THE ERISKAY PONY SOCIETY

The Eriskay Pony Breeding Programme

To comply with The Zootechnical Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2019

Approved by the Council of The Eriskay Pony Society Ltd
13th November 2025

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Recognised Scottish Charity No.SC024277

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1. Stud Book of the Society

The Stud Book of the Eriskay Pony Society shall: collect, verify, preserve, and publish, in a Stud Book, the pedigree of Eriskay ponies and other useful information relating to them.

2. Breed Characteristics

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.

HEIGHT - Typically 12.0hh to 13.2hh

Foals are born black or bay and usually turn grey as they mature, however a few individuals remain black or bay into adulthood. They are very strong for their size and can carry a light adult with ease. Having been bred to work on crofts and handled by women, children or older men, the Eriskay Pony is generally placid.

Eriskay ponies are among the last surviving remnants of the original native ponies of the Western Isles of Scotland. Until the middle of the 19th Century ponies of the "Western Isles type" were found throughout the islands, where they were used as crofters' ponies, undertaking everyday tasks such as bringing home peat and seaweed in basket-work creels slung over their backs, pulling carts, harrowing and even taking the children to school.

On many islands increasing mobility and farming pressures led to larger ponies becoming fashionable. Owners took advantage of the improvement schemes whereby other stallions were introduced to "improve" the native stocks and produce larger, stronger animals.

However, on the remote island of Eriskay due to difficulties with access and the extra cost implications for sustaining larger animals, other breeds were not introduced, leaving a stock of pure-bred ponies which, with increasing mechanisation, had declined to around 20 animals by the early 1970s.

Eriskay ponies can be seen competing in all spheres of equestrianism including dressage, show jumping, cross country, pony club eventing, Trec, western riding and driving. They also make first class driving ponies, with Eriskays represented at the top level in FEI classes over the years.

Eriskay ponies work as therapy ponies for children and adults with additional needs and PTSD, and as RDA ponies. They are also popular as Pony Club ponies, taking part in activities such as jumping, games and dressage.

3. Breeding Objectives

The over-riding aim of the Eriskay Pony Society breeding programme is the preservation of the Eriskay pony.

The Eriskay Pony Society exists to protect and preserve the Eriskay pony, to promote the breeding and use of the pony in the present day, to actively support breeders in increasing the numbers of ponies in a healthy population, and to ensure that the breed characteristics are preserved in future generations.

The breeding objectives include maintaining biodiversity within the breed, as far as possible, by ensuring appropriate matches are made, and supported, between stallions and mares using all tools, scientific advice, and methods available.

The success of the breeding programme is measured in the number of registered ponies in the studbook, by the number of foals born each year, the numbers of breeders taking part in the breeding programme and an increasingly healthy and geographically spread population as measured by the Effective Population Size.

4. Geographical Territory and Breeding Population

The Eriskay Pony Society operates within the territories of Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland and it is within these that the breeding programme is carried out.

Breeding population

The breeding population, as agreed with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and as listed on SPARKS, is 120 animals consisting of 100 mares and 20 stallions and colts. Mares over 20 years of age are not counted.

There are 30 breeders who have taken part in this breeding programme over the past 10 years.

5. System for Identifying Breeding Animals

All breeding animals are identified by an equine passport. The equine passport includes the following details:

a) Universal Equine Life Number (UELN).

b) Microchip transponder code.

c) Name of animal.

d) Date of birth, colour and markings of the animal.

e) The Prefix as allocated to the breeder.

All breeders are required to have prefixes registered with the Central Prefix Register. All foals registered by a breeder will include the prefix in their name.

6. Registration of Animals and Recording Pedigrees

It is a legal requirement that all foals must be microchipped before they can be registered. This must be done by a vet who must attach the microchip bar code to the diagram form which can be found on the web site, and stamp and sign the form. The Registrar of the Society handles all registrations and other entries for the Stud Book. A person seeking to register a pony must be the owner of the pony.

To comply with government regulations a foal must be registered by 31 December in the year it was born, or by 6 months after its birth, whichever is later. A foal registration diagram can be found on the information page of the web site (www.eriskaypony.org).

