

Pony Breeds

A Wikipedia Compilation
by
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American Walking Pony

American Walking Pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Country of origin | North America |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **American Walking Pony** is a relatively new breed, which was developed mainly for the use as a show horse in gaited competitions. Although it has three unique gaits, it is able to compete in seven. Due to its Welsh Pony heritage, the pony also makes an excellent light hunter.

History

The American Walking Pony is a cross between the Tennessee Walking Horse and the Welsh Pony. The registry for the American Walking Pony was first established in 1968 by Joan Hudson Brown. It regulates the breed by only allowing horses that have been registered with both the Walking Horse and the Welsh Pony (or a cross between the two).^[*citation needed*] The first stallion to be registered in the American Walking Pony Registry was BT Golden Splendor and the first mare was Browntree's Flicka.

Breed Characteristics

Standing up to 14 hands high at the withers, the American Walking pony is a relatively large pony-type. It has a clean, smallish head on a well arched and muscled neck. The shoulder is slightly sloped, the hips are well muscled and the back is relatively short. It can be most colours.

The American Walking Pony is capable of performing up multiple gaits, including the walk, pleasure walk, merry walk, trot, canter, slow gait and the rack. The pleasure walk and merry walk are unique to the breed. Both the Pleasure walk and the Merry walk are four-time beat gaits that are faster than a regular walk, and are described as being very light and free. The Merry Walk is the faster of the two.

References

Anadolu Pony

Anadolu Pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Country of origin | Turkey |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Anadolu Pony** is a Turkish breed of horse developed over 1,000 years ago. They are known for their speed, endurance and hardiness.

Characteristics

The Anadolu is a small pony, standing between 12.1 and 13.3 hands high. The head is small and shows refinement. Both convex and concave profiles are found within the breed. The mouth is small, the nostrils are open and flexible, while the withers are somewhat low, the chest is narrow and the croup is sloped.

Breed history

The Anadolu Pony is descended from crosses of Turkoman, Arabian, Persian, Karabakh, Akhal-Teke, Karbada, Deliboz, Mongolian and the ancient Anatolia horse. Some books refer to this small pony as the Native Turkish Pony, or Turk, but Professors Salahattin Batu and M. Nurettin Aral made a distinction in types between the horses in Anatolia as Anadolu and East and Southeast Anadolu.

Anadolu can be translated as "Turkey on the Asia". This is the most numerous Turkish horse breed, with approximately 930,000 alive today.

Uses

It is usually used as a riding horse and a pack horse, and is known to be strong, enduring and fast. It has been bred to live in poor conditions, and is today found throughout Turkey.

References

- Hendricks, Bonnie. *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds* page 27

Australian Pony

Australian Pony



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Between 11 and 14 hands high. Shows quality pony characteristics, with strong resemblance to the Welsh pony |
| Country of origin | Australia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Australian Pony** is a breed of pony that developed in Australia. It was greatly influenced by the native British breeds, especially the Welsh Pony, as well as some Arabian bloodlines.

Characteristics

The Australian Pony stands between 11 and 14 hands high (44 to 56 inches (112 to 142 cm)). It strongly shows the refining Welsh Mountain Pony influence. The head is distinctly 'pony', full of show quality, with alert ears and large, dark eyes. The neck is relatively short but well-set and nicely rounded, the shoulders slope well back and the hindquarters are well rounded and proportioned. The tail should be well set on and gaily carried. The chest is deep, the barrel is round. The legs are short and strong, with flat, dense bone.

The overall impression is a very attractive pony showing quality. Most representatives on the breed are grey, although they may be any color.^[1]

Breed history

Since the continent had no native horses or ponies prior to the arrival of European explorers and settlers, all equidae that now live there are from imported stock. Nine horses first arrived in Australia in 1788 in the First Fleet from South Africa.^[2] In 1803, the first Timor Ponies arrived from Indonesia, and provided the foundation stock for the breed. The Australian Pony also had later influence from the Welsh Mountain Pony, Hackney pony, Arabian, Shetland Pony, Highland Pony, Connemara Pony, Exmoor Pony, and from small Thoroughbreds.

Stallions of influence included:

- Sir Thomas and Dennington Court: Two Exmoor pony stallions imported in the mid-19th century
- Bonnie Charlie (imp): Hungarian stallion thought to have been brought to Australia with a circus in the mid-19th century.^[3]
- Dyoll Greylight: Welsh Mountain Pony which arrived in 1911, considered a founding sire.
- Little Jim (imp): a brown Welsh Cob with English Hackney bloodlines was imported in 1909.

By 1920, a distinct type of pony had emerged in Australia, and in 1931, the first Australian pony stud book, the Australian Pony Stud Book Society, was formed. The Australian Pony section of the stud book incorporated all of the Mountain and moorland pony breeds that had been imported from the turn of the 20th century as well as the pony

breeds which had been developed in Australia.

Some Arabian influence was introduced in the 1940s, when for a short time, breeders could use an Arabian stallion over APSB mares. In the mid-1960s the APSB opened sections for Welsh Mountain and Connemara ponies and catered for some other European breeds later.

Uses

Today, the pony is mainly used as a children's mount and for smaller adult riders. They compete in dressage, eventing, show jumping, combined driving, gymkhana, mounted games, and horse shows.

References

- [1] Breed Standards (<http://www.apsb.asn.au/australian.htm>), Australian Pony Stud Book Society.
 - [2] Keith R. Binney, *Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) and the Serpents Legacy*, Volcanic Productions, Sydney, 2005, ISBN 0-646-44865-X
 - [3] Hoofs & Horns, July 1994
 - Howlett, Lorna and Philip Mathews. *Ponies in Australia*, Milsons Point: 1979
-

Australian Riding Pony

Australian Riding Pony



| | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Country of origin | Australia |
| Breed standards | |
| Riding Pony Stud Book Society Ltd | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Australian Riding Pony** is a breed of pony developed in Australia since the 1970s. It has been greatly influenced by the British Riding Pony, the Thoroughbred and Arabian bloodlines.

Characteristics

These ponies are small copies of elegant show hacks, developed from English Riding Pony bloodlines. They range in height from 12.2 hands to 14.2 hands, in contrast to the Australian Pony breed, which does not exceed 14th. Australian Riding Ponies have a free-flowing, lower action than many of the older pony breeds. Australian Riding Ponies are of one of the solid colors, with small heads and ears. ^[2]

Breed history

Equids are not native to Australia. The imported foundation sires which contributed to the establishment of the Australian Riding Pony were:

- Aristocrat of Flawforth, imported in 1973, who was out of the Thoroughbred/Welsh mare Chirk Catmint.
- Treharne Talisman a son of Bwlch Valentino
- The Laird, imported to South Australia, also a son of Bwlch Valentino.

The Australian Riding Pony Stud Book Society was formed in about 1980 in the wake of interest aroused in the Riding Ponies that were shown in several Royal Shows. A foundation section was formed which required at least three crosses of animals from approved breeds before a pony could be entered in Section A. Originally there were four sections, but with the foundation firmly established some have been finished. Nowadays most of the major British and New Zealand bloodlines are represented in the Australian Riding Ponies. The use of artificial insemination has permitted even more bloodlines.

Uses

Today, the pony is mainly used as a children's show mount and for small adult riders. They compete in dressage, show jumping, combined driving, gymkhana, mounted games, and horse shows.

References

[1] <http://www.rpsbs.com.au/>

[2] Australian Riding Pony Stud Book Society (<http://www.rpsbs.com.au/>)

- Huntington, Peter, Jane Myers, Elizabeth Owens: *Horse Sense: The Guide to Horse Care in Australia and New Zealand*. Nature: 2004, p. 86.

Bali Pony

Bali pony



| | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Country of origin | Indonesia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Bali pony** is an ancient breed now living on the Indonesian island of Bali.

Characteristics

The Bali ponies are quite hardy and self-sufficient, surviving with little outside care.^[citation needed] They are tough animals that are not shod and are remarkably sound, with hard feet, and strong legs. The ponies show the usual "primitive markings" such as a dorsal stripe, shoulder bars, and zebra stripes on the legs, in addition to their dun coat, that includes a black mane, tail, and legs.^[1]

The ponies lack the traditionally "pretty" conformation,^[citation needed] having a large and unrefined head, and upright shoulder that produces short and choppy strides.^[citation needed] The chest and back are narrow, although the neck is usually of a good length.^[citation needed] The ponies usually range from 12-13 hands. Both the conformation and the coloration produce a pony that looks similar to the Przewalski's Horse.

Breed history

Its roots are unknown, although one theory is that ponies of ancient stock were brought to Indonesia by the Chinese in the 6th century. If this theory is true, the Bali pony would owe much of its roots to the Mongolian horse.

In addition to the Mongolian horse, it is known that some Indian stock were taken to Indonesia (although it is unknown exactly which breeds), and the Dutch also brought various eastern breeds to the country during the 18th century. Therefore, the Bali pony likely has been influenced by both the Mongolian horse, and various other eastern breeds.

Uses

The Bali pony has not been selectively bred for any particular set of characteristics. However, they easily perform the tasks required by the native people, including carting coral and stones from the beach. Their strength has also made them a popular mount for trekking and sightseeing tourists.

Citations

[1] Bongianni *Simon & Schuster's Guide to Horses & Ponies of the World* entry 127

References

- Bongianni, Maurizio (1987). *Simon & Schuster's Guide to Horses and Ponies*. New York: Fireside. ISBN 0-671-66068-3.

Bashkir Pony

Bashkir Pony



Bashkir horses in Southern Urals

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Alternative names | Bashkir Bashkirsky |
| Country of origin | Soviet Union |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Bashkir Pony** is an ancient breed developed in the mountain/steppe zone near the Volga and the Urals in the former USSR. They are probably related to the Steppe horses of Western Asia. They have developed to become a quite remarkable pony breed, highly adapted to their harsh environment and a central part of the local steppe people's lives.

Breed characteristics

The Bashkir has a heavy head with a straight profile, a full forelock and small alert ears. They have a short, strong neck, are deep chested with sloping shoulders, low withers, and a long, sometimes dipped back, with a low-set tail. Their legs are short and strong, cannon diameter averages about 8 inches, and they have very hard hooves. The Bashkir usually stands 13.1 to 14 hh, and is usually bay, chestnut, or palomino, although they can also be roan or gray.

History

The Bashkir descends from the steppe horses in Western Asia, and was developed by the Bashkir people, who came to the area of Asia now known as Bashkortostan during the 7th century. Ancestors of the Bashkir are found in plentiful numbers in ancient burial mounds in the Western Asian steppes. The Bashkir is believed to have been developed by crossing this steppes horse with the Bashkirian forest horse, and the resulting breed was influenced in their evolution by the harsh climate, which resulted in their hardiness and stamina.

To improve the breed, Bashkirs are sometimes crossed with riding breeds like the Don and the Budyonny or draft breeds like the Ardennes. They have also been crossed with other former USSR breeds such as the Russian Heavy Draft and Kazakh and Yakut horses. Most official Bashkir breeding stock is located at the Ufa stud.

Uses

The Bashkir is an all-purpose breed, and can be used for riding, light draft and farm work, and milk, meat, and clothing production. The curly, thick winter coat of the breed can be used to produce clothing. The mares have also been long used for their milk, which averages around 3,300 lbs per lactation period, with top mares producing around 5,950 lbs in seven to eight months of lactation. Two distinct types of the Bashkir have been developed: one a smaller, lighter mountain type used mainly for riding, and the other a heavier steppes type mainly used for light draft work such as drawing troikas. The Bashkir was used in war as mounts by Bashkir warriors and Orenburg and Ural Cossacks, and regiments mounted on the breed participated in the Napoleonic wars.

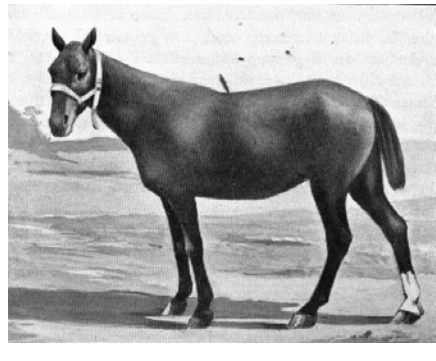
References

External links

- American Bashkir Curly Registry (http://www.abcregistry.org/breed_id_standard.asp)

Basuto pony

Basuto pony



Basuto pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Pony derived from horses imported by Dutch settlers in 17th century; improved with Persian and Arabian horse blood |
| Country of origin | Lesotho, South Africa |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Basuto** is a pony breed from Lesotho and South Africa.

Characteristics

The Basuto is considered a small horse, since it possesses horse-like characteristics, such as an exceptionally long stride. Basutos have rather heavy heads, long necks and long, straight backs, straight shoulders, and muscular, sloping croups. They have very tough legs and sound, very hard hooves. They can be up to 14.2 hands high (56.8 inches or ~142cm), but rarely taller. Basutos can be chestnut, brown, bay, gray or black, and have white markings. They are usually surefooted, fast, fearless and are known for their stamina.^[1]

History

The first horses arrived in South Africa in 1653, when four horses were introduced to the Cape area by the Dutch East India Trading Company. The exact breed of these horses is unknown, but they may have been Arabian, Persian or similar to the Java Pony. They were upgraded later with Arabian and Persian blood.^[2]

These original imported horses became the founders of the Cape Horse, which became extremely popular and especially gained an admirable reputation during the Boer Wars. The Cape Horse and the Basuto probably were originally the same horse; with continual infusions of Thoroughbred and Arabian blood the Cape Horse became a larger, better-quality animal, and the Basuto remained smaller and stockier.

Lesotho (formerly known as Basutoland) acquired Cape Horses as spoils of war between the Zulus and the settlers. As a result of harsh conditions and interbreeding with local ponies, the Cape Horse lost much of its height and nobility, and the Basuto pony largely replaced it.

Due to the rocky and hilly terrain the Basuto ponies were continually ridden over (often at great speeds), they developed into tough, surefooted animals with great stamina and courage.^[2] These qualities, however, were nearly the undoing of the breed. The Basuto became so popular that thousands were exported, and many of the best horses were killed in action during the Boer War at the end of the 19th century. There is now a concerted effort to re-establish the Basuto breed.

Uses

Basutos are used for racing, hacking, trekking or polo.

References

[1] Kate Reddick, *Horses*. New York, Ridge Press, 1976, p. 16.

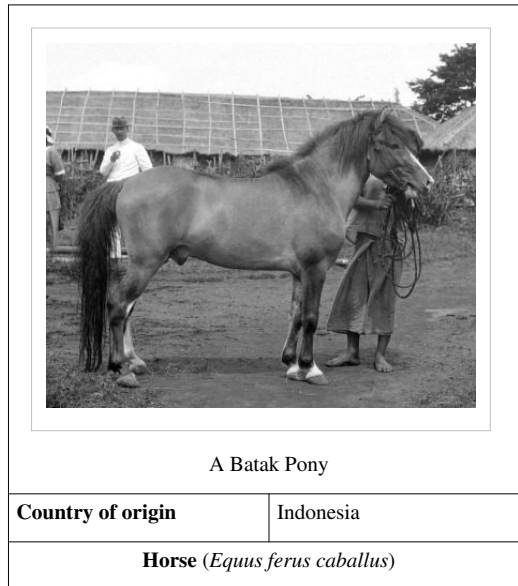
[2] Summerhayes, R.S., *The Observer's Book of Horses & Ponies*, Frederick Warne & Co., Great Britain, 1948

External links

- The Basuto Pony (http://www.worldofhorses.co.uk/horses_usa/Breeds/horse_breed_Basuto_Pony.htm)
 - The State of the Basotho Pony in Lesotho (<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/006/Y3970E/y3970e08.htm>)
-

Batak Pony

Batak Pony



The **Batak Pony** is a pony breed from Indonesia.^[1] Originating in Central Sumatra, it is thought to have descended from Mongolian Horse and Arabian blood, and has continually been infused with additional Arabian blood to improve its quality. The Batak is selectively bred by the Indonesians, and is often used to upgrade the quality of the horses and ponies on nearby islands.

Characteristics

The ponies are slender, but still strong and sturdy. In general, they are well-conformed, and most of their faults are partly to blame on the poor forage to which they have access. The only other breed of the country which is of better quality is the Sandalwood Pony. The ponies have a fine head with a straight or slightly convex profile. The neck is short and thin, the withers are prominent. The chest and frame are narrow, the back is usually long, and the quarters sloping. The tail is set and carried quite high. The Batak pony is considered a very willing breed, and is quite hardy. They usually average about 11.3 hh but may stand up to 13 hands, and are generally brown, but can be any color.^[2]

The Batak pony was once used as sacrificial animals for the gods, but is now employed in a less-gruesome occupation as a riding pony. The Arabian blood makes it spirited when needed, but the pony is generally quiet enough for children to ride, with an excellent temperament. Their speed also makes them popular for racing among the local population.

The Batak pony is one of eight breeds native to Indonesia, the others are the Gayoe, Deli pony, Bali Pony, Java Pony, Sumba and Sumbawa Pony (and closely related Sandalwood Pony) and Timor Pony.^[3] The Batak pony and the Deli pony are the most closely related.

Notes

- [1] Gilbey, Walter. (1900). *Small Horses in Warfare*. p. 27. (http://books.google.com/books?id=7iYgAAAAMAAJ&printsec=titlepage&client=firefox-a&source=gbs_summary_r&cad=0#PPA27,M1)
- [2] Summerhayes, RS; "Horses & Ponies", Warne & Co, 1948
- [3] "Races de chevaux et d'équidés" *Lexique du cheval!* (Includes English section) (http://www.lexiqueducheval.net/lexique_races_b.html)
Web page accessed December 8, 2007

References

- Gilbey, Walter. (1900). *Small Horses in Warfare*. (<http://books.google.com/books?id=7iYgAAAAMAAJ&client=firefox-a>) London: Vinton. OCLC 1327766 (<http://www.worldcat.org/wcpa/oclc/1327766>)

External links

- FAO DAD-IS Domestic Animal Diversity Information System data on the Batak (http://lprdad.fao.org/cgi-bin/EfabisWeb.cgi?sid=af74c716ea5be1d74d3405b194f2a3e9,reportsreport8a_50008493)

Boer pony

Boer Pony



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Pony developed from Cape Horse. Can often perform slow gait and rack in addition to normal paces |
| Alternative names | Boerperd, African Pony |
| Country of origin | South Africa |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Boer Pony** is a calm, tough pony originating from South Africa. It is often referred to as the Boerperd. Two varieties exist, the Boerperd, a general breed, and the more refined Cape Boerperd.

Characteristics

This pony stands between 13.3 and 15.3 hands high, and can be black, brown, bay, chestnut, grey, roan, dun or palomino. It is often capable of five gaits: walk, trot, canter, slow gait and rack.

History

The Boer Pony has similar origins to the Basuto pony, both having developed from the Cape Horse in the 19th century. During that time, however, the Boer Pony was also influenced by imported stock, such as Flemish, Hackney and Cleveland Bay horses, from which the Vlaamperd breed was developed. The Boer Pony did not have to survive such rough conditions as the Basuto pony did, and has consequently become a larger, better-developed animal. In the Boer wars, its great mobility and toughness helped the Boers move around and hold out against the British Empire for three years. Although thousands of horses were lost due to the harsh conditions. Top breeding horses were hidden away in the mountains so that the breed could be preserved.

