyone's satisfaction. We recognise that our resources must be used responsibly and directed where they can provide most value. This may mean that we cannot always respond to every complaint/query in the manner and to the extent that a contact would choose. Therefore, depending on the nature of the complaint it may take longer for us to make sure the outcome is fair and thoroughly considered.

Broadly unacceptable behaviour would include:

- Behaviour or language that may cause others to feel seriously stressed, afraid, intimidated, threatened, or abused by, for example, the use of language that could be described as foul, offensive, demeaning, inappropriate and/or racist, sexist, or homophobic, derogatory remarks, rudeness, harassment, inflammatory statements, and unsubstantiated allegations as well as threats of or actual physical violence.
- It would also include unreasonably persistent contacts where, because of the frequency or nature of such contact, an unreasonable strain is placed on time and resources, such as pursuing complaints in inappropriate ways, pursuing issues which appear to have no substance or are outside of the field of our operation, or which have already been investigated and the outcome determined.

- 56) Should complaints arise relating to the operation of the Society, written notification giving full details of the complainers membership and the complaint, should be addressed to the Chairperson of the Society for the time being as listed on the website or Yearbook (unless the complaint is directed against the Chairperson, when written notification should be addressed to the Company Secretary for the time being). Communications should be sent to the Society's registered address.
- 57) Written confirmation of receipt of the complaint will be provided by return
- 58) The Chairperson / Company Secretary will review the complaint and respond in writing to the complainer with an outcome of the complaint within 15 working days of receipt of all necessary details. This will include the procedure to appeal that outcome as detailed below. Should the complaint fail to be resolved by the Chairperson / Company Secretary, or in the event of the complaint being directed against all the office bearers, the Council of the Eriskay Pony Society may refer the matter to a third party for mediation.
- 59) Should the complainer be unwilling to accept the outcome then they can ask that their complaint, and the outcome, be reviewed at a meeting of as many members of Council who can attend (but not less than 6) to be held within 21 days of an appeal being submitted. This meeting may be held in person or by virtual means and the complainer will be given the opportunity to make their case directly to Council. The result of that meeting, to be communicated to the complainer within 15 days of it being held, will be final and binding. This procedure does not in any way prohibit the complainer taking up their complaint with statutory bodies such as OSCR or Companies House.
- 60) This procedure can also be used if a person is refused membership, or has membership withdrawn, under Articles 5 (e), 7 (d) and (e) and 29 (f) of the Articles of Association and wishes to appeal that decision.

SERVICES & FEES

- 61) All services provided by the society and the relevant fees for them are as listed on the Society website (eriskaypony.org). For the avoidance of doubt, member rates are applicable to the transaction if the person is already a member or becomes a member at the same time as applying for the service.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING TECHNIQUES

- 62) The Society has adopted rules to govern the use of artificial breeding techniques. These rules will evolve to take account of current best practice and are listed in the Artificial Breeding Techniques and Protocol document available from the Society.

ERISKAY PONY BREED STANDARD

HEAD - Good bold eyes set well apart. Wide forehead with well-set ears in proportion. Head should be generous and pleasant with a deep jaw and tapering muzzle.

SHOULDER NECK AND FRONT - A good sloping shoulder with the neck set in high and carried proudly, showing a good length of rein. The chest should not be too broad.

BODY - A long rib cage and very short loin ensure strength to the back. Croup to buttocks gently sloping to tail. A naturally good carriage allowing the hindquarters to work efficiently.

LIMBS & FEET - The limbs strong but not thick, having plenty of clean flat bone and just a little fine feather. Hooves should be neat, hard and sound, well rounded and a natural extension of a well-proportioned leg.

ACTION - Smooth and free without exaggeration. Good rhythm and cadence. Walk and trot straight and true with good flexion of the hocks and freedom of the shoulders.

MANE, TAIL & COAT - Mane and tail not coarse and heavy. Fine low set dock and tail. Fine coat, silky in summer and dense but not unduly hairy in winter.

COLOURS - All whole colours are acceptable.

HEIGHT - Typically 12.0hh to 13.2hh