Applications for registration must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, and those wishing to register a foal should check the services page on the web site for current costs.

Where the foal is the first progeny of a mare, no registration fee is payable however a DNA test will be required for the foal as well as for the mare if not already tested.

Completed forms should be sent to the Registrar, the current address for whom can be obtained by emailing - **registrar@eriskaypony.org** The Registrar can also provide further information and advice.

Breeders shall be eligible to participate in the breeding programme whether they are members of The Eriskay Pony Society or not.

<u>Registration</u>

a) All applications for foal registrations must contain the details of both parents according to the passports. These are validated against the studbook.

b) DNA samples are required for all stallions before they can be licensed.

c) DNA samples are required for all mares when they first give birth. If an application is received to register a foal whose dam has not been DNA tested the registration will not proceed until the DNA test has been carried out.

d) A DNA sample from the foal must be provided at registration.

e) All DNA tests must be analysed by the society's designated laboratory - contact registrar@eriskaypony.org for instructions and a sampling kit.

f) This process means The Eriskay Pony Society has parental DNA for all ponies which can be used to resolve any disputes as to parentage.

g) Covering certificates are included in the application for registration issued by the society. They must be completed and signed by the stallion owner before a registration application will be accepted.

System for recording pedigrees

The following approach will be used to ensure that a full pedigree for all ponies entered into the Eriskay Pony Society Studbook is recorded:

a) All ponies entered into the Eriskay Pony Society Studbook whose sire and dam are already in the Eriskay Pony Society studbook will have their parentage recorded on their studbook entry.

b) Any ponies entered into the Eriskay Pony Society Studbook that have one or both parents who are not already in the Eriskay Pony Society studbook must provide evidence of pedigree for the parent(s) not in the Eriskay Pony Society Studbook going back to the foundation ponies.

c) A DNA sample must be provided for any pony being entered into the Eriskay Pony Society studbook.

d) This evidence must be confirmed by the Society that holds the relevant studbook.

e) This information will be recorded in the Eriskay Pony Society Studbook to provide a record of the pony's entire pedigree.

7. Use of Artificial Breeding Techniques, Gene Banking, Future Planning

Foals resulting from the artificial breeding techniques listed below are eligible for inclusion in the Eriskay Studbook.

Artificial Insemination with:

- Raw or extended semen
- Extended chilled semen
- Extended and transported chilled semen
- Frozen semen
- Frozen and transported frozen semen
- Embryo Transfer using:
- Fresh embryos
- Chilled embryos

- Chilled and transported embryos
- Frozen embryos
- Frozen and transported embryos

Artificial Insemination

The British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) Code of Practice for Artificial Insemination applies.

Members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and Equine Inseminators listed by BEVA for Artificial Insemination are eligible to certify the insemination of registered Eriskay mares.

The Certificate of Insemination must include:

- Name of owner of mare
- Place of insemination
- Name and registration number of mare
- Name and registration number of stallion
- Type of semen used
- Date of insemination
- Date and result of pregnancy examinations certified by examining veterinary surgeon.

Embryo Transfer

The intention to harvest embryos from a mare must be declared to the Society annually prior to the procedure being started.

The intended sire or sires must be nominated but can be changed by advance consultation with the Society.

The intended use of the embryo must be declared:

- Immediate transfer
- Chilled and transported for imminent transfer
- Freezing for storage
- Freezing for storage and transfer
- Freezing for collection for export

The intention to perform embryo transfer and approximate date of the embryo transfer to a recipient mare must be registered with the Society prior to the procedure taking place.

The identity, ownership and location of recipient mares must be recorded and registered with the Society within 21 days after the transfer procedure has taken place.

Recipient mares must be similar in type and at least the same height at the wither as the donor mare.

Veterinary Certification to be the supplied to the Society:

- A veterinary surgeon responsible for the embryo collection must certify the procedure.
- A veterinary surgeon responsible for the transfer of the embryo must certify the procedure.
- The result of pregnancy examinations must be certified by a veterinary surgeon
- Foals produced by ET are subject to the Society's standard registration procedures with the donor mare being registered as the dam.
- DNA based parentage testing is compulsory for foals produced by ET prior to registration in the Studbook
- Foals resulting from ET must be noted as such in the Stud Book as ET.