Various attempts were made to form a Boerperd Society [1](in Afrikaans, 'boerperd' means 'farmer's horse', but can also be a reference to Afrikaners), and in 1973 the Boerperd Society of South Africa was formed. Today, Boerperds are found in isolated herds in the south-east Transvaal, northern Natal, eastern Free State and north-eastern Cape Province.

Uses



Today, Boer Ponies are used as utility horses on farms and for the increasingly popular sport of endurance riding. They are also fine horses for beginners as they are patient and good natured.

References

[1] <http://www.saboerperd.com/>

Bosnian Pony

Bosnian Pony

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | |
| Bosnian Pony | |
| Country of origin |  Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Bosnian Pony** is a member of the group of horses known as the Balkan breeds, and is thought to be descended from a cross between the Tarpan and the Asian Wild Horse.

History

The Bosnian Pony bears many similarities to both the Hucul and the Konik breeds of pony, and the triad is generally known collectively as the Balkan breeds. The breeds are all considered ancient, and the Bosnian Pony is thought to have developed through a cross between the Tarpan and the Asian Wild Horse, also known as the Przewalski horse.

It is thought that there were infusions of oriental stock by the Turks during the Ottoman Empire, after which more Tarpan blood was added to make the modern Bosnian Pony breed.^[1]

Beginning in the 1900s, the Bosnian Pony has been selectively bred through government-controlled breeding programs. The principle breeding center for many years was the Borike Stud in Bosnia. The state controlled all breeding stallions, while mares were privately owned. During the 1940s three stallions, Agan, Barat, and Misco, were used to improve the breed. Agan and Barat resembled the Asian Wild Horse type, while Misco was a lighter type.

Until the Bosnian War, there were strict standards, including performance tests, for stallions in order to assure the quality of the breed. This strict control resulted in a pony that was functional and had a variety of uses.^[2]

Characteristics

The Bosnian Pony generally stands 12.1 to 14 hands high, and may be bay, brown, black, gray, chestnut or palomino in color. They have a heavy head with a straight profile, a short, muscular neck, fairly flat withers, long, sloping shoulders, and a deep chest. The back is straight and the quarters sloping. The legs are well-muscled, although short, with clean, broad joints and strong tendons.^[3]

The breed bears a strong resemblance to the Asian Wild Horse, although more refined due to the influence of oriental blood.

Uses

The Bosnian Pony is used for many things, including light farm and draft work, packing, and riding. They are frequently used as pack animals in rough terrain unsuited for motorized vehicles. They are hardy and tough, and generally docile in temperament, making them easy to handle and ride.

References



[1] Pickeral, Tamsin *The Encyclopedia of Horses and Ponies*. Parragon Plus, 2001. ISBN 0-7525-4158-7

[2] "Bosnian" (<http://www.equinekingdom.com/breeds/ponies/bosnian.htm>). *Equine Kingdom*. Referenced January 26, 2008.

[3] Bongianni, Maurizio. *Simon & Schuster's Guide to Horses and Ponies*. & Schuster, Inc., 1988, pg. 159. ISBN 0-671-66068-3

British Spotted pony

British Spotted Pony

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | |
| British spotted pony | |
| Distinguishing features | A leopard-spotted riding pony. |
| Country of origin |  England |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **British Spotted** is a small pony breed originating in England. It has existed for several centuries. The main distinguishing feature of the breed is its leopard-spotted colouration. The height at withers varies greatly, between 8 hands (32 inches, 81 cm) and 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm). An even larger horse-type variant existed, but is nowadays considered to belong into the Appaloosa breed. The breed is unique for its unusual colouration and origins, and is rare with only about 800 registered animals.

Breed characteristics

The most prominent feature of the British Spotted Pony is the leopard-spotted colouring, coming in many variations. Other forms of spotting are not permitted. Other requirements, consistent with leopard genetics, include rosy pink, mottled skin around the eyes, muzzle and inside the ears, and a white sclera (in most other horses the "white" of the eye is dark, matching the iris). The hooves must be striped.

The British Spotted Pony is a breed with clear pony characteristics. It is hardy and very active, and its height varies from as little as 8 hands (32 inches, 81 cm) up to 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm); there is also a powerful cob-type riding pony variation. However, the smallest animals are the most popular,^[*citation needed*] and are often sold for showing and as companion ponies. Some are also driven.

The spotted colouration does not always breed true, as two spotted animals may produce a solid-coloured foal. Many spotted animals are not registered because they lack a visible white sclera or striped hooves.

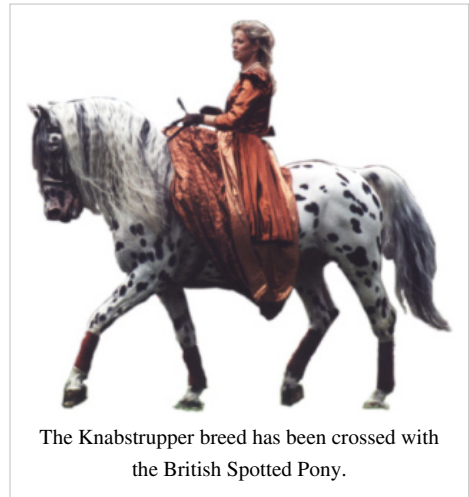
History

Paintings and drawings from across Europe over a range of centuries feature similarly spotted horses. A document from 1298 mentions that Edward I of England kept a large number of spotted horses.

Various other European horse breeds have been used from time to time to produce a more useful spotted horse. These included horses sent as gifts by royal families from elsewhere in Europe. A painting from the mid-19th century features a lady (believed to be Queen Victoria) in a carriage drawn by a spotted horse, followed by a spotted Dalmatian dog. Spotted ponies were popular for their colouration, and were sold for large sums of money.

In 1947, the British Spotted Horse and Pony Society was founded to register and preserve the breed. At this time both ponies and horses were registered. In the 1960s, the association imported Knabstrupper horses, another leopard-spotted breed, from Denmark, to help to make the colouration consistent. In 1976 the breed association split in two, the British Spotted Pony Society for ponies, and the British Appaloosa Society for horses. Today, larger spotted horses are registered as Appaloosas.

Interest in the breed has grown since World War II, with many horses exported to Australia, USA, Canada, Netherlands, Germany and France. However, the breed associations put a stop to exporting in the 1970s, when it was found that many of the best stallions and mares were lost due to high demand. Today the breed has about 800 registered ponies in its stud book, but it is believed that many unregistered animals of the breed exist.



The Knabstrupper breed has been crossed with the British Spotted Pony.

References

- Official home site ^[1]
- British Appaloosa Society's home site ^[2]
- History of British Spotted Pony ^[3]

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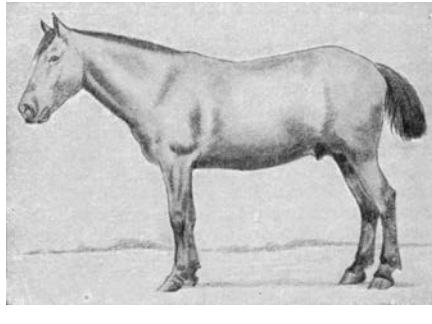
[1] <http://www.britishspottedpony.com>

[2] <http://www.appaloosa.org.uk>

[3] <http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~chrisson/breed2.htm>

Burmese Pony

Burmese Pony



A Burmese or Shan Pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Alternative names | Shan Pony |
| Country of origin | Burma |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Burmese Pony** originated in the Shan state of Eastern Myanmar (formerly Burma), where it is bred today by local hill tribes. It shows similarities to the Bhutia, Spiti, and Manipuri ponies of the Himalayan Mountains, suggesting these breeds have a similar origin, most likely deriving from the Mongolian horse and other Eastern breeds. They are used as trekking and pack ponies because they are strong and well suited to the mountainous conditions.

Characteristics

Burmese ponies may reach 13 hands (52 inches, 132 cm), and are brown, bay, chestnut, black or gray in color. They are not particularly pretty horses, having been bred for function rather than looks. The head usually has a straight profile, the neck is muscular. The back may be long, and the croup is sloping. The ponies do not have very pronounced withers, and a rather upright shoulder, creating a short stride (which is desirable in mountainous terrain, even if considered a fault in a riding horse). The chest is deep and wide, the hooves small and hard, and the legs are fine, yet strong.

Uses

The Burmese is well-adapted to its mountainous environment, being very sure-footed, tough, with great stamina and resistant to the harsh environment. This trait has made them extremely popular as trekking and pack ponies. They have a very quiet temperament and a willing nature, making them popular mounts for novices and children. At one time the Burmese were used as polo mounts for British colonials. However, they are not incredibly fast or athletic, so this was most likely because they were the only mounts available at that time.

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Canadian Rustic Pony

Canadian Rustic Pony



Canadian Rustic Pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|
| Country of origin | Canada |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Canadian rustic pony** is a breed of pony that originated in Canada, particularly Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The pony is the result of a crossing between the Heck horse and Welsh pony-Arabian horse crosses.

History

The Canadian rustic pony was developed by Dr. Peter Neufeld of Manitoba, Canada.^[1] Breeders developed the breed by crossing Heck horses from the Atlanta Zoo in Atlanta, Georgia with Arabian horse-Welsh pony crosses. On January 23, 1989, the Canadian Rustic Pony Association was formed, incorporated under the new Canadian federal Animal Pedigree Act, also known as Bill C-67. Prior to this, since 1978, Canadian rustic ponies had been registered through a registry based in the United States, and as of September 1989, 72 ponies had been US-registered. These ponies were eligible to become double-registered under the Canadian and US registries, and many did so. No ponies were found outside of Manitoba and Saskatchewan as of September 1989, but this was expected to change as more breeders became aware of the new breed.

Characteristics

These ponies stand between 12.2 and 13.2 hands (50 and 54 inches, 127 and 137 cm) high. They can be gray, buckskin, dun or bay, have primitive markings such as dorsal and zebra stripes, and have partially raised manes. The facial profile is straight or slightly dished, with a prominent jaw. The neck is thick but arched, the girth and shoulders thick, and the croup slightly sloping. The legs are strong, and the ponies are said to move fluidly, especially at the trot. The Canadian rustic pony is used mainly for jumping, driving or as family pets.

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[1] Tarpan (<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/tarpan/>), *Oklahoma State University*, retrieved February 10, 2009.

Further reading

- *Genesis Magazine*, 2003, Volume 18, Issues 1 & 2 - (See here (<http://www.rarebreedscanada.ca/genesis-listing.htm>) for magazine contents.

Chincoteague Pony

Chincoteague Pony



Chincoteague pony

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Average 13.2 hh, all colors. |
| Alternative names | Assateague horse |
| Country of origin | United States |
| Breed standards | |
| National Chincoteague Pony Association | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Chincoteague Pony**, also known as the **Assateague horse**, is a breed of pony that developed and lives in a feral condition on Assateague Island in the United States states of Virginia and Maryland. The breed was made famous by the *Misty of Chincoteague* series written by Marguerite Henry starting in 1947. While phenotypically horse-like, they are commonly called "ponies". This is due in part to their smaller stature, created by the poor habitat present on Assateague Island. Variation is found in their physical characteristics due to blood from different breeds being introduced at various points in their history. They can be any solid color, and are often found in pinto patterns, which are a favorite with breed enthusiasts. Island Chincoteagues live on a diet of salt marsh plants and brush. This poor-quality and often scarce food combined with uncontrolled inbreeding created a propensity for conformation faults in the Chincoteague before outside blood was added beginning in the early 20th century.

Several legends are told regarding the origins of the Chincoteague, with the most popular being that they descend from survivors of wrecked Spanish galleons off the Virginia coast. It is more likely that they descend from stock released on the island by 17th century colonists looking to escape livestock laws and taxes on the mainland. In 1835, the practice of pony penning began, with settlers rounding up ponies and removing some of them to the mainland. In 1924 the first official "Pony Penning Day" was held by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company, where ponies were auctioned as a way to raise money for fire equipment. The annual event has continued in the same fashion almost uninterrupted to the present day.

Although popularly known as Chincoteague ponies, the feral ponies actually live on Assateague Island. Although the entire Island is owned by the federal government, Assateague is split by a fence at the Maryland/Virginia state line, with a herd of around 150 ponies living on each side of the fence. The herds live on land managed by two different federal agencies with very different management strategies. Ponies from the Maryland herd, referred to in literature of the National Park Service as Assateague horses, live within Assateague Island National Seashore. They are generally treated as wild animals, given no more or less assistance than other species on the island, other than to be treated with contraceptives to prevent overpopulation. Conversely, the Virginia herd, referred to as Chincoteague

ponies, lives within the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge but is owned by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. The Virginia ponies are treated to twice yearly veterinary inspections, which prepare them for life among the general equine population if they are sold at auction. While only around 300 ponies live on Assateague Island, around 1,000 more live off-island, having been purchased or bred by private breeders.

Characteristics

While phenotypically horses, the Chincoteague is most often referred to as a pony breed. Chincoteagues average around 13.2 hands (54 inches, 137 cm) in their feral state, but grow to at least 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm) when domesticated and provided better nutrition. They generally weigh around 850 pounds (390 kg). All solid colors are found in the breed, as are pinto patterns. Horses with pinto coloration tend to sell for the most money at the annual auction. Due to outside bloodlines being added to the Chincoteague herd, there is some variation in physical characteristics. In general, the breed tends to have a straight or slightly concave facial profile with a broad forehead and refined throatlatch and neck. The shoulders are well angled, the ribs well sprung, the chest broad and the back short with broad loins. The croup is rounded, with a thick, low-set tail. The breed's legs tend to be straight, with good, dense bone that makes them sound and sturdy.^[2] Domesticated Chincoteagues are considered intelligent and willing to please. They are viewed as easy to train, and are used as hunter, driving and trail ponies.^[2] In terms of health, they are generally hardy and easy keepers. In the late 19th century, one author praised their "good manners and gentle disposition" while reporting the story of one pony who was ridden a distance of around 1,000 miles (1,600 km) in 34 days by a man with equipment, a load that weighed around 160 pounds (73 kg) – the pony weighed approximately 500 pounds (230 kg).^[3]



A bay pony from the Maryland herd among the plants which make up its diet

History

Legend states that Chincoteague ponies descend from Spanish horses shipwrecked off the Virginia coast on their way to Peru in the 16th century. Another story holds that they descend from horses left on the island by pirates. Both of these theories are unlikely, as no documentation has been found to show horses inhabiting the island this early, and no mention of horses already existing on the island was made by colonists on either the mainland or the island in the mid-to-late 1600s. Evidence points, however, to their ancestors actually being horses brought to the islands in the 17th century by mainland farmers. Livestock on the islands were not subject to taxes or fencing laws, and so many animals, including hogs, sheep, cattle and horses, were brought to the islands. While the National Park Service holds to the theory that the horses were brought to the island in the 17th century, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company, which owns the ponies on the Virginia side of Assateague, argues that the Spanish shipwreck theory is correct. They argue that horses were too valuable in the 17th century to have been left to run wild on the island, and claim that there are two sunken Spanish galleons off the Virginia coast in support of their theory. The National Chincoteague Pony Association also promotes the shipwreck theory. In the early 1900s, they were described as having been on the islands since well before the American Revolution, and were described at that time as "very diminutive, but many of them are of perfect symmetry and extraordinary powers of action and endurance." In the early 1800s, Virginia governor Henry A. Wise released what one author called the "earliest printed testimony" on the Chincoteague.

During the 1920s, before the herds were managed by various agencies, many conformation faults were found – the effects of uncontrolled inbreeding. Misshapen legs, narrow chests, poor bone and a lack of substance plagued the breed, with many stunted animals not growing above 12 hands (48 inches, 122 cm). This was partially due to the

limited and poor-quality feed found on the islands, although this harsh habitat also allowed only the hardiest and most adaptable ponies to survive. Welsh and Shetland pony blood was added to upgrade the stock, and horses with pinto coloring were introduced to give the herd its common distinctive patterns and contribute to the more horse-like phenotype of the breed.^[1] Twenty Mustangs owned by the Bureau of Land Management were introduced in 1939. Arabian blood was added in the hopes of adding refinement and height to the breed, as well as increasing the length of their legs. Arabian stallions were used at two different points within the breed history: one was released with the herd, but did not survive, while another was bred to mares that had been removed from the island for breeding and then returned once in foal. The Chincoteague pony has a similar history to the Shackleford Banker Horse, which comes from the Shackleford Banks off the coast of North Carolina. However, the Shackleford is a more isolated population, with no outside blood added to the island herd.^[4]

The Island itself has also undergone change. At one time, the island was connected to the lowest point of Fenwick Island. In August 1933, a hurricane created an inlet south of Ocean City, Maryland, separating the two landforms. After the storm, between 1933 and 1935, a permanent system of artificial jetties was built to preserve the inlet as a navigation channel. As a result of the jetties disrupting sand movement in the area, the island has drifted considerably westward, and the two landmasses are now over 1 kilometer (0.62 mi) apart.

Pony penning

In 1835 the first written description of "pony penning" appeared, though the practice of rounding up livestock on the island existed for many years before that. Initially, unclaimed animals were marked for ownership by groups of settlers. By 1885 the event had become a festival day, and two days of horse and sheep roundups were held on Assateague and Chincoteague Islands. While the sheep population diminished over time, the pony population grew. In 1909, the last Wednesday and Thursday of July were designated as the annual days for pony penning, still taking place on both Assateague and

Chincoteague Islands. However, in the early 1920s, much of Assateague Island was purchased by a wealthy farmer, forcing many settlers to move to Chincoteague Island and necessitating a change in the pony penning format. By 1923, all parts of pony penning except for the actual roundup had moved to Chincoteague Island, with the ponies being transported by truck for the first two years before the annual swim was begun.^[5] By the early 1900s, Chincoteague Island had been established as a tourism and sport haven, and in 1922 a causeway was completed that connected the island to the Virginia mainland. After a pair of fires ravaged Chincoteague Island that same year, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company was established. In 1924, the first official Pony Penning Day was held, where ponies were auctioned at \$25–50 each to raise money for fire equipment. Pony Penning Day has been held annually ever since, with the exception of 1942 and 1943.

In the present day, up to 50,000 visitors gather on the last Wednesday in July to watch mounted riders bring the Virginia herd from Assateague and swim them across the channel to Chincoteague Island. The swim takes 5–10 minutes, with both the rider and the observers on hand to assist horses, especially foals, who may have a hard time with the crossing. Before the swim, the herd is evaluated and mares in the late stages of pregnancy and those with very young foals are removed from the herd to be trailered between the islands. During the swim, some lactating mares become affected with hypocalcemia, which is treated by on-site veterinarians. Larger foals are auctioned the next day and the majority of the herd, including any young foals, are returned to Assateague on Friday. As of 2009, the highest price paid for a pony was \$11,700, while the average price was around \$1,300. Some ponies are purchased under "buy back" conditions, where the bidder donates the money to the fire department but allows the pony to be released back onto Assateague Island.



Breed registry and preservation

The National Chincoteague Pony Association was founded in 1985 and the Chincoteague Pony Association in 1994. The latter is open only to horses purchased from the annual auction, while the former maintains a breed registry and studbook that registers all ponies, including those from private breeders. Many ponies are registered with both associations. There are almost 1,000 Chincoteague ponies owned by private individuals off Chincoteague Island, spread throughout the US and Canada.

Management

All of Chincoteague Island lies within Virginia state lines, while Assateague Island is split between two states – a smaller northern portion in Maryland and the larger southern section within Virginia. Two separate herds of ponies live on Assateague Island, separated by a fence that runs along the Maryland-Virginia state border. Though descended from the same original stock, the Maryland feral ponies are called "Assateague horses" and are maintained by the National Park Service. The Virginia feral ponies are called "Chincoteague ponies" and are owned by Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department.^[1] In 1943, the entire island was purchased by the federal government and divided into two protected areas, Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia. The two herds lie under the jurisdiction of different governmental agencies, and different management strategies have been applied to each herd. The Maryland section of Assateague also contains Assateague State Park, state-owned land where the ponies are allowed to roam, although the state plays little or no part in their management.

The feral ponies in both herds separate themselves into small bands, with most consisting of a stallion, several mares and their foals. Ponies on Assateague have a diet that consists mainly of cordgrass, a coarse grass that grows in salt marshes, which makes up around 80 percent of their food. This diet is supplemented by other vegetation such as rose hips, bayberry, greenbriar, American beach grass, seaweed and poison ivy. Chincoteague ponies require up to twice as much water as most horses require due to the saltiness of their diet.^[1] The increased amount of water that they drink contributes to many ponies appearing to be bloated or fat.

Maryland herd

The Maryland herd, often called the Assateague herd, is owned and managed by the National Park Service. The Maryland herd is one of very few free-ranging wild horse populations left in the United States. This, combined with its presence on a relatively small and naturally confined area, has made it ideal for scientific study. Since the late 1970s, scientists have used the herd to conduct studies on feral horse behavior, social structure, ecology, remote contraceptive delivery and pregnancy testing, and the effects of human intervention on other wild animal populations. There are few other wildlife populations of any species worldwide that have been studied in as much detail over as long a period as the Maryland herd of Chincoteague ponies.



A pair of ponies in the marshes of Assateague



Ponies often come into close contact with humans, even in their native environment.

Herd numbers grew from 28 to over 165 between 1968 and 1997 and overgrazing negatively impacted their living environment. To manage population numbers, long-term, non-hormonal contraceptives have been employed, proving 95 percent effective over a seven-year field trial. The contraceptive, which began to be used at a management level in 1995 although it was used in smaller amounts as early as 1989, has also proven effective at improving the health and increasing the life expectancy of older mares through the removal of pregnancy and lactation-related stress. Since 1990, general herd health has improved, early mortality has decreased and older ponies are now found, with many over the age of 20 and some even over 25. No horse has ever

been injured during the dart-administered treatments, although there is a 0.2 percent rate of abscess at the injection site, which normally heals within two weeks. Each mare between two and four years old is given contraceptives, and treatment is then withdrawn until she produces a foal. Once she has produced enough foals to be well represented genetically within the herd, she is placed on a yearly treatment plan until her death. After the introduction of the contraceptive, herd numbers continued to rise to a high of 175 in 2001 to 2005, but then dropped significantly to around 130 in 2009. In 2009, a study determined that mitochondrial DNA diversity in the herd was quite low, most likely due to their isolation, but that their nuclear genetic diversity remained at a level similar to that of breeds from the mainland.

Other than the contraceptive and treatment in emergencies, ponies from the Maryland herd are treated much like other wildlife, with no extra attention paid to them by Park Service employees. It is thought likely that the Maryland herd carries Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA); they are effectively quarantined, however, by allowing no riding or camping with privately owned horses along the mainland shore during the insect season which stretches from mid-May to October. Due to their treatment as wild animals, ponies from the Maryland herd can be aggressive, and there have been reports of them tearing down tents and biting, kicking and knocking down visitors. In 2010, after an increase in biting incidents, the National Park Service implemented new measures for educating visitors about the ponies. These measures included new safety information in brochures and recommended viewing distances between the visitors and the ponies. There is also some danger to the ponies from the visitors: ponies have become ill from being fed inappropriate human foods, and on average one Maryland pony a year is killed by a car. Since 1991 there has been a "Pony Patrol", where volunteers on bikes patrol the island, educating visitors about the ponies.

Virginia herd

The Virginia herd, often called the Chincoteague herd, is owned and managed by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) allows the ponies to live on Assateague under a special use grazing permit, allowing approximately 150 adult ponies in the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Thirty to 45 foals are born into the Chincoteague herd each year. The annual Pony Pennings are used to maintain the herd size at around 150 animals. Since 1943, the FWS has been working on the island to protect and increase the wildfowl population, and their efforts have sometimes endangered the Chincoteague herd. Due to the placement of fences by the FWS, a reduced amount of land is available for grazing by the ponies. The fencing also prevents them from reaching the sea, where they often went to escape biting insects, including mosquitos. In 1962, several ponies were trapped in an enclosure by high water and died when they were carried out to sea during a storm. Unlike the Maryland herd, ponies on the Virginia side of the island are fenced off from roadways to prevent auto accidents and to discourage visitors from feeding the ponies.

In the late 20th century, some ponies previously sold at auction were returned to Assateague Island when population numbers threatened to drop below the targeted numbers due to large numbers of deaths from storms or other issues. Since 1990, the ponies from the Virginia herd have been swum to Chincoteague Island biannually for veterinary

treatment, including deworming and vaccinations for diseases such as rabies, tetanus and Eastern and Western encephalitis. In addition, continual monitoring and basic first aid for any minor injuries is performed by a committee from the fire department. Such intervention is needed because many of the ponies will be brought into the general horse population through the auction and purchase by private buyers. During the veterinary visits, they are also tested for EIA.

Books

In 1947, Marguerite Henry released the children's book *Misty of Chincoteague*, the first in a series of novels that made the Chincoteague breed internationally famous. The real Misty was foaled on Chincoteague Island in 1946 and was purchased as a weanling by Henry.^[6] In 1961, the publicity was increased even more when the film *Misty* was made, based on the book. The publicity generated by the books assisted the Chincoteague Fire Department and the breed in remaining viable into the 21st century. While fictionalized, the books were based on a real horse and ranch on Chincoteague Island, and the Misty of Chincoteague Foundation was established in 1990 to preserve the Beebe Ranch and establish a museum with memorabilia from the series. Model horse company Breyer Animal Creations has created models of Misty and five of her descendants. As of 2001, there were around 40 surviving descendants of Misty worldwide.



A statue of Misty of Chincoteague stands in Chincoteague, Virginia.

Notes

- [1] <http://www.pony-chincoteague.com/prod.html>
- [2] Dutson, pp. 287–290
- [3] Lawley, pp. 224–225
- [4] Dutson, p. 324
- [5] Harris & Langrish, p. 80
- [6] DeVincent-Hayes & Bennett, p. 62

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External links

- National Chincoteague Pony Association (<http://www.pony-chincoteague.com/>)

Chinese Guoxia

Chinese Guoxia

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alternative names | Guoxia, Guǒ-xià |
| Country of origin | China |
| Common nicknames | "Under the Fruit Trees Pony" |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

There are many different breeds of horse in China, most of which are ancient and descended from the Mongolian horse. Although many of the breeds are small in stature, they are considered to be small horses, not ponies, and will often, when provided with good care and adequate nutrition, mature well over 14.2 hands. Many of the breeds within China bear distinct regional differences, so although they may have descended from common ancestors, they have developed differently according to their habitat and climate. However, one breed is considered an actual pony breed and this is the **Chinese Guoxia**, found in southwest China.

History

There is little information available regarding the breed's origins, except that it is thought to date to antiquity; a bronze statue has been recovered of a Guoxia, dated approximately 2,000 years old. Their name translated means 'under fruit tree horse', which suggests that it may have been used early on to help with working in orchards due to its short stature. The breed was largely forgotten and considered extinct. It was rediscovered in 1981, and a breed association was formed in April of that year.

Characteristics

These ponies are very small in height, only reaching a maximum of 10 hands high. The Guoxia makes a very good children's pony and is useful in harness in spite of its small size. Generally it has a good temperament, quiet and willing, but is also tough and enduring. In appearance, the Guoxia bears some "primitive" horse features. It has a small, somewhat heavy head with small alert ears. The neck is short and the back is straight and short. The shoulders are a bit straight, but the legs are well formed and strong with good hard feet. Representatives of the breed are usually bay, roan or gray in colour.

References

Coffin Bay Pony

Coffin Bay Pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Country of origin | Australia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Coffin Bay Pony** is a semi-feral horse that developed in Australia. These ponies evolved from foundation bloodstock of 60 Timor Ponies that were imported by English settlers from Indonesia to Coffin Bay, on the southern tip of the Eyre Peninsula at Coffin Bay, South Australia. Coffin Bay Ponies are often confused with Australia's most noted feral horses, the Brumby, which lives in wild mobs all over Australia. However, Coffin Bay ponies live in a fenced protected area.

Characteristics

Coffin Bay ponies have always been reared in a semi-wild and wild manner, which has made them healthy and hardy with strong bones and hooves. Ponies have a conformation which is very reminiscent of a Timor pony with good hindquarters and short legs. They have a kind and intelligent eye. There are two acceptable types of Coffin Bay ponies, the lighter saddle type and a slightly stronger type with clean legs, for both driving and riding.

Domesticated ponies have a very manageable and friendly temperament that is suitable for children and small adults. Even feral ponies also possess a friendly, intelligent temperament.

Coffin Bay ponies can vary in height but they are not above 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm). They are mainly bay, brown, black, chestnut, grey, red and blue roan and dun, but all solid colours are permissible. Broken colours such as pinto testify to the presence of other bloodlines and are therefore not permitted. White markings on the legs or face are acceptable.

History

In 1839, the settler and British Captain Hawson and his family arrived in Happy Valley in Australia to live and breed horses. With him came the 60 Timor Ponies which Captain Hawson had purchased from the Rajah of Sumatra in Indonesia. These ponies would be the basis of Hawson's newly established stud farm to breed ponies that were well suited for the hot climate.^[1]

Hawson's company expanded and the Timor ponies were moved to his new lease at the Coffin Bay Run in 1847. Here they were bred in a semi-wild, yet controlled manner in the new stud, Coffin Bay Run. In 1857 Coffin Bay Run was sold to W.R. Mortlock who instead of investing in the pure Timor ponies, imported larger horses and ponies, which he crossed with the semi-wild Timor ponies to produce larger stock. Mortlock used approved stallions of the Welsh Cob, Thoroughbred and Arabian Horse breeds in the herd. He also used Clydesdale and Hackney horses who may have had influence on the Coffin Bay Ponies.

Mortlock used a selective breeding plan and culled unwanted ponies which were sold. During the early 1860s, the ponies were very popular and often sold in pairs and matching teams to be used for driving, while others were sold and used for polo and as cavalry horses.

In 1927 Mortlock's descendants sold the Coffin Bay Run to Martin Cash. Before the sale, the management of the farm and horse herd had been neglected, as it was no longer commercially viable to breed horses. Ponies became untamed and wild, growing rapidly in number and causing major problems for the farm's new owner. Many of the ponies were culled or shot in order to reduce their numbers.

The Morgan family purchased the Coffin Bay Run in 1932. This family immediately saw potential for these ponies and sold them instead of shooting them. Ponies became popular again when the depression led to petrol and diesel becoming rationed and very expensive. Tractors, which once had replaced horses for field work on the farms, were now too expensive to use, making ponies and horses indispensable. The Morgan family therefore mustered a small portion of the herd a few times during the year and sold them at markets in Port Augusta.

After World War II finished, however, demand for ponies declined as the economy stabilized and the mechanization of society made equine work animals obsolete. Moss Morgan, who owned the farm during this time, developed a new use for Coffin Bay Ponies, which he had mustered, trained to ride, and then sold as riding ponies.

In 1972, the farm was taken over by Geoff Morgan. In an attempt to save the herd, he gave the farm to the South Australia Government to transform the land into a national park. Ponies could still live in the park and were there when the peninsula was formally declared a National Park in 1982. They were then regarded as feral animals on land being managed for the preservation of native species. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) then launched a program to eliminate the ponies from the peninsula. Concerned locals banded together to form the non-profit Coffin Bay Pony Society, a volunteer group dedicated to keeping the ponies in the Park. This group would work out a compromise in order to permit the horses to stay if they were managed under more controlled conditions.

Ponies had caused damage on land within the national park but it was agreed that the breed had a historical value. In 1991 the first Management Agreement was entered into between the Coffin Bay Pony Society and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. It allowed then a much smaller herd, or "mob," consisting of twenty mares, one stallion, and their foals, to live in the park. To avoid the mobs growing in numbers, the ponies were mustered once a year, to be handled and then auctioned. A predetermined price per head went to the NPWS for land management and the rest of the money was used by the Coffin Bay Pony Society.

In 1999 the National Parks and Wildlife Service devised a new Draft Management Plan for the area that included the proposal of a Wilderness Zone that would take the ponies away from their natural pastures. After failing to consult with the Office of Environment and Heritage, the Government ordered that the herd should be moved. Following the public outcry that ensued in 2003, the State Government was forced to compromise. Instead of being eliminated, the ponies were relocated to a special parcel of nearby land purchased equally by the Pony Preservation Society and the State Government for A\$200,000.^[2]

On 29 February 2004, the final mob of 35 or 40 ponies were moved to their new home, ironically called the "Brumbies Run", near Coffin Bay. The ponies are now living there with minimal contact from people, but may be viewed in a vehicle by arrangement with the preservation society. Once a year they are mustered, handled, and auctioned.


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[1] SA Wild ponies (<http://members.westnet.com.au/stompfrog/history.htm>) Retrieved 2009-9-22

[2] Cuddly Koalas, Beautiful Brumbies, Exotic Olives (<http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/imaging/bagust.pdf>) Retrieved 2009-9-22

Connemara pony

Connemara Pony



Connemara pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Large pony, sport horse type, refined features, good bone, hardy, intelligent, good temperament |
| Country of origin | Ireland |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Connemara pony** (Irish: *Capaillín Chonamara*) is a pony breed originating in Ireland. They are known for their athleticism, versatility and good disposition. The breed makes excellent show ponies.

History



The Connemara region in County Galway in western Ireland, where the breed first became recognised as a distinct type, is a very harsh landscape, thus giving rise to a pony breed of hardy, strong individuals. Some believe that the Connemara developed from Scandinavian ponies that the Vikings first brought to Ireland. Another source was likely the Irish Hobby, a now-extinct breed established prior to the 13th century. Legend, however, says that galleons from the Spanish Armada ran aground in 1588, and the Andalusians on board were set loose. The Spanish horses bred with the native stock, refining the local ponies.

For additional strength and stamina, Arabian blood was added in the 18th century. They were also crossed with Hackneys and Thoroughbreds. Too much crossbreeding began to dilute the pony bloodlines, so the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society, founded in 1923, worked to preserve the breed type. The stud book was established in 1926. Today, Connemaras are bred worldwide in Ireland and Britain, as well as on the European continent, North America, Australasia and South Africa.

Characteristics

The original breed standard is set by the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society of Ireland, and also used by the British Connemara Pony Society. The adult Connemara pony is usually 128 to 148 cm in height, with a strong back, loins and hind quarters, deep and broad through the ribs, and with a riding-type well laid-back shoulder and well-placed neck without undue crest, giving a good length of rein. The head should be of pony type, broad between the eyes, which should be large and appear kind, and with a deep but refined jaw and clearly defined cheekbone. The ears should be of pony type (relatively short). The legs should be relatively short from the knees and hocks to the ground, with a strong, muscular upper leg, strong and well-defined knees and hocks, and well-shaped hard feet which are of a medium size. The action should be free, active and easy. Permitted colours are grey, black, brown, bay, dun, roan, chestnut, palomino and dark-eyed cream. Pinto colouring (piebald and skewbald) is not accepted. The Connemara pony should be intelligent with a good temperament, suitable for adults and children; it should be hardy with good endurance; it should be surefooted, sound, and able to jump. If a Connemara pony is to be passed as Grade 1 on inspection by the Connemara Pony Breeder's Society, it must meet the breed standard; if it does not meet this specification then it will be given a Grade 2 or Grade 3 on inspection. Connemaras in North America range from 13 to 15 hands (52 to 60 inches, 132 to 152 cm).



Connemara stallion

Connemara Pony Shows



Connemara pony under saddle

Connemara Pony shows are held worldwide, however the most famous of all being the Annual Clifden Connemara Pony Show which takes place every August at the Showgrounds, Clifden, Co. Galway. There are 22 in-hand classes and 10 ridden classes. The Connemara Pony Show offers breeders and visitors the chance to witness the very best of Connemara Ponies on display. There is also a dog show, Irish dancing, domestic arts, basket making, and a traditional market day on the streets of Clifden.

Uses

The Connemara is best known today as a sports pony. Ridden by both children and adults, it is considered to be a very versatile pony breed, competitive in show jumping, dressage and eventing, but also with the stamina for endurance riding. They are also shown in harness.

References

- (<http://www.connemaraponybreeders-nicpba.co.uk>)< Link to the NICPBA - NI Connemara Pony Breeders Association



Connemara ponies ridden for recreation

External links

- Ulster Connemara Pony Breeders Association (<http://nicpba.co.uk/>)
- Connemara Pony Breeders Society (<http://www.cpbs.ie/>)
- American Connemara Pony Society (<http://www.acps.org>)
- British Connemara Pony Society (<http://www.britishconnemaras.co.uk/>)
- Profile (<http://www.horsechannel.com/horse-breeds/profiles/connemara-pony.aspx>)
- International Committee of Connemara Pony Societies (<http://www.connemarapony.org/>)
- Connemara Pony Breeder Online Pedigree Resources (<http://www.connemara-pony.com/>)
- Connemara Pony Breeders Society of Australia (<http://www.cpbsa.com.au/>)

Czechoslovakian Small Riding Pony

Czechoslovakian Small Riding Pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Country of origin | Czechoslovakia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Czechoslovakian Small Riding Pony** is a breed of pony, used as a riding animal for children.

History

Development of this small riding pony began in 1980 at the Agricultural University in Nitra. The initial breeding stock, about seventy mares, were kept at the Nová Bana farm.

Broodmares were selected mostly of Arabian stock and also included Hanoverian, Slovak Warmblood and Hucul. A herd of twenty-seven mares averaging 14.2 hands were selected for the first crosses to a Welsh pony stallion, Branco. The first offspring, foaled in 1981, were kept outdoors on the rough terrain. Additional crosses were made to another Welsh stallion, Shal, imported from West Germany. The first foals were trained under saddle and in harness in 1984 and nearly all successfully passed the working trials. Animals of the new breed are docile, with an alert but calm temperament, modest in feeding requirement and effective in utilization of food. They have good gaits and jumping ability. They stand between 13.2 and 13.3 hands high.