Gene Banking and DNA Storage

The Society supports the UK National Livestock Gene Bank, run by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) and encourages breeders to donate semen from stallions deemed to be genetically important to the breed or who may be underrepresented in the collection.

The objects for the UK National Livestock Gene Bank are:

- Recreating breeding lines if they become lost. Storage for this purpose is long term and does not involve regular use or updating of the collection.
- Support in vivo conservation. The genetic materials can be used to minimize inbreeding and genetic drift in small populations. The combined use of live animals and preserved germplasm can be a very effective conservation tool.
- Material stored in a gene bank can provide a very effective backup if genetic problems occur. A decrease in effective population size and the resulting high level of inbreeding can increase the frequency of specific deleterious variant genes.
- A resource for scientists carrying out DNA research. Gene banking allows quick and easy access to genetic materials.

In addition, the Society has collected and donated semen to RBST from EPS owned stallions, and this is made available to breeders as appropriate.

The Society works closely with RBST to ensure that semen, owned and stored by RBST, may on occasion be made available to breeders who have mares that are a good genetic match, as identified by SPARKS.

The storage of genetic material, and the RBST genetic archive itself, is split across sites where possible to minimise the risk of genetic material being lost. RBST works with breeders, and the Society, to ensure that the genetic material stored is a true representation of the breed and that it represents appropriate levels of genetic diversity.

Future Planning

The Society has conducted a major DNA project in conjunction with Nottingham Trent University (see DNA Project, below).

One of the recommendations of this report is that, as technologies advance, the Society should consider the use of techniques such as Epididymal Semen Collection from testicular material harvested at time of castration as this would increase the pool of males that could potentially go on to contribute genetically to future generations. The Society will take this recommendation and ensure that, if they become aware of a stallion about to be euthanased, they will discuss the collection of testicular material with the owner/vet and will make funds available if appropriate to ensure that such collection is carried out.

Whilst the collection of germinal products from the male of the species is now commonplace, the same cannot be said of the female animal. Currently it is not possible to harvest and freeze oocytes, as they must be fertilised straight away and the resulting embryos either implanted back into a surrogate mare or put into frozen storage.

The report suggested that, as techniques improve and costs come down, it would be of benefit to identify high priority males and females i.e., those with low mean kinship values, to ensure they are represented in the gene bank, as those are the animals whose genetics are most at risk of being lost through genetic drift. The Society, through the Registrar, has compiled such a list and will ensure that these ponies are highlighted as important to the breed.

The report also made recommendations as regards tissue banking: Whilst current Gene Bank stocks are derived solely from male animals they cannot be seen as truly representative of the complete genome of the breed and to be fully representative, DNA derived from females in the breed will be included as well.

Although current UK animal welfare regulations prohibit the collection of tissue punches for gene banking from live animals, it is possible to collect skin samples of very recently deceased animals and to clean and store them. Skin cells are a particularly useful resource because of their ability to regenerate and have been successfully used as the starting material for cloning several mammalian species including domestic dogs and cats, sheep, cattle and equines.

Whilst cloning is at present both prohibitively expensive, and banned in the UK, it is already best practice, as adopted in other equine rare breeds, to take ear tissue at time of death and to have that cleaned, punched, and frozen to preserve DNA for the future.

The Society will work on designing a plan and will, as funds allow, consider starting a skin tissue punch collection to create a genetic collection of the breed as it is today, with a view to it being a valuable resource for the breeders of the future.

8. Selection and Breeding Grant

The Eriskay Pony Society has a Breed Conservation Committee (BCC) made up of members of the Society's Council with the power to co-opt other members, and individuals whether members or not, in furtherance of its objectives. The BCC works on forming, and implementing, the breed conservation plan.

The BCC takes on the role of collating information, identifying the pros/cons of different breeding options and considers what action should be taken to identify and preserve the genetics of the breed.