In 1989 a conference was held at the Agricultural University of Nitra regarding the breeding programme. It was agreed that methods being used to breed a small sport horse for children from the ages of eight to sixteen years were correct and that efforts should be continued.

There are now over 150 of these new breed of ponies, and plans are being made to establish a club for private breeders of small horses in Nitra.

References

- Hendricks, Bonnie. *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds*, page 146. University of Oklahoma Press. 2007. ISBN 0-8061-3884-X.

Dales pony

Dales pony



Dales Pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Country of origin | England |
| Breed standards | |
| Dales Pony Society | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Dales pony** is one of the United Kingdom's native mountain and moorland pony breeds. They are known for their strength, hardiness, stamina, courage, intelligence, and good disposition. The history of the modern Dales pony is strongly linked to the history of lead mining in the Dales area of England, and it was originally a working pony descended from a number of breeds. Today it is used for many different activities, but its low numbers has placed it on "endangered" status with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Breed characteristics

The Dales pony is ideally 14 to 14.2 hands (56 to 58 inches, 142 to 147 cm). The head is straight, neat, and broad between the eyes, with a fine muzzle and incurving ears. The body is fairly short in the back, with a broad and deep rib cage, long, broad and well-muscled quarters, a well-muscled neck of a good length joining neatly into strong withers and strong sloping shoulders. The legs are very muscular, with hard, dense bone, clearly defined tendons, flexible pasterns, and large round hooves with open heels. The mane, tail and leg feathers are straight, silky and abundant. The majority of Dales ponies are black, though brown, bay, grey and roan colours are also acceptable. The only white markings permitted on the head are a star and/or a snip; stripes, blazes, and white muzzles are not allowed. The hind legs may have a small amount of white, not extending above the fetlock joint, though ponies with excess white markings may be registered in the B register of the stud book. They should move with a great deal of energy and power, lifting the hooves well clear of the ground. The over-all impression should be of an alert, courageous but calm and kind animal.^[2]

History

Horses have been present and used in the Dales area from early times. Horse remains dating to Roman times were found in the Ribchester area of the Dales, during North Pennines Archaeology's excavations at land behind the Black Bull Inn in 2009,^[3] and the Romans themselves named an ancient British tribe to the east of the Pennines the *Gabrantovici*, or 'horse-riding warriors'. The history of the modern Dales pony is strongly linked to the history of lead mining in the Dales area of England, which stretches from the Derbyshire peaks to the Scottish borders. Lead has been mined in this area since Roman times, and Richard Scrope, then Chancellor of England, owned lead mines at Wensleydale in the 14th century.^[4] Iron ore, fuel for smelting, and finished lead were all carried on pack ponies, with each pony carrying up to 240 lb (110 kg) at a time. Pack pony trains of up to 20 ponies worked 'loose' (in other words, not led), under the supervision of one mounted train leader.

The modern Dales pony is descended from a number of breeds, with the original working ponies being bred by crossing the Scottish Galloway pony with native Pennine pony^[5] mares in the Dales area in the late 1600s. A century later Norfolk Cob bloodlines were brought into the breed, which traced back to the Darley Arabian, and most Dales ponies today have pedigrees which can trace back directly to this influential horse (one of the foundation sires of the modern thoroughbred). Clydesdale, Norfolk Trotter, and Yorkshire Roadster blood was added to improve the trotting ability of the Dales. The bloodline of the Welsh Cob stallion Comet was also added during the 1850s to improve the breed's gait.^[6] With their agility, power and speed, the Dales had great success in the trotting races of the 18th century and the organized hunts. The Fell pony continued to intermingle with the Dales into the early 20th century. In 1912, Dalesman was chosen as a Fell premium stallion by the Board of Agriculture. In 1924, he was re-registered as a Dales pony.

The Dales pony stud book was opened in 1916, with the formation of the Dales Pony Improvement Society, after the introduction of Clydesdale blood threatened to affect the quality of the Dales ponies. Stallion premiums were awarded first by the Board of Agriculture, and later by the War Office, to ensure that stallions displaying the best of the breed characteristics were used for breeding.

The breed almost disappeared during the Second World War, as ponies were taken for breeding vanners, for work in towns and cities, and for use by the British Army as pack and artillery ponies. At the end of the war, the future of the Dales pony was preserved by a small but dedicated group of breeders, and in 1964 The Dales Pony Society underwent reorganisation, and a drive was instigated to find and register as many ponies as possible.^[7]

The Dales pony has 'endangered' status with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.^[8]

Uses

Dales ponies today compete in show jumping, cross-country, dressage, driving, and eventing. Their calm, kind temperament, combined with their ability to carry heavy weights for long distances, has made them an ideal pony for endurance riding and trekking holidays, as they can carry novice or experienced riders, adults or children alike, over all kinds of terrain and for long distances. In the UK they have competed at National level two in Le Trec. Small herds still roam free in the eastern Pennines.



Dales pony at work

Notes

- [1] <http://www.dalespony.org/Breed-Std.html>
- [2] Dales Pony Breed Standard (<http://www.dalespony.org/Breed-Std.html>)
- [3] OASIS (<http://www.oasis.ac.uk/england/>) (OASIS reference northpen3-60750, registration required)
- [4] Yorkshire Dales National Park education leaflet (http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/dcm_ed_file_transport_nov04.pdf)
- [5] Dales pony (<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/dales/index.htm>), Oklahoma State University, retrieved December 22, 2008.
- [6] The Fell Pony Museum (<http://www.fellpony.f9.co.uk/fells/19cearly/19thc2.htm>)
- [7] Dales Pony Society (<http://www.dalespony.org/>)
- [8] Watch List of Equines (<http://www.rbst.org.uk/watch-list/equines>) at the Rare Breeds Survival Trust

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External links

- The Dales Pony Society (<http://www.dalespony.org>)
 - Dales Pony Society of America (<http://www.DalesPonies.com/>)
 - Dales Pony Association of North America (<http://www.dalesponyassoc.com/>)
 - Dales Pony (<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/dales/index.htm>)
-

Danish Sport Pony

Danish Sport Pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | well-formed head and neck, sloping shoulders, prominent withers and usually dark in color |
| Country of origin | Denmark |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Danish Sport Pony** is a breed of riding pony. The Danish Sport Pony Breeding Association began breeding for the pony in the 1970s. The ponies are classified according to height and grouped into three classifications. It is usually dark, although the classic color was originally gray. The horses are registered through the Landsudvalget.

Characteristics

The Danish Sport Pony should never be taller than 14.2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hands (58.25 inches, 148 cm). The riding classes for Danish Sport ponies are separated into three categories: ponies up to 14.2 hands; ponies up to 13.2 hands (54 inches, 137 cm); and ponies up to 12.2 hands (50 inches, 127 cm). The ideal pony has muscular limbs, giving it both agility and speed. It should also have a well-formed head and neck, sloping shoulders and prominent withers. Its back should be muscular, as should its thighs. Traditionally, the predominant color was gray, but over time and with crossbreeding, Danish Sport Ponies are also bay, chestnut, and black.^[1] Since the Danish Sport Pony is meant to be used as a mount for children, it should have a good temperament; calm and obedient.

History

The Danish Sport Pony breed has only become a serious endeavor for Danish breeders within the past few decades because Icelandic and Norwegian horses were more popular as mounts. When pony riding rose in popularity, however, the demand for ponies increased. To cope with the demand, the Danish Sport Pony Breeding Association was formed in 1976. The organization was dedicated to creating a uniform breed of riding ponies, and this they achieved by crossing different breeds with the Danish Sport Pony. The horse breeds used for development of the Danish Sport Pony included the Connemara pony, New Forest pony, Welsh pony and Arabian horse. Today, Danish Sport Ponies are registered through the Landsudvalget.

References

[1] http://www.petmd.com/horse/breeds/c_hr_danish_sport_pony

Dartmoor pony

Dartmoor pony



The **Dartmoor pony** has lived in south-western England for centuries and is used for a variety of disciplines. Because of the extreme weather conditions experienced on the moors, the Dartmoor is a particularly hardy breed with excellent stamina. Over the centuries it has been used as a working animal by local tin miners and quarry workers. It is kept in a semi-feral state on Dartmoor, Devon.

Despite this, numbers have declined from an estimated 25,800 in the 1930s to about 5,000 today. Only around 800 ponies were known to be grazing the moor in the spring of 2004.^[1]

Breed characteristics

The small head has large, wide-set eyes and alert ears. The body is strong, with a broad, deep rib cage, and of medium length. The legs are strong, long from body to knee and hock, but with short cannons with strong, dense bone, and a flat-fronted knee; the foreleg rises to a shoulder that is well-angled and with good freedom of movement, and the hindleg rises to a quarter that is well-muscled and rounded in appearance, rather than flat or sloping. The mane and tail should be full and flowing, and the pony's movement free and smooth. The Dartmoor pony has a kind temperament, the ponies being reliable, gentle and calm. Most Dartmoor ponies stand between 11.1 to 12.2 hands (45 to 50 inches, 114 to 127 cm); a pony should stand at no more than 12.2 hands under the breed standard, introduced in 1924. Recognised colours include bay, brown, black, grey, chestnut or roan.

Piebald and skewbald colouring is not permitted within the Dartmoor Pony breed. Ponies with this colouring, seen running on Dartmoor, are likely to be Dartmoor Hill Ponies as Dartmoor commoners may graze any type of pony out on the moors.^[2] The Dartmoor Hill Pony is classified as a pony born on Dartmoor, but not a purebred registered Dartmoor Pony. It is not a true breed as such, as the registry for Dartmoor Hill Ponies is open only to those born on the moors, so a pony born of two Dartmoor Hill ponies, but not born on the moors, could not be registered with the Dartmoor Hill Pony Association.^[3]

Although Exmoor ponies live fairly close geographically and their markings are somewhat similar, evidence now suggests that Dartmoor ponies and Exmoor ponies are not related as was once thought. The Exmoor pony has a distinctly different type of jaw structure, found otherwise only in fossilised remains from Alaska, showing the beginnings of development of a seventh molar, and is thus unique in the living horse breeds.

History

The bones of prehistoric horses have been found in chamber tombs dating from Vere Gordon Childe's period III - IV in southern Britain. This would date the bones at the transition from a hunter-gatherer society to an agricultural society (the Neolithic Revolution) at around 3500 BC; the bones are probably from wild horses but domestication may have begun by that date. Archeological investigation from the 1970s has shown that domesticated ponies were to be found on Dartmoor as early as 1500 BC.^[4] The first written record, dated to AD 1012, refers to wild horses at Ashburton, and early records from Dartmoor manors refer to ponies being branded and ear-marked.^[5]

The Dartmoor Pony was used in medieval times for carrying heavy loads of tin from the mines across the moor. It suffered greatly from the infusion of Shetland blood in the years between 1789 and 1832, when breeders decreased the numbers of purebred stock while trying to produce a suitable pit pony. When the mines closed, some ponies were kept for farming, but most of the ponies were turned out onto the moor. Ponies were bred at Dartmoor Prison from the early 1900s up until the 1960s, and used by guards for escorting prisoners.

The Dartmoor received Arab blood from the stallion Dwarka, foaled in 1922, as well as Dwarka's son, The Leat. Welsh pony breeding was introduced from the stallion Dinarth Spark, and infusions of Fell Pony blood was also added.^[6]

The first attempt to define and register the breed was in 1898, when the ponies were entered into a studbook started by the Polo Pony Society. In 1924, the breed society was founded, and a studbook opened. World War I and World War II were devastating to the breed. Only a handful of ponies were registered during World War II. However, after the war, local people began to inspect and register as many ponies as they could, and by the 1950s, numbers were back up.

Two schemes have been introduced to halt the decline in numbers, and broaden the gene pool of the Dartmoor Pony. The Dartmoor Pony Moorland Scheme (DPMS) was established in 1988 and is administered by the Dartmoor Pony Society and the Duchy of Cornwall, as well as being supported by the Dartmoor National Park. In 2004 a new scheme, the Dartmoor Pony Preservation Scheme (DPPS), was introduced, and herds taking part in this new scheme must enter one mare each year to the DPMS. The Dartmoor Pony has been granted Rare Breed status.^[7]



A Dartmoor mare nursing her foal

Dartmoor Ponies today

Dartmoor ponies are native to Britain, but are also seen in other parts of the world including the USA,^[8] Continental Europe, New Zealand and Australia.^[9] They are often used as foundation breeding stock for the Riding Pony. The breed is a suitable size and temperament for a children's mount, but it is also quite capable of carrying an adult. They are used for hunting, trail riding, showing,^[10] jumping, dressage and driving,^[11] as well as everyday riding.

All ponies free-roaming on Dartmoor are owned and protected by Dartmoor Commoners. It is illegal for visitors to feed the ponies although it is a common sight to see ponies being fed snacks through an open car window.^[12]



Dartmoor Hill pony on Dartmoor

Notes

- [1] BBC News, April 2004 (http://www.bbc.co.uk/devon/outdoors/moors/2004/ponies_halved.shtml)
- [2] Dartmoor Commoners Council (<http://www.dartmoorcommonerscouncil.org.uk/>)
- [3] Ponies found on Dartmoor (http://www.dartmoorhillpony.com/pony_types.html), The Dartmoor Hill Pony Association
- [4] National Park Information Leaflet (http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/41256/lab-pony2.pdf)
- [5] Local Government Factsheet (<http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk/learningabout/lab-printableresources/lab-factsheethome/lab-dartmoorponies>)
- [6] The British Horse (<http://www.thebritishhorse.com/DartmoorPonyBreed.html>)
- [7] Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust (<http://www.dpht.co.uk/othercharities.php>)
- [8] Dartmoor Pony Registry of America (<http://www.dartmoorpony.com/DPRA/Welcome.html>)
- [9] Dartmoor Societies in Europe and Australia (<http://www.dartmoorponysociety.com/daughtersocieties.aspx>)
- [10] Horse of the Year Show Champion Dartmoor (<http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/394/302642.html>)
- [11] Dartmoors in Competition (<http://www.dartmoorponysociety.com/latestnews.aspx>)
- [12] National Park Authority, Byelaws and Information (<http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk/learningabout/lab-printableresources/lab-factsheethome/lab-poniesondartmoor>)

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- Daniel, Glynn (1950), *The Prehistoric Chamber Tombs of England and Wales*, Cambridge University Press, ASIN B0000CHRBZ

External links

- Dartmoor Pony Society (UK) (<http://www.dartmoorponysociety.com>)

Deli pony

Deli Pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Country of origin | Indonesia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Deli pony** is native to the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. Closely related to the Batak Pony, both breeds developed in the Batak hills. The name of the breed most likely came from the large numbers of ponies exported from the port of Deli.^[1] The pony breed was first exported to Singapore, Malacca, and Penang, and from there spread out across Malaysia.^[2]

History

It is believed that the first horses in the Malay Archipelago arrived several hundred years ago, either by Hindu invaders from the west or merchants from Pegu and China. It is probable that the Shan Ponies, native to Burma and bred by its hill tribes, were imported to the highlands of Northern Sumatra where there was open country. From there, these horses were crossbred with Arabian stallions brought in by the Arab merchants sometime around 1375.

Characteristics

Deli ponies have an attractive head, well-shaped, high-crested necks due to a strong infusion of Arabian blood. They are small, averaging only about 11.3 hands, although some reach up to 12.2 hands. The most common color is seal brown, though skewbalds also exist.

The Deli is one of eight breeds native to Indonesia, the others are the Batak Pony, Bali Pony, Java Pony, Sumba and Sumbawa Pony (and closely related Sandalwood Pony) and Timor Pony.^[3]

References

- [1] "About the Batak-Deli breed" (<http://www.pet-insurance.net/horse-insurance/Batak-Deli-horse-insurance.htm>)
- [2] "The Horses in Malaysia." Article on the history of all horse breeds in the region (<http://web.archive.org/web/20100816055301/http://www.berjayaclubs.com/kiara/equestrian/malayhorses.cfm>). Accessed December 8, 2007
- [3] "Races de chevaux et d'équidés" *Lexique du cheval!* (Includes English section) (http://www.lexiqueducheval.net/lexique_races_b.html) Web page accessed December 8, 2007

Dülmen Pony

Dulmen Pony



Dulmen ponies in the Merfelder Bruch

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Country of origin | Germany |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Dülmen** is the only native pony breed in Germany, now that the Senner pony of the Teutoburg Forest is extinct. They make good children's ponies and adapt well to domesticated life. They are also good for driving in harness, and are also used to work the land.

Breed characteristics

The ponies stand usually stand 12 to 13 hands (48 to 52 inches, 122 to 132 cm), and look quite primitive. Some have the usual dun coloring, while others are bay, black, or chestnut, indicating infusion of outside blood. The ponies have steeply sloping hindquarters and a short neck.^[1] The breed's head is medium sized with small ears and a slightly concave profile. The hind quarters are muscular and well developed, the hooves should be small, hard and rounded and the fetlocks not too pronounced and hairy. They have a full mane and tail.

Breed history



The Dülmen was found near the town of Dülmen, in the Merfelder Bruch area where ponies have been documented since the early 14th century. It is believed that the Dülmen developed from primitive types, as it still has some primitive characteristics.

The ponies lived in wild herds across Westphalia until the 19th century, when land was divided and separated and the ponies began to lose their habitat. There is only one wild herd left today, owned by the Duke of Croy, that roams 860 acres (3.5 km²) of the Meerfelder Bruch. The Dukes of Croy first helped the herd in the mid-19th century.

Modern conditions

The ponies are left to find food and shelter, must cope with illness and death. Therefore, only the strongest in the herd survive, promoting the toughness of the breed, and making them resistant to disease.^[2] Once a year, on the last Saturday of May, the ponies are rounded off and the foals separated. The foals are sold at a public auction, and the mares are returned with only one or two stallions.

References

- [1] Stadt Dülmen. The Wild Horses of the Merfeld Marsh. Retrieved 2.8.09 from http://www.duelmen.de/en/wild_horses/index.htm?seite=en/wild_horses/haupt.htm
- [2] Breeds of livestock, Oklahoma State University. (1998) Dülmen. Retrieved 25.7.09 from <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/>

Eriskay Pony

Eriskay Pony



An Eriskay pony on Eriskay

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Dense, waterproof coat, large head. |
| Country of origin | Outer Hebrides, Scotland |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Eriskay Pony** is a breed of pony from Scotland. It is generally grey in colour, and has a dense, waterproof coat that protects it in harsh weather. The breed developed in ancient times in the Hebrides islands in Scotland, and a small population remained pure and protected from crossbreeding by the remoteness of the islands. It is used for light draught work, as a mount for children, in many equestrian disciplines, and for driving. The breed is rare today, with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust considering their status critical. There are two breed registries for the Eriskay, the first formed in 1971 and the second in 1986.

Characteristics

The Eriskay Pony generally stands between 12 and 13.2 hands (48 and 54 inches, 122 and 137 cm). It is usually grey in colour, although a few are bay or black. Dark coloured animals generally have the pangaré characteristics of a light-coloured muzzle and ring around their eye. However, according to breed standards, they should not have an eel stripe. Chestnut, piebald, skewbald and excess white markings are discouraged by breed registries. The winter coat is dense and waterproof to protect from the harsh climate, with a thick mane and tail. The head is large, with a wide forehead. The neck and shoulders are well muscled, and the chest deep but generally not broad. The rib-cage is long and the loins short, which increases the strength of the back. The croup is slightly sloping. It is quite similar to the Exmoor pony in body type. The Eriskay has an easy-going temperament and is suitable as a mount for children. It is used for light draught work, as well as dressage, show jumping, three-day eventing, western riding and driving. Eriskays have successfully competed in combined driving at highly competitive international level competitions sanctioned by the Fédération Équestre Internationale. They have also been used in therapeutic horse-riding.

History

The Eriskay Pony developed in the Hebrides, a group of western isles in Scotland. The origins of the breed are ancient, with roots in Celtic and Norse breeding. It is physically similar to drawings of ponies on ancient Pictish stones found in north and west Scotland. It is related to other northern breeds, including the Icelandic horse and the Faroese pony. The Eriskay takes its name from the island of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides. Originally, the breed had a fairly large population, and until the mid-19th century the Eriskay and similar ponies were found throughout the western islands of Scotland. They were used as crofters' ponies, as pack animals, for light draught and as mounts for

children.



Eriskay pony on the Isle of Lewis in Scotland

During the 19th century numbers were much reduced through increased crossbreeding. The crossbreeding was used to produce larger ponies for draught work, and Eriskays and other island ponies were crossed with horse breeds from mainland Europe, including Arabs and Clydesdales. Other horses, including the Norwegian Fjord, were crossed with island ponies, including the Eriskay, to produce the Highland pony. A few specimens of the Eriskay were preserved on the remotest islands of Scotland, mainly due to the difficulties of accessing the islands. This stock of ponies remained pure, but through the advent of mechanisation, declined in population to around 20 animals in the early 1970s. In 1941 the SS *Politician* foundered off the Eriskay coast,

and the islanders, using the Eriskay ponies, carried away the cargo of 250,000 bottles of whisky.

Today the Eriskay is rare. Its population is considered to be at critical status by the UK-based Rare Breeds Survival Trust, meaning that there are 300 or fewer breeding females registered in the world today. In 2006, there were believed to have been around 300 mares and 4 purebred stallions, and by 2009 this number had risen to around 420 ponies worldwide. It is possible that the Eriskay is the last surviving Hebrides pony breed. There are two breed registries that represent the breed. The first (the Eriskay Pony (Purebred) Studbook Society or *Comann Each nan Eilean*, formed in 1971 has the goal of maintaining the purity of the Eriskay breed, and disallows all crossbreeding. The second (the Eriskay Pony Society, formed in 1986 aims to produce ponies with desirable traits, which the registry feels will help promote their survival – this registry has considered the possibility of cross-breeding. The Eriskay Pony Society achieved legal recognition as a breed society and passport issuing organisation for the UK in 1995; *Comann Each nan Eilean* did not receive legal recognition until 2002.

In addition to the domesticated ponies there is a small herd of Eriskay ponies living in a feral state on the Holy Isle. These ponies are descended from a group of five ponies brought to the Holy Isle to when it was owned by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare in the 1970s to form a nature reserve. Today the island is owned by the Samye Buddhist Centre for World Peace and Health. They operate a policy of non-intervention, allowing the ponies to live without human interference.

References

External links

- Eriskay Pony Society (<http://www.eriskaypony.com/>)
- The Eriskay Pony (Mother Society): *Comann Each nan Eilean* (<http://eriskaypony.users.btopenworld.com/>)

Esperia Pony

Pony di Esperia

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Country of origin | Italy, native to Lazio region |
| Breed standards | |
| Associazione Italiana Allevatori | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Esperia Pony** (Italian: *Pony di Esperia*) is a breed of pony originating in the area of the Aurunci Mountains and Ausoni Mountains near Esperia in the province of Frosinone, in the Lazio region of Italy. It is one of the fifteen indigenous horse "breeds of limited distribution" recognised by the AIA, the Italian breeders' association. It is the only Italian breed to be officially denominated a pony.

References

[1] http://www.aia.it/tecnico/equini/a_esperia.htm

External links

- Esperia Horses - Documentary (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iqb0Qt5JzPs&feature=related>)

Exmoor pony

Exmoor pony



A herd of Exmoor ponies

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | mealy markings around eyes and muzzle, "ice tail", "toad eye" |
| Alternative names | Celtic pony |
| Country of origin | United Kingdom |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Exmoor pony** is a horse breed native to the British Isles, where some still roam as semi-feral livestock on Exmoor, a large area of moorland in Devon and Somerset in southwest England. The Exmoor has been given "endangered" status by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, and "critical" status by the Equus Survival Trust; there are between 100 and 300 active adult breeding mares. It is one of the British Isles' mountain and moorland pony breeds, having conformation similar to that of other cold-weather-adapted pony breeds.

Equines have been present in Britain since 700,000 BC, and fossil remains have been found in the area of Exmoor dating back to about 50,000 BC. Some Exmoor fanciers claim that the breed has been purebred since the Ice Age, a claim unsupported by modern DNA research, although a close morphological resemblance to the primitive wild horse has been noted. Archeological investigations have shown that horses were used for transport in the southwest of England as early as 400 BC, and Roman carvings show ponies phenotypically similar to the Exmoor pony. The Domesday Book records ponies on Exmoor in 1086, and descendants of ponies removed from the moor in 1818 form the foundation bloodstock of today's Exmoor breed, although a breed society was not formed until 1921. The breed nearly became extinct after the Second World War owing to soldiers using them for target practice and thieves killing them for their meat. As of 2010, there are an estimated 800 Exmoor ponies worldwide.

The Exmoor pony is hardy and used for a variety of equestrian activities. In its free-roaming state, the breed's presence on Exmoor contributes to the conservation and management of several natural pasture habitats.

Characteristics



An Exmoor mare and foal

The Exmoor pony is strong for its height, with heavy, dense bone, and powerful musculature, and is noted for its hardiness, disease-resistance, and endurance. It has a distinctly different jaw structure from other horse breeds, which includes the beginnings of development of a seventh molar.^[1]

The head is somewhat large in proportion to the body, with small ears, and has a unique "toad eye" caused by extra fleshiness of the eyelids, which helps to deflect water and provide extra insulation. As with most cold-weather pony breeds, the Exmoor grows a winter coat consisting of a highly insulating woolly underlayer and a top-coat of longer, oily hairs that prevent the undercoat from becoming waterlogged by

diverting water down the sides of the animal to fall from just a few drip areas. The mane and tail are thick and long, and the dock of the tail is of a type common in cold-weather ponies, having coarse hairs, called a "frost cap," "snow chute," or "ice tail" that deflects rainwater away from the groin and underbelly areas to fall from the long hairs on the back of the hind legs.

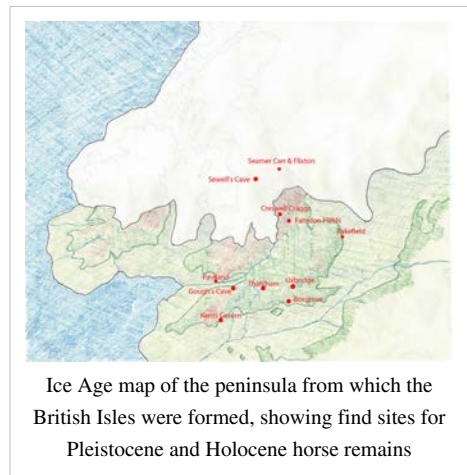
Exmoor ponies are usually a variant of dark bay, called "brown", with pangaré ("mealy") markings^[2] around the eyes, muzzle, flanks, and underbelly. Pangaré markings occur in other equines as well as horses, and are considered to be a primitive trait. Entry in the breed registry requires that the animal have no white markings. They usually stand 11.1 to 12.3 hands (45 to 51 inches, 114 to 130 cm), with the height limit for mares being 12.2 hands (50 inches, 127 cm) and that for stallions and geldings 12.3 hands (51 inches, 130 cm).

History

Prehistoric origin theories

Exmoor fanciers claim the breed is directly descended from an isolated population of wild ancestors which have bred pure since the Ice Age, and thus is more than 10,000 years old. However, modern DNA research to date has not supported the traditionally-held view of the origin of the Exmoor pony, as existing studies indicate they share their maternally-inherited mitochondrial DNA with various other horse breeds from across the world, and their paternally-inherited Y-chromosome is identical to that of most other domesticated horses.

However, horses have been present in Britain for hundreds of thousands of years. Two species of wild horse were identified from remains at Pakefield, East Anglia, dating back to 700,000 BC, and spear damage on a horse shoulder bone discovered at Eartham Pit, Boxgrove, dated 500,000 BC, showed that early humans were hunting horses in the area at that time. Horse remains from about 50,000 BC have been recovered from Kent's Cavern in nearby Torquay, remains dating from around 7,000 BC have been found in Gough's Cave in Cheddar, less than 50 miles from Exmoor, subfossil horse tracks have been found in the Bristol Channel / Severn Estuary area, and pre-domesticated horse bones have been found in Severn-Cotswold chamber tombs dating to 3500 BC.^[3]



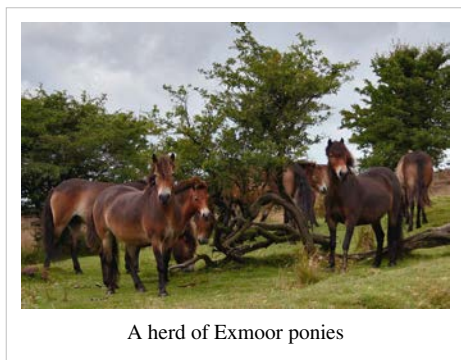
Ice Age map of the peninsula from which the British Isles were formed, showing find sites for Pleistocene and Holocene horse remains

Modern DNA studies and archaeology

No genetic studies to date have correlated these prehistoric remains to any modern breed. What has been studied are Y-chromosomes (Y-DNA) and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) obtained from Exmoor Ponies. The Y-chromosome is passed on through the male line, and worldwide shows no genetic variation in horses, except for a second Y-chromosome haplotype in China, suggesting that a very limited number of stallions contributed to the original genome of the domestic horse. The Exmoor pony shares this general Y-chromosome haplotype. In contrast, mitochondrial DNA is passed on through the female line, and shows far more variation than Y-DNA, indicating that a large number of wild mares from several regions have contributed to modern domestic breeds. Some mtDNA-haplotypes have been found in DNA samples obtained from wild horses in prehistoric deposits, while other mtDNA-haplotypes have only been found in domesticated horses, from both living individuals and archeological finds. The Exmoor pony has a high frequency of pre-domestication mtDNA-haplotypes, but these are also found in different breeds all around the world. Currently, for the British Isles, there are only three DNA archeological samples available, all from Ireland. Although wild horses were abundant after the last ice age, the lack of sufficient pre-domestication DNA samples makes it impossible to determine the contribution of the wild horses of the British Islands to modern breeds, including the Exmoor pony, until more samples have been analyzed. A 1995 study of morphological characteristics, the outward appearance of organisms, indicated that the Exmoor, Pottock, and Tarpan have an extremely close resemblance; these breeds were consistently grouped together in the results from several analyses, with the Exmoor showing the closest relationship to the Tarpan of all the breeds studied, at 0.27; the next-closest breeds to the Tarpan were the Pottock and Merens, both with a genetic distance from the Tarpan of 0.47. The distance between the Exmoor and Pottock was 0.37, and between the Exmoor and Merens was 0.40; a significantly wider gap than the distance between the Exmoor and Tarpan.

The first indication of domesticated horses in England comes from archaeological investigations showing that the ancient Britons were using wheeled horse-drawn transport (chariots) extensively in south-west England as early as 400 BC.^[4] Recent research has indicated that there was significant Roman involvement in the mining of metals on Exmoor.^[5] Metals including iron, tin, and copper were transported to Hengistbury Head in neighbouring Dorset for export,^[6] and Roman carvings, showing British and Roman chariots pulled by ponies phenotypically similar to the Exmoor, have been found in Somerset.^[7]

Recorded history and modern times



A herd of Exmoor ponies

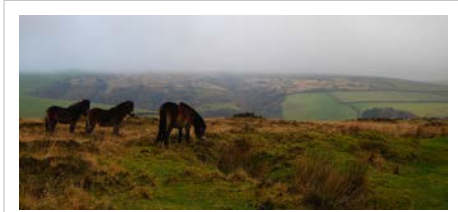
The Domesday Book mentions ponies in Exmoor in 1086. The next mention occurred in 1818, when Sir Richard Acland, the Exmoor Royal Forest's last warden, took 400 ponies from the area to Winsford Hill, where he owned land. This herd became known as the Anchor herd, and a small number of descendants of this original herd still remain at Winsford Hill. At the same time as Acland's removal, the rest of the ponies were sold, but some stayed with breeders in the area, and their families still preserve the descendants of those animals. From the 1820s to 1860s Exmoors were used to produce crossbreeds, which although successful were not as hardy as their ancestors. In 1893, the ponies were described in Sidney's *Book of the Horse* as around 12 hands (48 inches, 122 cm) high, usually bay in color, and with conformation similar to what it is today. In the late 1800s, the National Pony Society began to register Exmoors and Exmoor crossbreeds. In 1921, the Exmoor Pony Society was formed, and published its first stud book in 1963.^[1]

The Second World War led to a sharp decrease in the breed population as the moor became a training ground. The breed nearly became extinct, with only 50 ponies surviving the war. This was partially due to soldiers using some ponies for target practice and others being stolen and eaten by people in the cities.^[8] After the war, a small group of

breeders continued to preserve the population, and publicity in 1981 resulted in increased interest in the breed.^[1] The first Exmoors in North America were imported to Canada in the 1950s, and several small herds are still maintained there. In the 1990s, small herds of Exmoor ponies were established in various areas of England. These herds are used to maintain vegetation on nature reserves, many being managed by organisations such as the National Trust, Natural England, and County Wildlife Trusts.^[9]

Every purebred registered Exmoor is branded with a four-point star on the near (left) shoulder, although branding has attracted criticism. In addition to the British Exmoor Pony Society, there is also the Exmoor Pony Association International, an organisation founded in the US that registers Exmoors worldwide. In 2000, the Moorland Mousie Trust, a British organisation, was established to assist in the preservation of the Exmoor pony. There is little market for Exmoor colts, so the organisation works to raise funds for the gelding and training of these horses.

Currently, the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy considers the population of the Exmoor to be at "threatened" levels, meaning that the estimated global population of the breed is less than 5,000 and there are less than 1,000 registrations annually in the US. The UK Rare Breeds Survival Trust considers the breed to be "endangered", meaning that population numbers are estimated to be less than 500 in Great Britain. The Equus Survival Trust considers the breed to be "critical", meaning that there are between 100 and 300 active adult breeding mares in existence today. As of 2010, there are estimated to be around 800 Exmoor ponies worldwide.



Exmoor ponies in their native habitat

Uses

In the past, Exmoors were used as pit ponies. Ponies not kept in semi-feral conditions are used for a variety of activities including showing, jumping, long-distance riding, driving, and agility.^[10] Exmoor ponies won the International Horse Agility Championships in 2012. The breed's hardiness makes it suitable for conservation grazing, and it contributes to the management of many heathland, chalk grassland and other natural pasture habitats, as well as to the conservation of Exmoor itself.

References

Notes

- [1] Dent & Hendricks 2007, pp. 180–181.
- [2] Sponenberg 2003, p. 30.
- [3] Daniel 1950, p. 173.
- [4] Johns & Potter 2002, p. 24.
- [5] Brown, Bennett & Rhodes 2009, pp. 50–61.
- [6] Johns & Potter 2002, p. 28.
- [7] Budd 1998.
- [8] Dustan 2005, pp. 300–301.
- [9] •
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- [10] •
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- Brown, Antony; Bennett, Jenny; Rhodes, Edward (April 2009). "Roman mining on Exmoor: a geomorphological approach at Anstey's Combe, Dulverton". *Environmental Archaeology* (Maney Publishing) **14** (1): 50. doi: 10.1179/174963109X400673 (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1179/174963109X400673>).
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Further reading

- Morrison, Alex (1980). *Early man in Britain and Ireland: an introduction to Palaeolithic and Mesolithic cultures*. Croom Helm. ISBN 0-85664-084-0.
- Smith, Christopher (1992). *Late Stone Age hunters of the British Isles*. Routledge. ISBN 978-0-4150-7202-1.

External links

- Exmoor Pony Society (<http://www.exmoorponysociety.org.uk/>)
 - Exmoor Ponies in Conservation (EPIC) (<http://exmoorpony.org>)
-

Faroe pony

Faroe Pony



Faroe ponies

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alternative names | Faeroes pony, Faroese horse, Faeroe Island Horse, Føroyski Hesturin (Faroese) |
| Country of origin | Faroe Islands |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The Faroe pony, Faeroes Pony, or Faroese Horse,^[1] (føroyska rossið in Faroese)) is a small pony, its height is between 11.1 to 12.1 hands (45 to 49 inches, 114 to 124 cm). Technically a pony due to its height, people on the Faroe Islands call it a horse because of its strength. The Faroe pony is only to be seen on the Faroe Islands and therefore is little known in other countries.

Features

The colors of the pony are mainly brown, chestnut and black. It is known to be very hardy, friendly, adaptable and surefooted pony with three gaits including the tölt, an ambling gait which it shares with the Fjord and Icelandic horses.^[2]

History

The pony was used in the old days to carry or haul heavy loads at the farms and when it wasn't at work, it was released onto the mountains where it roamed free. Today it is mostly used as a riding horse for children.



Faroe horses are an iconic image of the Faroe Islands

The Faroe pony has been on the Faroe Islands for many hundreds of years. By the 1960s there were approximately five or six horses left on the Faroe Islands because of the extensive exporting of horses from the Faroes for use in mining (as pit ponies) in the United Kingdom. With huge efforts, the number has now increased to about 50 horses and the aim is to maintain and develop it further.

The Faroe pony has since been recognised as a unique breed.

References

- [1] Faeroes Pony (<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/faeroes/index.htm>) Retrieved on 21-3-2009
- [2] Harris, Susan E. *Horse Gaits, Balance and Movement* New York: Howell Book House 1993 ISBN 0-87605-955-8 pp. 50–55

External links

- Information on Faroese pony (<http://hestar.teletech.fo/english.html>)
- Faroese pony stamps (<http://www.faroestamps.fo/?sprog=&side=a88fc992741d1574d0045cc5f762e5fe>)
- Department of Animal Science at Oklahoma State University (<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/faeroes/index.htm>)

Fell pony

Fell pony



The **Fell pony** is a versatile, working breed of mountain and moorland pony originating in the north of England in Cumberland and Westmorland (Cumbria) and Northumberland. It was originally bred on the fell farms of northwest England, and is used as a riding and driving pony. The breed is closely related to its geographic neighbour, the Dales pony, but is a little smaller and more ponylike in build. The Fell pony is noted for hardiness, agility, strength and sure-footedness.