The BCC takes responsibility for co-ordinating the placement of stallions owned by the Society or lent to the Society as part of the breeding programme. Contact with stallion owners and keepers may be allocated to one individual person within the BCC but the movement and use of the stallions is openly discussed and agreed.

The BCC also takes responsibility for coordinating the Breeding Grant programme and discusses and assesses applications. After the closing date for applications, usually end of July, the BCC arranges a meeting, to which the Society Treasurer is invited, to discuss the awarding of grants and the sums involved. The meeting also discusses any applications for one-off payments that may be deemed as important in the work to save the breed.

Selection

The Eriskay Pony Society confirms that breeders can select which animals they wish to breed from and that they retain ownership of their breeding animals and offspring.

Offspring will be entered in the appropriate section of the pure-bred studbook, the supplementary (breeding up) sections or the part-bred register according to their merits without discrimination on account of their country of origin.

To be registered as an Eriskay pony, the only animals from which a breeder can select are those registered in either the main or supplementary sections of The Eriskay Pony Society studbook, or animals registered in the studbook of another society who register the same breed of pony.

To assist breeders in identifying appropriate breeding animals, an annual genetic analysis of all breeding animals is carried out and made available, free of charge, to breeders and owners with legitimate need whether they are members of the Society or not. This analysis is compiled by Grassroots Ltd from whom the Eriskay Pony Society purchases the service and makes the results available as described above.

Breeding Grant

The Eriskay Pony Society (EPS) is very aware that breeding an Eriskay pony can be costly therefore, to encourage responsible breeding and to help increase breed numbers, the

Society can offer the possibility of a breeding grant. The availability of this grant is due to financial support from HBLB and other generous benefactors and is aimed at helping members breed registered Eriskay ponies.

The Eriskay Pony Society Breeding Grant is available to current members of the Society, and the pony must be registered with EPS. A pony registered in another stud book is welcomed but it must meet the requirements of entry to the EPS stud book, and its passport must be over-stamped by EPS. Any resulting foal must be registered in the EPS studbook.

Copies of the SPARKS sheet for each pony are freely available to the owner, and advice and support is available from the Registrar or Breeding Advisor.

In common with most breed societies, it is a requirement to prove ancestry in the stud book, and this is done by the DNA sampling of all breeding stock. For this reason, before a mare is sent to a stallion, it is **vitally important** that a check is made to ensure that the stallion has been DNA tested.

The rules regarding registration in the EPS stud book, including which category of the stud book a foal would be registered in, are available on the EPS website or from the Registrar. The required pre-mating health tests should be carried out before travelling to the stud with the results being made available to the stallion keeper and the evidence, such as letters or receipts, should be kept and submitted as part of the breeding grant process.

It is vitally important that all stud book requirements regarding proving parentage and DNA sampling are complied with otherwise applications for a breeding grant will not be accepted.

Grants available are:

Pre-breeding support.

- Paid to mare owners covering some of the costs in the year they are incurred.
- The mare must have had pre-breeding tests for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) and Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) and been covered by a licensed stallion that has had a pre breeding CEM test.
- Paid when the mare has been covered by a licensed stallion.

Foal premium.

- Paid when the foal is born. Same tests as above must have been carried out.

Active Stallion Premium.

- Paid for living and entire licensed stallions available for breeding.
- Payable to the stallion **keeper** on 1st December each year.
- Paid for stallions that meet one of the following criteria: had a foal born in the previous year, had a foal born in the current year or covered a mare in the current year.
- Stallions must be health checked each year before being visited by mares.

Travel Grants.

- To support mare owners to take their mare to a Licenced stallion or a Licenced stallion to a mare.
- Paid when actual costs have been incurred.
- Receipts for costs must be provided.
- Grant paid may only be a proportion of the actual costs incurred and will be at the discretion of Council.

Amount of Grants.

Pre-Breeding Support.	£200.
Foal Premium.	£500 (£300 if pre-breeding support has been claimed).
Active Stallion Premium.	£500.
Travel Grants.	At discretion of Council, amount will vary.