Breed characteristics

Fell ponies vary a good deal in weight and size, so that ponies may be found to carry almost any rider. The average height of the breed is 13.2 hands (54 inches, 137 cm), and the upper height limit for the breed is 14 hands (56 inches, 142 cm). The breed was bred for the harsh environment of Northern England, so they are adaptable to almost any climate.

The colours accepted in the breed are black, brown, bay and grey. Chestnuts, piebalds and skewbalds are not allowed. A star on the head and/or a small amount of white on or below the hind fetlock is acceptable. However, excess white markings are discouraged.

The Fell pony should be hardy and show good pony characteristics, including strong flat bone. It should exhibit intelligence and self-preservation considered common to British mountain and moorland pony breeds, and at the same time, have a lively and alert attitude. The breed generally has a steady temperament.

The Fell pony has the regular gaits, noted for correct movement and is considered sure-footed in rough terrain.

Fell ponies are reliable jumpers and agile, which makes them useful for cross country riding or hunting. Most animals of the breed lack the scope to make top class jumping ponies, but Fell ponies generally are well up to local show or Pony Club event standard.

Breed history

The Fell pony shares its origins with the now-extinct Galloway pony which was also the root of the Dales pony. It is believed to have originated on the border between England and Scotland, quite probably pre-dating Roman times. The Fell Pony Society makes no claims about any input from imported Roman war stallions being crossed with these ponies.

In the early stud books, 50% of ponies were brown in colour, though over the last few decades black has become predominant, followed by brown, bay and grey.

They are primarily a working breed of pony with activity, stamina, hardiness and intelligence that enables them to live and thrive in tough conditions out on the fells in the Lake District.



Modern Fell pony

Use as packhorses

The Fell pony was originally used as a packhorse, carrying lead, slate, copper and iron ore. They were also used for light agriculture and the transportation of bulky farm goods such as wool. With their sturdy bodies, strong legs and equable disposition, and being good, fast walkers, they would travel up to 240 mi (390 km) a week. They were favoured by the Vikings as packhorses as well as for ploughing, riding and pulling sledges. Their use as packponies continued into the 20th century when they were also used in pack-pony trains and by postal services. Some Fell ponies were famed in the North as fast trotters. There are tales of distances covered at great speeds by these ponies.

In recent times

Fells at the present are being used for pleasure riding and competitive uses, pack-work, trekking and shepherding. The Fell pony can be seen in the horse show world, seen in in hand, under saddle, and working hunter pony classes. They also do well in driving and endurance riding.^[1] They are very suitable for riding and driving for persons with disabilities.

A Fell pony can be used as an all-round family pony. It is capable of carrying both children or adults, and versatile enough to fulfill a variety of jobs otherwise carried out by two or three more specialised animals. The rise of carriage driving as a recreational activity has provided the Fell pony a renewed job which it traditionally performed for centuries. A few Fell ponies are still used in Scotland carrying the stags and grouse panniers down from the moors. Some of the ponies of Queen Elizabeth II are sometimes used for this purpose at Balmoral, while others are used for both riding and driving by the Royal Family. Fell ponies have recently been used to carry equipment into the hills for repair of footpaths in the Lake District.

Fell Pony Society

The Fell Pony Committee resolved to become a Society in 1916,^[2] "to keep pure the old breed of pony that has roamed the northern hills for years". However, it was not until 1918, with the end of World War I, that the resolution became reality. In 1922 the Society restructured itself on "more liberal lines" in order to attract more members to the support of the Fell pony.^[3] Nonetheless, the breed's numbers decreased considerably, until 1945, when a breeding "stallion enclosure" program and a grading-up system were started. The program was discontinued in 1970. In the affluent 1950s, riding for pleasure began to gain popularity, securing the future of many British native breeds. The

number of ponies being registered with the Fell Pony Society has risen gradually ever since.

All Fell ponies are registered through the society, with an annual stud book published each year. The Society's patron is Queen Elizabeth II.

References

- [1] Newsletters of the Fell Pony Society, Autumn 2009 (<http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk/Newsletters/2009.Autumn.FPS.NL.pdf>)
- [2] The Fell Pony Society (<http://www.fellponysociety.org>)
- [3] The Fell Pony Society in the 20th century (<http://www.fellpony.f9.co.uk/fells/20thc/fpsoc2.htm>) at Fell Pony and Countryside Museums

External links

- The Fell Pony Society (United Kingdom) (<http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk/>)
 - Images (<http://www.heritageandhistory.com/contents1a/2008/10/heritage-farm-equipment/>) from the Fell Pony and Countryside Museums at Dalemain, Cumbria, England
 - Fell Pony Society and Conservancy of the Americas (<http://www.fellpony.org/>)
 - Fell Pony Society of North America (<http://www.fpsna.org/>)
-

French Saddle Pony

French Saddle Pony



An FSP mare

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alternative names | Poney Français de Selle |
| Country of origin | France |
| Breed standards | |
| Les Haras Nationaux | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **French Saddle Pony**, also called the Poney Français de Selle, is pony breed developed as a sport pony for children and smaller adult riders. It was initially developed in 1969 as the Poney de Croisement (Cross-bred Pony), and in 1972 a stud book was created. In 1991 the stud book was closed and the breed renamed to Poney Français de Selle. The breed combines a mix of French and British pony breeds, as well as Thoroughbred and Arabian blood, to create the horse seen today. Due to the large number of breeds used to create the French Saddle Pony, there is not yet a defined set of physical characteristics for the breed, although all tend to be suited for competition in English riding disciplines, including dressage, show jumping and three-day eventing. They fill a similar role as the British Riding Pony and the German riding pony.

Breed characteristics

The French Saddle Pony stands 125–148 centimetres (12.1–14.2 hands) high and can be any color. A set standard type does not yet exist, due to differences in bloodlines between various ponies, but the desired type is that of a small saddle horse. Despite the differences, the majority of ponies have some physical characteristics in common. The head is small with a straight or convex profile. The neck is long, the withers prominent, the chest wide and deep and the shoulders sloping and long. The croup is sloping and the legs are strong with large, clean joints and clearly defined tendons.



A French Saddle Pony being used in dressage.

History

The breeding program for the French Saddle Pony was initiated in 1969 by the Association Française du Poney de Croisement (French Association of Cross-bred Ponies), who wanted to create and promote a French Sport Pony, initially under the name Poney de Croisement (Cross-bred Pony). A stud book was created for the breed in 1972, and in 1991 the registry was closed to outside blood and the breed was renamed to Poney Français de Selle. The first ponies were created from a mixture of Arabian, New Forest, Welsh, Connemara and Thoroughbred blood. Later, Landais, Pottok, Merens and Basque blood was added.

Today, the biggest breeding areas are in Mayenne, Normandy and Brittany, although the breed can be found throughout France. Due to its success in competition, it is becoming increasingly popular outside of France. Between 1977 and 2000, registrations increased from 95 to almost 1,300, although the population has declined slightly between 1997 and 2012 - a trend common to all French pony breeds.

Uses

French Saddle Ponies are mainly used as riding horses in competition events such as show jumping, dressage and three-day eventing, but are also used as harness ponies and for recreational riding. Many riding schools use French Saddle Ponies for novice riders, although they are also seen in competition as high as the international level. The breed fills a role similar to that of the British Riding Pony and the German riding pony.

References

- [1] <http://www.haras-nationaux.fr/information/accueil-equipaedia/races-dequides/pones/poney-francais-de-selle.html>

Galician Pony

Galician Pony



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Country of origin | Spain |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Galician pony** (*cabalo galego* or *poldro galaico* in Galician) is a breed of pony developed in Galicia (Spain).

It has had an influence on the Galiceno breed in Mexico and, allegedly, on the Mustang. It is thought to have developed partly from a mix of Celtic horses, Roman horses and horses brought to Galicia by the Swabians. The ponies are hardy and rugged. They are between 1.20 and 1.40 meters in height, and have a short body and strong legs. They have a straight profile, and usually are bay in color. ^{[1][2][3]}

In the Middle Ages these ponies were rented or swapped for other horses at the border between Galicia and Castile, since the Galician pony was more sturdy and suitable for the rugged landscape of the country.^[4] The ponies are currently used for riding and meat production, although they had been used to produce brushes from their mane hairs. A herdbook was formed in 1994.

A 1973 study by Pedro Iglesias estimated more than 20,000 Galician ponies are free in the mountains of Northwestern Iberian Peninsula. Nevertheless, it is thought that their numbers have probably decreased. Once a year, the semi-feral herd is driven from the mountains to the *curro*, where the ponies are branded and their manes and tails are cut. Some are sold, while the rest are set free again.

At present, the Galician pony is regulated and protected by the Galician government, in an attempt to increase the numbers of the feral stock.

References

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- [2] Galician pony (<http://voices.yahoo.com/galician-pony-breed-history-characteristics-10761703.html?cat=53>). Accessed 18 april 2005
- [3] Pura raza galega (<http://www.rios-galegos.com/puraraza.htm>). Access date 10 October 2008
- [4] O'Flanagan, P. (1996), in "Xeografía Histórica de Galicia", Xerais, Vigo

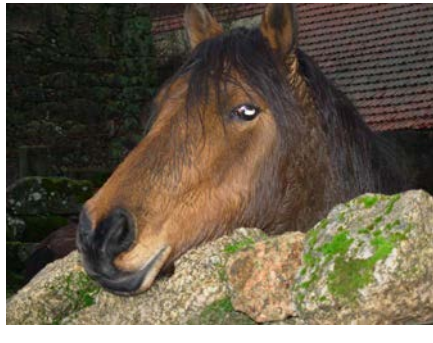
External links

- Asociación Pura Raza Cabalo Galego (<http://www.cabalogalego.com>), official body responsible for the "Galician horse" (maintained by the Galician Government) (in Galician)
- Galician Pony (<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/galician/index.htm>) (in English)
- Breed Standard (http://aplicaciones.magrama.es/arca-webapp/descarga/fichero.html?nombre=PR_gallega_orden_4_abril_2001.pdf&contentType=application/pdf) Official regulations regarding the Stud Book and breed

zoometric standard (in Spanish)

Garrano

Garrano



Garrano: head detail.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Country of origin | Portugal |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Garrano** is an ancient breed of horse from Galicia and northern Portugal, mainly used as a pack horse, for riding, and for light farm work.

Breed history

The Garrano, sometimes called the Minho, is an ancient breed from the north of Portugal. The Garrano mainly lives in the fertile regions of Minho and Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro.

Genetically related to other Atlantic horse breeds, it is generally believed that the Garrano is one of the ancestors to the Galician Pony and the Andalusian. Recently, the breed has had infusions of Arabian blood, implemented by the Portuguese Ministry of Agriculture. This has refined the breed, but the ponies have also begun to lose some of their primitive features.

The ponies are used for riding and light farm work. The military used them for pack purposes, and they are also good in harness.

Breed characteristics



Garrano (Gerês).

The ponies are strong and hardy, and very sure-footed with the ability to travel over steep and difficult terrain. For their size they have great speed and are used in trotting races.

The pony now has some Arab-type traits, especially in the head which is fine, with a concave profile, although it can be heavy. They have a long neck set on a straight shoulder. The body is short and compact, the hindquarters muscular, and the tail low-set. They have a deep and wide chest, hard hooves, and broad joints.

The pony is usually bay, chestnut or brown in colour and stands between 10 and 14 hh.

Sources

- Garrano history ^[1]

References

- [1] <http://www.equinekingdom.com/breeds/ponies/garrano.htm>

Gayoe

Gayoe

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Country of origin | Sumatra, Indonesia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Gayoe**, also known as the **kuda-Gayo** is a pony from the island of Sumatra, found near Aceh.^[1] The name is derived from the Gayoe hills in the north of the island.^[2]

The Gayoe is one of eight breeds native to Indonesia; the others are the Batak Pony, Deli pony, Bali Pony, Java Pony, Sumba and Sumbawa Pony (and closely related Sandalwood Pony) and Timor Pony.^[3]

Characteristics and uses

Gayoe ponies are generally solid-colored, usually a dark bay shade commonly called "brown." Adults are approximately 12.2 hands (114 cm) tall at the withers, and small-bodied.

They are primarily used for transportation on Sumatra, and the 1997 FAO Breed Survey indicated that the breed has a stable population of about 7500 animals, thus it is not endangered.

References

- [1] FAO Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) (http://dad.fao.org/cgi-bin/EfabisWeb.cgi?sid=2b4c20871e3be9e23b9765498f7dc242,reportsreport8a_50008495), accessed December 8, 2007
- [2] "About the Batak-Deli breed" (<http://www.pet-insurance.net/horse-insurance/Batak-Deli-horse-insurance.htm>)
- [3] "Races de chevaux et d'équidés" *Lexique du cheval!* (Includes English section) (http://www.lexiqueducheval.net/lexique_races_b.html) Web page accessed December 8, 2007

German Riding Pony

German Riding Pony



German Riding Pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alternative names | Deutsches Reitpony |
| Country of origin | Germany |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Deutsche Reitpony** or **German Riding Pony** is a very popular pony breed in Germany. It is described as a "miniature warmblood" with refined, horse-like characteristics that make it suitable as both a children's pony and as a mount for sport horse competition in Europe. The breed is relatively new to North America.

Characteristics

More than most pony breeds, the German Riding Pony has a phenotype very similar to that of a full-sized horse. Only the head is pony-like, giving the appearance of having a pleasant manner and friendly disposition. The German Riding Pony ideally is between 138 cm and 148 cm or approximately 13.2 hands to 14.2 hands, though in some European competition, ponies up to 151 cm are allowed, and these taller animals can compete against full-sized horses at CDI FEI-sanctioned competition.

The German Riding Pony is bred to be handled by children and adolescents. It is suited for both dressage and jumping, with a way of going that is smooth and very horse-like.

History



GRP stallion under saddle

The breeding of the *Deutsche Reitpony* began around 1965, by crossbreeding various English pony breeds, especially Welsh ponies, on Arabians, Anglo-Arabians and Thoroughbreds. The goal was to breed competition-quality ponies for children to ride in sport horse competitions, more easily controllable by children than the typical large Warmblood horses used by adults, while also keeping some Pony characteristics, including character, type and willingness to perform.

Initially, Thoroughbred and Arabian stallions were crossed on pony-sized Fjords and Haflingers. These cross-breeding attempts to produce a sport pony in one generation did not lead to the desired type.

After British pony breeds, primarily Welsh ponies were imported and added to the bloodline, by 1975 a distinct German riding pony type developed. In the 1990s attempts were made to further improve the breed through the infusion of Trakehner, Hanoverian and Holsteiner blood, but this infusion of horse blood was unsuccessful: the pony type and qualities were often lost. Today's German Riding Pony breeders use specific bloodlines to reliably create German Riding Ponies that fulfill the goal of a pony type who competes with the athleticism of a small warmblood.

Today, the German Riding Pony breed has distinct bloodlines, and all ponies that will be used as breeding stock must pass rigorous inspections. Some infusion of Welsh pony and Arabian blood is still used.

Uses

Pony sport horse competitions or "tournaments" are popular in continental Europe, and ponies are shown by children and adolescents up to 16 years of age in the disciplines of dressage, show jumping, and eventing. Major tournaments for pony riders include the German Youth Championships, the European Championships and the "Preis der Besten," a team competition, which will be in dressage, with the International Dressage tests of the FEI ridden, for preparatory examination, team and individual scoring. This competition is very popular and both contestants and coaches vie for spots on the respective participating teams.

The German Riding Pony breed is relatively new to the United States, with a few imports and a single breed registry authorized to conduct inspections for breeding stock.

References

- About German Riding Ponies ^[1]
- The German Riding Pony ^[2]
- Description, includes photos ^[3]

References

[1] <http://www.throughconnection.com/AboutGRPs.html>

[2] <http://www.longviewfarm.us/thegermanridingpony.html>

[3] <http://www.tiho-hannover.de/einricht/zucht/eaap/descript/1466.htm>

Gotland Pony

Gotland Pony



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Alternative names | Gotland russ |
| Country of origin | Sweden |
| Common nicknames | Russ Skogsbagge (sv) Skogsruss (sv) |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

Gotland pony or **Gotland russ** is an old Swedish pony breed. Gotland ponies are claimed to descend from Tarpan that lived on the small island of Gotland that is on the South-Eastern coast of Sweden right after the last ice age. The Gotland pony is the only breed of pony native to Sweden. The Öland horse from the neighbouring island of Öland was a close relative of the Gotland, but went extinct in the early 20th century.

Characteristics

The Gotland Russ has a light and narrow build with sloping quarters and a low-set tail. Their hooves are good and hard. This pony generally stands from 115–130 cm at the withers (47-52 inches, 11.3 to 13 hands) and is ideally between 123-126. Three-year old pony must be 115–128 cm. The pony is strong and hardy, and can be ridden by children and small adults.

Wildtype bay and mealy (Pangare) are very common in the breed. Common colors include bay, chestnut, black, buckskin, and palomino, but all colors except for dun, grey, and pinto, are allowed. ay or black is usually preferred.



Gotland ponies in Slotsskogen, Gothenburg.

History

The name *russ* comes from a now obsolete word *ross*, which means a riding horse or a charger^[1] and it is linked etymologically to the English word *horse* (in Old High German this word appeared as *hros*, and in English a metathesis has switched the places of the /r/ and the /o/, whereas in Swedish /hr/ went to /r/, producing *ross* or *russ*.^[2]

This breed of horse resembles the Hucul and Konik of Poland. Like those horses, aficionados claim the Gotland Russ descended from the Tarpan, though this is unlikely and DNA studies indicate the pattern of development was akin to most other landrace breeds, where domesticated stallions were crossed on local indigenous mares.

Once the Gotland ponies lived wild on the island. Nowadays a semi-feral herd is kept in the 650-acre (2.6 km²) enclosed area of Lojsta moor where the horses live all year round.

In the beginning of the 19th century Gotland ponies still lived everywhere on the island, but due to logging and the increasing cultivation the number ponies had begun to lessen menacingly. Plenty of ponies were also taken to the manner Europe, and around 1870 they were sold 200 per year. They were transported all the way to Great Britain and Belgium where they were used in coal mines. Extinction of the breed was avoided when the ennobling society was founded in Sweden. To the society's merit the moors and forests of Lojsta were protected for the ponies to live in.

The first pedigree-book for Gotland ponies was opened in Sweden in 1943. To improve the breed two Wales pony stallions have been accepted in it: Reber General and Criban Daniel. The pedigree was closed in 1971 after which only registered Gotland ponies have been accepted in it.

Today, they are mainly bred in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and North America.

Uses

The Gotland Russ is the most common breed of pony in Sweden. It is a good all round pony and is often used by riding schools. Modern Gotlands are most popular as a riding ponies, often for children, and as harness racing ponies. They also excel at show jumping, dressage, and eventing. The Gotland is considered to be a very quick learner, and described as easy to train.

References

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- [2] Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, 1973.

Further reading

- Eternell Hagen, Eva (1997). *Gotlandsrusset*. Stabenfeldt AB. ISBN 91-7117-252-1.

External links

- Department of Animal Science-Gotland (<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/gotland/index.htm>)
- American Livestock Breed Conservancy: Gotland Horse (<http://www.albc-usa.org/cpl/gotland.html>)

Guizhou pony

Guizhou pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Country of origin | China |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Guizhou** pony is a small pony from the Guizhou province of China.

History

As Guizhou is a mountainous province, agriculture was developed as early as 770 B.C. in the basin area of the province, and trade in horses and salt was of great importance. Some breeds from outside the country were introduced in the 1950s but did not bring beneficial results, so the Guizhou is still bred in pure form and is classified as a native breed.

Uses

In plantation areas the horses were used mainly for cultivation and transport. In hilly regions this breed has always been a good pack horse, somewhat smaller than the type used for agricultural purposes. The Guizhou horse is active and vigorous, good for travel in hilly regions, and can trot at a steady speed for long distances. This breed is the main power source for the mountain farmers.

Characteristics

Approximately half of the Guizhou horses are bay or chestnut, others being gray, black, and dun. This horse is compact and short bodied with a solid build. The head has a straight profile, ears small and set up. In the riding type the neck tends to be sloped, while the pack type has a level neck. The withers are medium in height and length; the chest is of good width and depth; the rump is short and sloping but well muscled; the shoulder is short and tends to be straight. The forelegs have good posture while the hind legs are often sickled; the hoof is solid and tough and shoes are unnecessary even in the mountains. The skin is thin; mane and tail are thick. Guizhou horses are willing and obedient and have a kind, patient temperament.

References

- Hendricks, Bonnie. *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds*, page 207

Hackney pony

Hackney Pony



Hackney pony. 2007 Horse of the Year nominee, Free Willy, in Road Pony competition

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Fine, slim, well-proportioned body; long, arched neck; set tail; animated and exaggerated motion |
| Country of origin | England |
| Common nicknames | "Aristocrat of the Show Ring" |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Hackney pony** is a breed of pony closely related to the Hackney horse. Originally bred to pull carriages, they are used today primarily as show ponies. The breed does not have its own stud book, but shares one with the Hackney Horse in all countries that have an official Hackney Stud Book Registry.

History

The Hackney Pony was originally developed by Christopher Wilson. He used Sir George, a Hackney stallion foaled in 1866, to breed with Fell Pony mares, and then interbred the offspring to make a fixed type of pony. He desired to create not a miniaturized horse, but rather a true pony with such characteristics. Extracting the large trot and other characteristics of the hackney horse and applying them to this true type of pony, he was successful in creating the form which was desired. This is one case of an entire type of breed that is formed in a controlled, private environment. In addition to the mixing of Fell ponies and Hackney horses, the Hackney Pony probably also has much Welsh Pony blood.

First known as Wilson Ponies, they were usually kept out all year, wintering in the inhospitable Fells with little food or care. This developed the breed's great toughness and endurance. By the 1880s the breed was established, and was very much liked for its great trotting ability and class.

The breed was used in Great Britain as carriage horses and were also imported into the United States. They were considered to be very stylish to drive during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when automobiles were still uncommon. After horses were replaced by cars as a primary means of transportation, Hackney ponies, along with many other horse breeds, were deemed unable to contribute to society and declined considerably. After World War II, however, the Hackney pony developed into primarily a show pony, and remain being bred for that purpose today. Thus their drastic decline in numbers and plight toward extinction came to an end, and the breed was popularized once again.

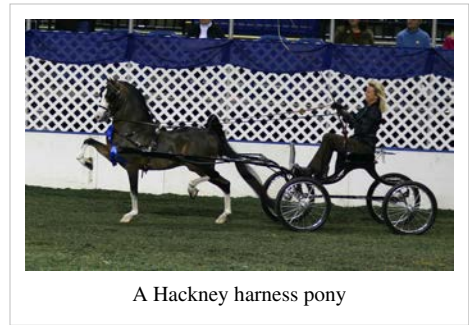
Many Hackney pony breeders today continue to develop a quality, refined pony. In the United States, Hackney ponies have also had considerable influence on the American version of the Shetland pony. They were crossbred with Shetlands to produce the American Shetland show pony of today, a type which displays many of the refined characteristics of the Hackney pony. The Hackney has also influenced the miniature horse, adding refinement and

action.

Characteristics

General appearance

The Hackney pony may not be above 14.2 hands (hh) and usually range between 12 and 14 hh. It should have true pony characteristics, and should *not* be a scaled down version of the Hackney Horse. The pony should have a small pony head, carried high, with alert and pricked ears and large, intelligent eyes. The neck should be muscular, arched, and carried proudly. They should have powerful shoulders, a compact back, and a light frame. The legs are strong with good joints, but the bone is usually fine. The feet are very hard, and are usually allowed to grow long in the toe to accentuate the action of the pony. The tail is often set and is carried high. They usually have even more exaggerated action than the Hackney horse, knees rising as high as possible and hocks coming right under the body. The action should be fluid, spectacular, and energetic.



A Hackney harness pony

Colors

Hackney ponies may be black, bay (which includes brown), or chestnut. Bay is by far the most common color, but black is also relatively common. Chestnuts, on the other hand, are extremely rare; their color is usually particularly light, and chestnut ponies often possess flaxen manes and tails. Many hackneys also have some white markings. Due to the sabino gene, common in the breed, the Hackney Pony may have white markings on its body as well as on its legs and head. The sabino gene (possibly a gene complex), is generally unpredictable, so breeding solely for body white marks can be difficult.

Temperament

The Hackney Pony also has a reputation for being tenacious and fearless, qualities that are seen in top-tier show ponies. They are very brave, alert, and active, and possess great stamina. Generally, they have pony character. Hackneys have a reputation for being friendly toward humans, and are suitable for both show and as companion animals.

Show Types

In the show ring, the hackney pony is most commonly seen being driven in harness. They are also shown under saddle, usually as road ponies, and in hand as weanlings or yearlings. The hackney pony division recognizes six categories of harness exhibition: Hackney Pony (cob tail), Harness Pony, Hackney Roadster, Park Pleasure Driving, Show Pleasure Driving, and Country Pleasure Driving.^[1] Their world's championship is the Kentucky Kentucky State Fair Horse Show in Louisville, Kentucky, and their national championship is the American Royal in Kansas City, Missouri.

Most classes require both a "Park Trot," executed in a highly collected manner and then exhibitors are given the command, "Show Your Pony," which permits an increase in speed to exhibit each pony to its best advantage. Excessive speed is undesirable and is penalized.

Hackney roadster

Hackney roadsters, or Road ponies, like roadsters, are shown to a two-wheel bike, or sulky. The driver always wears racing silks, usually with their barn represented by the colors of the silks. Road ponies are judged upon their action when trotting, as well as their speed, conformation, and temperament.

In addition to being shown with a bike, road ponies are shown under saddle by junior exhibitors or hooked to a four-wheel wagon. Wagon classes are relatively new but growing in popularity; the World's Championship Horse Show offered a wagon class for the first time in 2006.



An example of a road pony showing under saddle.

Hackney (cobtail) ponies



A hackney cobtail pony.

In the Cobtail pony division, ponies are shown with a tightly braided mane and appear to have a docked tail (though usually created only by trimming the tail short, not actual docking). They are generally taller, for any height of pony is permitted to show in the division as long as it is still a pony, not exceeding 14.2 hands.

Harness ponies

Harness ponies are perhaps the most elegant and beautiful of the hackney ponies. Whereas speed is a major factor among road ponies, harness ponies should be more collected, exhibiting a very animated and airy trot. A hackney must be smaller to show in the harness pony division, because it is required that the pony be 12.2 hands or under. They are shown to a four-wheel viceroy and possess a full mane and tail. The typical apparel for driving harness ponies is a suit for men, and a dress or other formal wear for women.

Pleasure ponies

There are also three pleasure driving classes for the breed, Park Pleasure, Show Pleasure, and Country Pleasure. There is no height requirements except that the hackney be a pony, and the pony can have a long or docked tail. Pleasure ponies are shown to a two-wheeled cart, and the driver usually wears more casual dress. They are shown at a road gait, pleasure trot, and flat walk. Temperament is a more primary factor for judges; the pleasure pony should indeed be a pleasure to drive.

Other types

Some hackneys are shown in one or two pairs in harness, though classes which are designated for this are fairly rare.

References

[1] USEF Rule Book, Hackney pony division (<http://usef.org/documents/ruleBook/2013/16-HK.pdf>)

The Encyclopedia of Horses & Ponies, by Tamsin Pickeral, Barnes & Noble Books, ISBN 0-7607-3457-7, p. 311.

- American Hackney Horse Society (<http://www.hackneysociety.com/>)

Highland pony

Highland Pony



The Highland Pony is a native Scottish pony, and is one of the largest of the mountain and moorland pony breeds of the British Isles. Its pedigree dates back to the 1880s. It was once a workhorse in the Scottish mainland and islands, but today is used for driving, trekking and general riding. They are very hardy and tough, they rarely require shoeing, and are very economical to keep. They usually don't need rugs, and are generally free from many equine diseases.

Breed characteristics

The Highland Pony is one of the three native breeds of the Scottish Highlands and Islands, the others are the Shetland pony and the Eriskay pony. Over many centuries the breed has adapted to the variable and often severe climatic and environmental conditions of Scotland. The winter coat consists of a layer of strong badger-like hair over a soft dense undercoat, which enables this breed of pony to live out in all types of weather. This coat is shed in the spring to reveal a smooth summer coat. This essential hardiness is combined with a kindly nature and even temperament.^[1]

The height of a Highland pony is between 13 hands to 14.2 hands. The head is well-carried and alert with a kindly eye, broad muzzle and deep jowl. Reasonable length of neck going from the withers with a good sloping shoulder and well-placed forearm is desired. Ponies are to have a well-balanced and compact body with deep chest, well-sprung ribs, powerful quarters with a well-developed thigh, strong gaskin and clean flat hocks. Desired traits also include: flat hard bone, broad knees, short cannon bones, oblique pasterns and well-shaped broad dark hooves.

Feather hair behind the fetlocks is soft and silky. When Highland ponies are shown, the mane and tail is kept natural, flowing and untrimmed.

Highland ponies are seen in a range of dun shades. The Highland Pony Society recognizes shade variations referred to as "mouse," (known in other breeds as grullo) "yellow," (bay dun) "grey," (dun with gray gene that lightens with age) and "cream" (a dun apparently also possessing a dilution factor). Other, nonstandard, terms such as "fox dun", (describing a red dun) "oatmeal dun" and "biscuit dun" (describing a cream dun) are sometimes also used. They also may be grey, seal brown, black, and occasionally bay or a shade of liver chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail.

Dun-coloured ponies have primitive markings which include a dorsal stripe and some show zebra markings on legs. A transverse shoulder stripe is also often present. Foal coat often changes and many ponies change colour gradually as they grow older. Others show a slight seasonal change in colour between winter and summer coats. "Broken"

colours such as pinto are not allowed.

The Highland Pony Society actively discourages white markings of any description other than a small white star. Stallions with white markings other than a small star are not eligible for licensing by the Highland Pony Society. No white markings (other than a small star) nor white legs or white hooves are acceptable in the show ring.

History

Tracing the history of the breed presents difficulties. In the earliest period of development of the domesticated breed, there were two types: the small and light pony of the Western Isles, and the larger and heavier mainland-bred type. The larger animals were commonly called garrons, though the term is considered incorrect. Both types have integrated now, and thus there is generally less distinction between the types within the Highland pony breed. However the phenotype of the smaller type survives in the rare Eriskay pony.^[2]

In the 16th century, French and Spanish horses, including the Percheron, were taken to the Scottish highlands. In the 19th century, a Hackney type and the Fell Pony and Dales Pony were added.

The breed was originally bred to work on the small farms of Scotland, hauling timber and game as well as ploughing. They are still used for such work, but are usually enjoyed as all-round ponies, good for jumping and trekking, due to their quietness, stamina, and ability to carry weight.

There are an estimated 5,500 Highlands in the world today, with most in Europe. Although some are still bred for their substance and stamina, the trend is to breed for a pony more suited for riding and driving. The breed is also commonly crossed with Thoroughbreds to produce good eventing horses. Despite increasing popularity, the breed is still categorised as Category 4, "At Risk" by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Working Highland Ponies

- Deer Ponies: Highland Ponies are still used to extract deer carcasses from the hill using saddles especially designed for the purpose. Several Breeders still supply Highland Ponies to carry deer.
- Horse Riding and Pony Trekking: The popular outdoor sport of Pony Trekking was credited with being started in Badenoch at nearby Newtonmore in 1952 by Ewan Ormiston, it is still possible to ride in Newtonmore with his grandson Ruaridh at the Newtonmore Riding Centre. Ormiston Highlands^[3]
- Croft Work: Highlands were used extensively on these small Highland agricultural units but are seldom used today.
- Logging: There is limited use of Highland Ponies for timber extraction.

References

[1] Highland Ponies: "Breed Characteristics" Highland Pony Society Web site. Accessed November 6, 2011 (http://www.highlandponysociety.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=14&Itemid=28)

[2] Valerie Russell, A Highland Breed History (<http://www.highlandponyenthusiasts.co.uk/ancestry-and-demand>)

[3] <http://www.ormistonhighlands.com/>

External links

- Highland Pony Society (<http://www.highlandponysociety.com/>)
- Highland Pony Enthusiasts Club (<http://www.highlandponyenthusiasts.co.uk/>)
- NPS - National Pony Society (<http://www.nationalponysociety.org.uk/>)
- Newtonmore Riding Centre Website (<http://www.newtonmoreridingcentre.com/>)

Hokkaido pony

Hokkaido pony



Hokkaido Pony "Dosanko"

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Country of origin | Japan |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Hokkaido pony**, generally called Dosanko (道産子) as a term of endearment, is an old but rare breed of pony native to Japan.^[1]

Breed characteristics

As in other Japanese breeds, the Hokkaido pony is found in most solid colors, and many are roan. White markings of any kind are rare and not allowed for registration. They stand between 13 and 13.2 hands high (132 to 137 cm). They are very strong for their size and have a willing temperament. They are also used as pleasure mounts or for transportation.

History

The Hokkaido pony is thought to have been brought to Hokkaidō from Honshū by fishermen during the Edo period (1600–1867). The fishermen came to Hokkaido in search of herring and the ponies were used for transportation, but were left in Hokkaido when the fishermen returned home in Autumn. The ponies were expected to survive without assistance in a land with very little vegetation and covered with snow throughout the winter, with the exception of bamboo grass found in the mountains. The fishermen would return in spring with new ponies and would also use the surviving ponies. The enduring strength for which the Hokkaido pony is now known is thought to have been developed in this way.

The Hokkaido pony is considered a descendant of the Nanbu horse, a breed which is thought to have been bred in Tohoku, the northern region of Honshū. However, the Nanbu breed no longer exists and there is no definitive information on its history. This is because the Nanbu horse was historically renowned as a military horse and was heavily crossbred during the late 19th century to develop a larger breed suitable for the military. It is thought that the animals brought to Hokkaido by fishermen were considered to be of inferior quality among the Nanbu breed, as the fishermen did not intend to bring them back.

The largest population of this breed is found on the Pacific coast of Hokkaido. They are the most plentiful of the remaining ancient Japanese ponies, numbering at around 2000. Hokkaido ponies are used for heavy transportation in the mountains where trucks and other equipment cannot go. Some ranchers in Hokkaido still winter the horses in the mountains, continuing the breed's hardiness. They feed mainly on bamboo grass and wander around in the mountains

in search of it. In spring they return to the ranches without assistance as during this time the bears awaken from hibernation in the mountains and start to prey on the foals.

References

- [1] The eight native Japanese horse breeds are the Hokkaido Pony, Kiso, Misaki, Miyako Pony, Noma pony, Tokara pony, Tsushima, and Yonaguni
- "Country Report (For FAO State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources Process)", Editorial Committee Office of the Japanese Country Report, Animal Genetic Resources Laboratory, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Japan. (<http://www.fao.org/AG/AGInfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/Interlaken/countryreports/Japan.pdf>)
 - Japanese horse breeds (<http://nihongoup.com/blog/japanese-horse-breeds/>)
-

Hucul pony

Hucul Pony



A Hucul Pony shown in-hand

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Alternative names | Carpathian Pony |
| Country of origin | Carpathian Mountains |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Hucul** or **Carpathian** is a pony or small horse breed originally from the Carpathian Mountains. It has a heavy build and possesses great endurance and hardiness. The breed is also referred to as the **Carpathian pony**, **Huculska**, **Hutsul**, **Huțul**, **Huțan** or **Huzul**. The breed gets its name from the Hutsul people, who live mostly in the Carpathians in Ukraine and in Romania, but also in an area in the East Carpathian Mountains north of the river Bistritz, officially named "Huzelei".

Characteristics

Hucul ponies are usually calm with a good disposition, and are used for both Hacking and pulling timber in otherwise inaccessible forested areas. They are usually bay, black, chestnut, or the grullo variation of dun, with a dorsal stripe and zebra stripes on the legs characteristic of the breed. Their conformation traits include a short head with a relatively short neck, compact body, short legs, and sound feet.^[1]



hucul horse

History

The Hucul bears some resemblance to the now-extinct Tarpan. Said to have originated in the Carpathian Mountain range of Eastern Europe covered by present-day Poland, Slovakia and Romania,^[1] it is named after the small ethnic group of Hutsuls. However, the horse breed is much older than the Hutsul people. The Huculs are probably depicted on the monuments erected by Roman Emperors Domitian and Trajan, as Dacian draft horses. The breed was mentioned for the first time in written resources around

400 years ago (as the "Mountain Tarpan"). Unlike the Polish Konik, the Hucul has been only rarely cross-bred with domestic horses.

In the 19th century, the Huculs were used by the Austro-Hungarian Army.

In 1856, the first stud farm was established at Rădăuți, Romania. Several bloodlines were established by the foundation stallions Goral, Hroby, Oușor, Pietrousu and Prislop, and the horses were carefully bred to preserve the purity of these bloodlines. In 1922, thirty-three horses were sent to Czechoslovakia to establish a herd there which would become the Gurgul line. World War II caused a severe decline in the number of Hucul horses in Czechoslovakia. After the end of the war, only 300 Hucul horses remained there. Even though a stud-book was established in 1924 in the Huzelei after Michal Holländer encouraged it, it was not until the early 1970s that breeders established an organization, Hucul Club, to prevent the extinction there caused by the declining number. In 1982 they established a stud book with fifty purebred animals and the goal of increasing the numbers in that region.

Thanks to the efforts of breeders, the world population of these horses now exceeds 1,000. Most of them live in Poland, Slovakia, Romania, the Czech Republic, and Ukraine. Many ponies in Europe also have Hucul blood. In recent years the popularity of this breed has spread as far as England.