	Green SPARKS	**Yellow SPARKS**	**Amber SPARKS**	**Red SPARKS**
Main section A or B foal	100% of grant	75% of grant	No grant	No grant
Main section C or D foal	75% of grant	60% of grant	No grant	No grant

9. Loan Agreements and Rights of Breeders

Loan Agreements

The Society owns genetically important stallions, and these are placed where they will be of most use to the breed and where they will be available to the greatest number of appropriate mares. The Society normally makes no charge for the use of these stallions but places an obligation on the loaner to cover costs associated with keeping an equine ensuring that veterinary care, insurance, appropriate feeding and welfare standards, are maintained.

There is a formal loan agreement document that both the loaner and the Society sign, and this specifies which mares are approved to be covered although this is open to amendment following negotiation. Any resulting foal is the property of the mare owner, and the Society does not charge a covering fee although this is kept under review and is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Rights of Breeders

The Eriskay Pony Society will treat members, breeders, and non-members fairly and without discrimination and will always pay due regard to their interests. The services provided by the Society are designed to meet the needs of members and breeders, and the Society aims to provide appropriate advice during and after using such services. Where breeders receive advice, the Society will take measures to ensure that the advice is suitable and takes account of their circumstances. The Society will always seek to meet breeders' expectations

and ensure they are fully informed about the services provided. The Society works to ensure that breeders and owners do not face any unreasonable barriers to making a free choice.

In the unlikely event that disagreements occur, the Society has clear policies and a complaints procedure in place and – where necessary or appropriate – will seek the advice and cooperation of the Charities Commission or others to resolve these.

The Eriskay Pony Society operates on the basis of equal opportunities and non-discrimination on behalf of volunteers, members, breeders 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.

The Eriskay Pony Society aims to provide an excellent level of customer service. However, if a complaint is made then this will be dealt with promptly and we have policies in place to confirm this.

10. Genetic Evaluation and Stallion Licensing

The Eriskay Pony Society uses SPARKS (Single Population Analysis Records Keeping System) which is a computer database developed by Dr Andy Dell of Nottingham Trent University and was previously provided to the Society with the support of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. From late 2024, the SPARKS programme is available to the Society, members and breeders through Grassroots and is accessible via the online stud book.

SPARKS works with a genetic analysis programme called GENES to help breeders sustain and strengthen small populations of endangered animals and the most important calculation gleaned from the software is the “mean kinship” coefficient which is a number that shows how related a particular pony is to the rest of the population.

Ponies with very rare blood lines have mean kinships closer to zero and are considered priority breeders. Ponies with more common blood lines have mean kinships closer to 1 and are considered less important (but not unimportant) to breed. The programme also lists the mean kinship of any potential foal a mare would produce with a particular stallion.

The SPARKS sheets show this coefficient number and places the pony in a banding system which runs from A to G. The software makes recommendations as to what breeding matches would continue to lower the relatedness of the breed and increase genetic diversity among the ponies.

SPARKS compliant breeding requires owners to breed to a stallion in the same, or adjacent, band because these pairings will systematically and safely reduce the mean kinship of the overall population.

The data is updated each year, and the information provided helps breeders choose pairings that will give the progeny a lower mean kinship than both of the parent animals. Matings that give the progeny a higher mean kinship than both the parent animals are discouraged as are any matings that give the progeny a mean kinship near 0.24, an indication of inbreeding.

The programme strongly discourages genetic pairings between ponies in widely dissimilar bands as this would result in mixing common blood lines with rare blood lines. Although such pairings sharply decrease the mean kinship average initially, over the long-term it would produce a population of ponies who were more, not less, related.

To obtain the genetic analysis, the society commissions Grassroots, who hold the online stud book containing details of all animals which can be traced back to the foundation stock, to use this information to generate the genetic evaluation report.

The result of the analysis is available free of charge and is available to members and breeders, as well as owners with legitimate need, to guide them in their breeding decision making, whether they are members of the Society or not.

DNA Project

The Eriskay Pony Society has carried out an extensive sampling of the population with the collection of hair for DNA testing. This project was run on behalf of EPS by Nottingham Trent University (NTU) School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences and one of the results of this research was the formation of an Eriskay Pony Genetic Archive (EPGA). The study was funded in part by the generous support of the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

NTU assessed genetic variation and molecular basis of inbreeding within the breed using Oxford Nanopore technology. The main advantage of this assessment was to allow them to identify the areas to use for pedigree analysis going forward, using the molecular (genotyping) data as the baseline. This provided a 'library' of genetic data, which can be read by a genetic sequencer, and helped establish the genetic variation and molecular basis of inbreeding within the breed.

Data was collected on the following impact points:

- Investigation and comparison of registered animals.
- Admixture within the breed.
- Determination of genomic inbreeding from Runs of Homozygosity – deep and shallow inbreeding from length of runs.
- Comparison of pedigree based versus genomic inbreeding to determine best breed management strategy.
- Genomic kinship /co-ancestry versus pedigree-based kinship/co-ancestry matrix comparison.
- Comparison of the population using genomic (Nei genetic distance/ Prichard Structure/ Boichard Bottleneck / Wellman Optisel/Cervus) and pedigree-based tools (Pop-Rep).
- Determination of maternal haplotypes from Mitochondrial D loop analysis.
- Determination of paternal haplotypes from Y chromosome analysis.

In addition to Tissue Banking etc. highlighted in Future Planning (above) the study found that the good correlation between pedigree and genomic metrics was a positive finding, providing reassurance that the current SPARKS breed advisory system is valid and that there

was no immediate benefit in migrating to a more costly genomic based breed advisory scheme.

The study highlighted initial signs that the current SPARKS breed management scheme is having a positive effect on managing inbreeding and improving Effective Population Size and recommended that this scheme should be continued with regular monitoring.

Whilst there was no paternal Y chromosome diversity in the sample set, there was maternal mitochondrial diversity and there were 3 main female haplotypes found. The study recommended that these needed to be retained and that measures should be put in place to ensure the less common types were not lost through genetic drift, or lack of information.

The study stated that in the future routine DNA testing will shift from the current panel of microsatellite markers to single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP's)and that would provide appropriate genomic data for future monitoring of the effects of a pedigree-based breed advisory scheme. The Society has responded to these anticipated changes in parentage testing technology and now uses SNPS's to monitor the progress of its breed management strategies, using the GGP Equine Chip (GeneSeek® Genomic Profiler) which provides over 70,000+ evenly distributed SNP markers. This also supports a broad range of applications, including research and discovery of new traits, hereditary disease and trait screening.

The study found there was a low effective population size which suggests that the breed is at significant risk of irreversible loss of genetic diversity. Gene banking of male (currently available) and female (available as technology improves) germinal products will provide a degree of protection against this as well as a resource for future conservation breeding.

The Eriskay Pony Society, through its Breed Conservation Committee, will base its future breeding plans on the recommendations of this report and will review and adapt the formal Breeding Plan accordingly.

Stallion Licensing

The Society only inspects Main Section A colts, except at the discretion of the Council.

Stallion inspections do 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.

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 the Society. Copies of the required standard and the form of certificate required by the Society 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.

c) An examination, which may include video footage, by inspectors appointed by the Society for breed conformation.

There is no requirement as to the order in which these inspections take place and this will be arranged between the Society and the owner.

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 the Society although this may be deferred at the discretion of the Council.

All Licensed Stallions will be entered in Main Section A of the studbook.

11. Division of Stud Book

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).

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

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

i. The progeny of a Licensed Stallion and a dam who is Main Section A.

ii. The progeny of a Licensed Stallion and a dam who is in Main Section B.

iii. Licensed as a stallion.

iv. 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.

v. 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:

i. 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:

i. The progeny of a sire and dam who are already in Main Section C.

ii. 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 it's parentage cannot be confirmed by DNA typing.

i. 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.

ii. 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.

iii. 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.

<u>Part Bred Register</u>

The part bred register contains ponies which are the result of a cross between an Eriskay pony registered on the Main or Supplementary Registers and a pony of another breed. It is not possible to breed up from the part bred register.

<u>Entry into the studbook of Eriskay ponies with one or both parents who are registered with another Eriskay Pony Society studbook</u>

This process will only apply to other Eriskay Pony Societies that operate a level of controls that are as robust and ensure the same certainty of pedigree details and identification as those used by The Eriskay Pony Society. Any Eriskay pony that is being entered into The Eriskay Pony Society's studbook must have had a sample supplied for DNA analysis. This is required to ensure that the integrity of the studbook is not compromised.

Ponies that have one of both parents who are registered with other Eriskay Pony societies will be allocated to studbook classes according to the following process:

- The applicant will be required to provide details obtained from the relevant society of the processes used to identify and register an animal in their studbook. These can be obtained either from that society or other published sources (e.g. web page).

- The applicant will be required to provide a full pedigree for the parent not already in the Eriskay Pony Studbook. This pedigree will be recorded in the studbook.
- Based on the pedigree, the parent or parents that are not in the EPS studbook will be assigned a nominal EPS studbook class.

The same process as used for the offspring of ponies registered in the EPS studbook will be followed using the nominal class applied to the parent or parents.

12. Imports/Exports

The Eriskay Pony Society fully complies with the UK Zootechnical legislation setting out the rules enforced by DEFRA and the Devolved Administrations (as the competent authorities of the UK) which can be found in The Animal Breeding (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, as amended by The Animals, Aquatic Animal Health, Invasive Alien Species, Plant Propagating Material and Seeds (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020**.**

The Eriskay Pony Society takes responsibility for issuing Zootech certificates for germinal products of those animals registered in the stud book when requested.

An application for the registration of any animal imported into the UK will be treated in the same way as an animal which has both parents registered by another UK based society as described above.

13. Disease Prevention and Response to Outbreaks

Pre-Breeding Health Checks

The Eriskay Pony Society strongly advises breeders that pre-breeding checks should be carried out.

Mares should be swabbed to test for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) and blood tests should be taken for Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) and Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA). They also advise stallion owners who accept visiting mares that they should ask that these checks are carried out prior to the mare arriving with them.

The Society ensures that when a Society owned stallion is moved between breeding homes, pre-breeding swabs for CEM (2 sets of swabs required 7 days apart) and bloods taken for infectious diseases EVA and EIA are carried out. This is part of the loan agreement that both the Society and the person being lent the stallion agree to and sign, the costs for these tests being borne by the Society.

EPS advises that breeders follow HBLB guidelines, which outlines the differing requirements between lower and high-risk groups. This guidance can be found here - Code Of Practice : Prevention

Disease Contingency Planning

The Eriskay Pony Society, through its working relationship with the RBST, receives the International Disease Monitoring Core Group Report, produced by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) which highlights the current threat level regarding the possibility of an outbreak of a highly infectious disease in the UK. The Society monitors the Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance (EIDS) website and the quarterly report produced by EIDS in collaboration with BEVA and DEFRA/APHA. The Society is also aware of the Equine Infectious Anaemia Control Strategy for GB issued by DEFRA and will use its management guidelines if an outbreak occurs.

As the Eriskay pony is on DEFRA's NBAR list, it is prudent for the Society to be aware of these issues and be ready to help advise and support owners in the event of any outbreak. This will include ensuring keepers and owners are aware of and have implemented the UKGLE contingency guidelines, including

- best practice biosecurity
- the symptoms of relevant diseases
- ensuring the availability of sufficient food and other requirements for animals subject to movement controls kept in isolation

all of which is in the UKGLE 'Breeds at risk - contingency plan guidelines for potential derogation from culling' guidance on the Gov UK website.

The Society will promote awareness of the issues involved and help ensure that the necessary control measures are understood and accepted if, or when, required.

The Eriskay Pony Society, though the information stored on Grassroots, can identify owners and keepers of Eriskay ponies in areas of the UK that may designated 'Protection', Surveillance' or 'Restricted' zones and will share all relevant information with owners and others as appropriate.

14. Technical Activities

The Eriskay Pony Society uses the Breed Society Record software provided by Grassroots to manage the studbook, and the Ped eWeb software provided by Grassroots to make the studbook accessible to members via the internet.

Grassroots is commissioned by the Society to carry out an annual genetic analysis (SPARKS) which supports the breeding programme, and the results of the genetic analysis are made freely available to breeders to guide their breeding choices. **Grassroots**, PO Box 251, Exeter, EX2 8WX. Email: web@grassroots.co.uk

The Eriskay Pony Society works closely with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust on a number of issues and consults with them regarding breeding plans, effective population size and

information sharing. **Rare Breeds Survival Trust**, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. Email: enquiries@rbst.org.uk

DNA analysis is carried out on the Society's behalf by Neogen, The Dairy School, Auchincruive, Ayr, KA6 5HU. Email: ContactGenomics@Neogen.com

The Society consults with and receives advice on matters relating to genetic diversity within the breed from Dr Andy Dell, BSc, PhD, PGCE, of Nottingham Trent University who is an Honorary member of the Society. Dr Dell does not charge the Society for this advice.

The Society's Honorary President is Professor Derek Knottenbelt. OBE, BVM&S, BVM&S, DVM&S, DIPECEIM, DACVIM, MRCVS, who advises the Society on equine medical and veterinary matters. Professor Knottenbelt does not charge the Society for this advice.

The Society has a member of Council who acts as Breeding Advisor and there is advice freely available from a number of experienced breeders within the membership.

15. Rules of procedure

The society will:

- not discriminate in any way between breeders or potential breeders who comply with the rules of the society.
- make available its studbook and breeding programme information online to its members via The Eriskay Pony Society website. Information will also be made available in hard copy form on request.
- make the results of the genetic analysis freely available to owners and breeders, whether they are a member of the Society or not, and SPARKS sheets for individual ponies will be sent to owners with legitimate need as well as breeders to guide them in their breeding decision making.
- ensure all information is kept current and up to date.
- register all foals produced as a result of the breeding programme where applicable rules have been complied with.

Breeders who participate in the breeding programme must:

- comply with the aims of the breeding programme.
- follow the rules laid down by the society in relation to the selection, identification and registration of animals.
- respond to any reasonable request from the society for information required to ensure the integrity of the studbook and breeding programme.

<u>Resolution of disputes between breeders.</u>

The society will not get involved in disputes between breeders on commercial matters (e.g. stallion fees).

The society will use the following procedures in the event of a dispute between breeders in relation to the breeding programme, or between a breeder and the society on any subject.

Prior to referring any dispute to the society for resolution, both parties must make reasonable efforts to resolve it. If they are unable to reach a resolution, either party intending to refer the matter for resolution must inform the other party.

The matter should be referred by writing to the Registrar at the address, or email address, given on the web site with the person initiating the contact with the society providing the society with written details of:

- the other party with whom they are in dispute
- the matter in dispute
- which area(s) of the breeding programme the dispute comes under.

The society will contact the other party to obtain their perspective on the dispute. Once information from both sides has been obtained, the Registrar will review the dispute by reference to the society rules. Where necessary additional information may be sought.

The Registrar will respond in writing to the complainer with an update or a resolution within 15 working days of receipt of all necessary details.

Should the resolution not be accepted, the matter will be referred to the Council of the Eriskay Pony Society whose decision will be binding.

<u>Resolution of disputes between a breeder, a member or an individual and the Society</u>

Should complaints arise relating to the operation of the Society, written notification giving full details of the complaint, including the complainer's membership number if appropriate, should be addressed to the Chairperson of the Society for the time being as listed on the website (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 address, or email address, listed for the Chairperson or Secretary on the Society web site or as detailed below.

Confirmation of receipt of the complaint will be provided by return by either post or email depending on how the matter was raised.

The Chairperson or Company Secretary will review the complaint and respond to the complainer with an outcome or an update on the complaint within 15 working days of receipt of all necessary details. This will include the procedure to appeal that outcome.

Should the complaint fail to be resolved by the Chairperson or 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.

Appeals Procedure.

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 the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) or Companies House.

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.

Postal address for Chair; Stephen McMinn, Fernlea, Durno, Inverurie. AB51 5ER.
Email address for Secretary; secretary@eriskaypony.org