Breeding centers

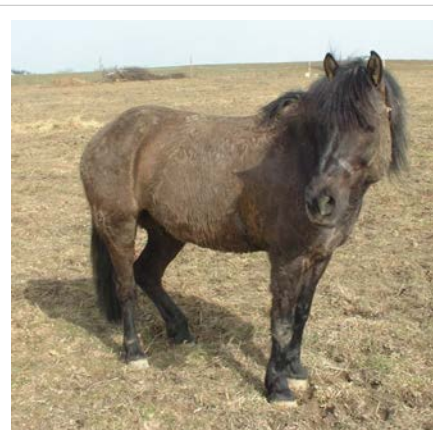
- Romania: Lucina, in the Moldova-Sulița commune
- Poland : Gładyszów, Odrzechowa
- Slovakia: Topoľčianky
- Hungary: Aggtelek
- Czech republic: Prague
- Ukraine: Steblivka

References

- [1] Horse Breeds - The Hucul Pony (http://www.worldofhorses.co.uk/horses_usa/Breeds/horse_breed_Hucul_Pony.htm)

External links

- Horse Breeds - The Hucul Pony (http://www.worldofhorses.co.uk/horses_usa/Breeds/horse_breed_Hucul_Pony.htm)
- Hucul or Carpathian Pony (<http://www.imh.org/museum/breeds.php?pageid=8&breed=21&alpha=Two>)
- Orders, prizes, photos, Odrzechowa, Poland (<http://www.odrzechowa.izoo.krakow.pl>)
- Hungarian Hucul stud farm in the Aggtelek National Park (<http://www.huculmenes.hu>)



A Hucul pony in a natural state



A Regional Championship of Hucul Horse in Rudawka Rymanowska

Indian Country Bred

Indian Country Bred

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alternative names | Bhutia Pony Bhotia Pony Bhote ghoda Bhutan Pony Bhutani Bhutua Pony Spiti Pony |
| Country of origin | India |
| Notes | |
| Interbred mixture of Bhutia and Spiti Ponies, with some Tibetan Pony blood. | |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

Indian Country Bred is the common name for the inter-bred mixture of Bhutia Ponies, Spiti Ponies and Tibetan Ponies. These animals have been interbred for years so that many of the individual characteristics of the Bhutia and Spiti have been lost, and they now are categorized as "Indian Country Bred". They originated in the Himalayan region of India, and are now found in the Buhtan, Sikkim and Darjeeling regions of India.

Suited to mountainous climate and terrain, they are not as able to endure humidity and heat. Lack of nutritious grasses generally affects the growth and development of the ponies, although they have become incredibly tough and self-sufficient, requiring little fodder. The conformation of these ponies is usually not superior. They have a large head and pronounced jaw, short neck, low withers, sloping quarters, and deep chest. The shoulder is a bit straight and upright, the legs, although short, are very strong.

Bhutia-type ponies range in height from 12-13.2 hh, and are usually gray in color, although a few are chestnut or roan. Spiti-type ponies usually never get taller than 12 hh, and they are usually gray or dun in color, although they may be any solid color.

The ponies are kept mainly for work, mainly as pack ponies and sometimes for riding, to which their stamina and endurance serves them well. They generally have a willing and quiet temperament.

External links

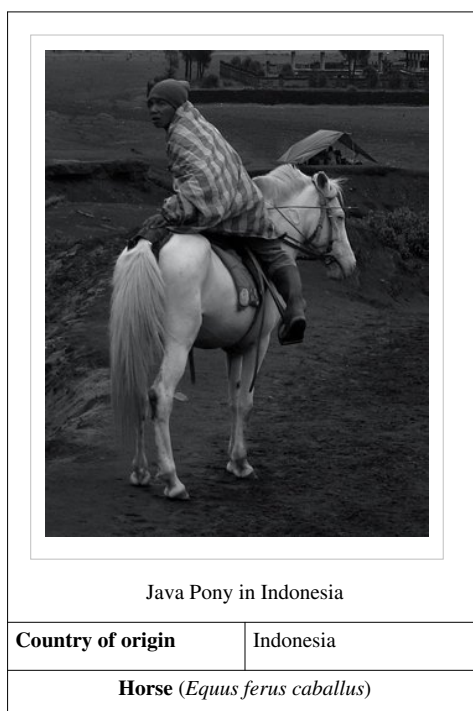
- Characterisation of Spiti Horses in India ^[1]

References

- [1] http://agtr.ilri.cgiar.org/AGTRWEB/Documents/Library/docs/agri34_04.pdf#page=78

Java Pony

Java Pony



The **Java pony** is a breed of pony developed on the island of Java in Indonesia. It is thought to have descended from wild forebears of Mongolian Wild Horse ancestry. There are eight breeds native to Indonesia, the others are the Batak Pony, Gayoe, Deli pony, Bali Pony, Sumba and Sumbawa Pony (and closely related Sandalwood Pony) and Timor Pony.^[1]

Characteristics

Java ponies have a light body with a short neck and a somewhat plain head. The average height is about 1.20 m. They are found in a variety of colors, and are a robust breed noted for working ability and endurance. The lightweight conformation of the breed is well-adapted to the tropical climate of Indonesia. The Dutch East India Company played a part in the development of many different Indonesian breeds through their introduction of oriental horses. Their first factory was established on the island of Java during the 16th century and from that time on they have imported harness and pack horses. A large part of the Java's heritage is due to the crossing of local stock with Arabian and Barb horses that were imported.

They are tough, wiry, and light of frame, which may have been due to nutrition deficient diets. The Java is not unremarkable, with a slightly attractive head with long ears and lively, expressive eyes. Their necks are usually quite short and very muscular, and the withers are pronounced, the shoulders reasonably sloping, and their chests deep and wide. They tend to have long backs and a slightly sloping croup with a high tail-set, probably reminiscent of their Arabian ancestry. The legs of this breed are poorly formed but surprisingly strong. They have fine bones with poorly developed joints and long cannon bones, and their feet are hard and tough. The Java can be any color and stands between 11.2 and 12.2 hands high.

The Java Pony is primarily used in agriculture in rural areas and for the transportation of passengers and goods in the cities. They are privately bred throughout the islands, though breeding is in many cases subsidized by the state, and ponies on various islands of Indonesia have noticeable differences in breed characteristics.

Today's Java pony is not startlingly similar to the Arabian in conformation but does seem to have inherited the Arabian's desert nature and remains highly resistant to heat. It also has inherited the incredible endurance and stamina from the Arab, and in spite of its small, weak-looking frame, can work relentlessly all day in broiling heat. One of these ponies' main jobs is pulling sados, which are a type of horse-drawn Indonesian taxi. They are often piled high with both goods and people but the Java ponies pull them with little apparent effort. They are also quite useful as pack ponies and for riding, and are used for both professions on the island. Unlike other Indonesian breeds, the Java pony is often ridden with a wooden saddle that has quite extraordinary stirrups. The stirrups have a piece of rope with a loop in the end through which the rider puts his toe. The Java ponies are very willing, quiet, and they have very good temperaments.

References

- [1] "Races de chevaux et d'équidés" *Lexique du cheval!* (Includes English section) (http://www.lexiqueducheval.net/lexique_races_b.html)
Web page accessed December 8, 2007

External links

- Java Pony (<http://www.equinekingdom.com/breeds/ponies/java.htm>) - Equine Kingdom

Kerry Bog Pony

Kerry Bog Pony



Young Kerry Bog Pony

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Small pony, uniquely adapted to boggy ground |
| Country of origin | Ireland |
| Breed standards | |
| Kerry Bog Pony Co-Operative Society of Ireland | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Kerry Bog Pony** is a mountain and moorland breed of pony that originated in Ireland. Possibly descended from the Irish Hobby horse, it originally lived a mainly feral existence in the peat bogs of what is now County Kerry in southwestern Ireland. Local inhabitants used the ponies as pack and cart horses for transporting peat and kelp to the villages. The breed developed physical characteristics including a low weight-to-height ratio and an unusual footfall pattern, which helped it move on soft ground such as peat bogs. The ponies were known for hardiness and an ability to survive in harsh conditions.

War, increasing mechanisation and declines in the local small-farm population almost resulted in the breed's extinction. In 1994, a local man found and genetically tested a herd of 20 ponies he used as the foundation stock for rebuilding of the breed. In the early 2000s, the breed was recognised by the Irish Department of Agriculture and Food and the European Commission; equine passports began to be issued for members of the breed, and small numbers of ponies were exported to the United States. At the same time, Irish and American breed registries were formed. As of 2011, the registered population is more than 300 ponies.

Characteristics

Kerry Bog Ponies generally stand 10 to 12 hands (40 to 48 inches, 102 to 122 cm) high. The Irish breed standard calls for mares to stand 10–11 hands and stallions and geldings to stand 11–12 hands. Their low weight-to-height ratio enables them to walk on wet ground. Their hind feet tend to track outside their front feet, allowing better progress on soft ground. They exhibit a relatively upright pastern and steep hoof angle compared to other breeds, possibly another characteristic that aids their movement in peat bogs. Kerry Bog Ponies are easy keepers, and when feral they lived on low-nutrient heather, sphagnum moss and possibly kelp from the shoreline. Overall, they are muscular and strong and their heads have concave profiles, small ears and large eyes. Their winter coat is long and dense, serving as protection from harsh weather. All solid coat colours are found, including dilute colours such as palomino, and white markings are common. Pinto-coloured animals are not accepted by the Irish registry. The breed is known by enthusiasts for strength, intelligence and athleticism, and generally used for driving, as companion animals and for therapeutic riding programs.



The head and thick mane and forelock of a Kerry Bog Pony

Kerry Bog Ponies are known in Ireland as "hobbies", possibly derived from the Gaelic practice of *obaireacht*, or the calling out of "Hup, Hup" to attract a pony back to the farmyard. It is considered one of the mountain and moorland pony breeds from the British Isles. A 2006 study using mitochondrial DNA found that the Kerry Bog Pony is not closely related to the other two native Irish breeds, the Irish Draught and the Connemara pony. It has a rare haplogroup more closely related to other small horse breeds found in western Europe, including the Shetland pony and Icelandic horse. A 2012 study found relationships between the Kerry Bog Pony and the Dartmoor Pony and Exmoor Pony breeds, and a lack of common ancestry with the Welsh Pony, as well as reinforcing the lack of relationship to the Connemara. The study also suggested that the Kerry Bog Pony population had some amount of crossbreeding with other mountain and moorland breeds as part of the initial attempts to increase the population in the 1990s. The Kerry Bog Pony may have been one of several breeds that contributed to the development of the Gypsy Vanner horse (also known as the Irish Cob).

History



A stallion with pack saddle

The original ancestry of the Kerry Bog Pony is unknown, but there were horses living a feral existence in peat bogs in what is now County Kerry in southwestern Ireland since at least the 1600s. Some enthusiasts claim that the breed is a descendant of the ancient Irish Hobby. In a 1617 book illustration, the horses pictured resemble both the Kerry Bog Pony of today and the original Irish Hobby, showing the two breeds' similar morphology. Originally, Kerry Bog Ponies were used to transport peat and kelp. They were known for their ability to navigate through the bogs, around soft spots and over rocks often in wet and windy weather, and for their strength relative to their small size. Some were trained to work in harness and used to pull carts. The ponies were turned loose into the peat bogs when they were not needed, then later re-caught for work. Few if any breeding programs existed; instead, they were left to reproduce in their feral setting. In 1720, Isaac Ware travelled to County Kerry and observed that the horses resembled Asturcón ponies from Spain.

The British cavalry became aware of the ponies in 1804, during the Peninsular War, and used them as pack animals during the conflict; most did not return to Ireland. The famine of 1845–1852 furthered their decline, as farmers who previously utilised them died or emigrated. In addition, Spanish donkeys were brought to the island to replace the ponies, and when peat declined as a fuel source, pack animals were no longer needed. In the 1850s, farms began to be consolidated, and more machinery and large draft horses were employed, further reducing the number of ponies needed. Consequently the ponies were left to run feral, mostly ignored and sometimes shot at by locals.

Re-emergence

In 1994, John Mulvihill, who operated the Red Fox Inn at the Kerry Bog Village in Glenbeigh, County Kerry, began a search for remnants of the Kerry Bog Pony population, despite reports that the breed was extinct. He eventually found 20 ponies that resembled those he remembered from his childhood, and removed them from the bog to his stables. In 1995, he had blood typing performed on the ponies by Weatherby's Ireland, which identified their DNA markers. Subsequent DNA testing showed them to be a unique breed that formed a separate population from other local ponies and from other breeds in Ireland and Great Britain. Of these 20 ponies, only one was a stallion, named Flashy Fox. Between 1995 and 2012, he sired more than 140 foals, and played a significant role in repopulating the breed.



A pony at the Kerry Bog Village Museum

Mulvihill continued breeding and promoting the ponies, and in 2002, the breed was recognised by the Irish Government as the Irish Heritage Pony. The same year, the Kerry Bog Pony Society was formed. Also in 2002, Americans became interested in the breed, and the first ponies were exported from Ireland to the US in 2003, to a farm in Ohio. In 2005, the American Kerry Bog Pony Society was founded, with 11 initial registrants. Also in 2005, the Irish Department of Agriculture and Food and the European Commission recognised the Kerry Bog Pony as an official breed; the following year, the Irish Horse Board issued the first equine passports for members of the breed. Until 2009, there was an exception in place that allowed unrelated ponies that met the physical breed standards to be bred as Kerry Bog Ponies, with the offspring being registered and given passports certifying them as purebred Kerry Bog Ponies. This was in part due to a concern of inbreeding among the small number of ponies initially registered. Kerry Bog Ponies were also part of the Irish Rural Environment Protection Scheme (closed to new applicants in 2009), which financially rewarded farmers for using environmentally-friendly methods. The Kerry Bog Village, an open-air museum on the Ring of Kerry is one location that breeds and houses part of the existing Kerry Bog Pony population.

As of 2011, there were 335 mares and 51 stallions registered with the Irish registry, which included 59 new foals that year. Herd numbers have steadily increased since registrations began in 2005. These numbers make the Kerry Bog Pony third in population numbers among Irish breeds, behind the Connemara pony and the Irish Draught. Despite the increasing numbers, the breed is still considered to be critically endangered by the Equus Survival Trust. The horses are administered by the Kerry Bog Pony Co-Operative Society of Ireland (formerly the Kerry Bog Pony Society), which is based in Ireland with a branch in Great Britain. Inspections are required before ponies are allowed into the studbook. The book is divided into four classes: Class 1 ponies meet all requirements, Class 2 ponies do not meet the height requirement, Class 3 ponies do not meet the color requirements, and Class 4 ponies have yet to submit to an official inspection. The breed association has hosted an annual breed show and sale in Glenbeigh, County Kerry since 2007.

References

[1] <http://kerrybogpony.ie/contents/page.php?v=19&u=breed-standard>

External links

- Kerry Bog Pony Cooperative (<http://www.kerrybogpony.ie/>)
 - American Kerry Bog Pony Society (<http://www.kerrybogpony.org/>)
-

Landais pony

Landais



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Small head, short back, hard feet, sloping quarters |
| Alternative names | Barthais |
| Country of origin | France (Landes) |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Landais** or **Barthais** is a small pony from the Landes region of southwest France, and from the area of Pau in particular. They are used for riding and driving, and are noted for their trotting speed, with one member of the breed holding the speed record for the 100 kilometres (62 mi) route between Paris and Chartres. Developed by crossing native French horse with Arabian and possibly English blood, many members of the breed lived a feral existence in the forests and marshes of Landes until after World War II. Deaths from war-related causes and cross breeding caused the breed population to drop precipitously during this time. Post-World War II, another pony type from the region, the Barthais, was merged into the Landais due to low population numbers. Breed numbers remain low, with less than 100 new foals born each year. A 2008 genetic study concluded the Landais was one of five French equine breeds that should be conservation priorities in order to maintain maximum genetic variability in the French horse population.

Breed characteristics

The Landais has a small head with a broad forehead and a straight profile. They have long, muscular necks and sloping shoulders. The withers are pronounced, and they have a short, wide back and a short, sloping croup. They are always bay, chestnut, black or brown and stand 11.1 to 13 hands (45 to 52 inches, 114 to 132 cm) at the withers.

The Landais is noted for being a good trotter; the 100 kilometres (62 mi) record set by the Landais Jongleur between Paris and Chartres was unbroken in 2010. The Landais is used for driving, jumping, eventing and dressage, and as a family pony. The Landais was used, along with Arabians, various English pony breeds and other French blood, to create the French Saddle Pony.

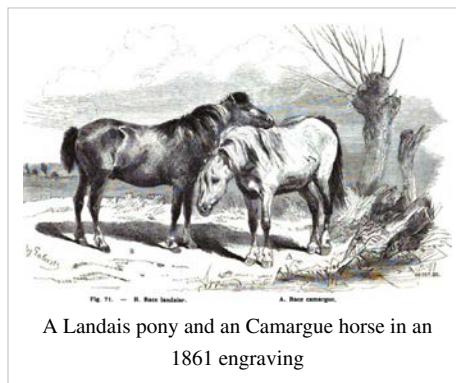
History

The Landais is an old breed, originally from the Landes region of southwestern France and probably influenced by Arabian or English blood. Some Arabian blood is thought to have been added around the time of the first Battle of Poitiers (AD 732) and probably again in the early 1900s. Many Landais lived in a feral state in the forests and marshes of Landes. In the early 19th century, plans were made to begin drying the swamps to further develop the forests for harvest. This pushed the ponies into clusters near ponds and coastal marshes, and they were sometimes hunted by people protecting the nearby sand dunes from the ponies' foraging. Until the mid-20th century, the feral herds of Landais continued to maintain their populations, with some members being caught for use or sale. During World War II, mines laid by the Germans to prevent shore landings killed many ponies, greatly reducing population numbers. Increasing numbers of automobiles in the area caused the removal of the remainder of the ponies, due to questions about their usefulness and increasing numbers of road accidents. Some Landais ponies now live in a semi-feral state with other livestock and wildlife on the banks of the Adour and Luy rivers in Landes.

In the early 1900s, nearly 2,000 purebred Landais could be found. After World War II, they were crossed with heavier breeds to increase their build, but the crossbreeding resulted in the diminishing of purebred Landais stock. In 1988, Arab and Welsh Section B stallions were being used to rebuild the original breed. In 2008, a genetic study was performed on French horse breeds, which concluded that the Landais and four other breeds should be the focus of French conservation efforts. Placing conservation priority on these five breeds, according to the study, would allow for the preservation of the maximum amount of genetic diversity among the French horse population. The majority of the Landais population is located in Pau, as of 2010, with a smaller number in their birthplace of Landes. Some ponies are also located in Paris, Brittany, Aquitaine and the Midi-Pyrenees. Annual births are low, ranging from 34 to 78 between 2000 and 2011.

The breed also includes the Barthais, a heavier, taller type of pony that was once considered to be a separate breed. Because only a small number of these ponies remained after World War II, the Barthais was merged into the Landais. Another type of pony, the Pony des Pins, which existed in Gironde, was categorized with the Barthais, but died out in the 1950s.

References



Lijiang pony

Lijiang pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Country of origin | China |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

Lijiang ponies are a newly developed breed of horse, restricted to the Lijiang District, in China. This is an area of high altitude with a greatly varied climate. The economy required a more powerful pony than was found in the area, so in 1944 the Arabian, Yili, Hequ, Kabarda and small type Ardennes were introduced. Crossbreeding and interbreeding of the progeny has developed a horse ideal for the needs of the area. Today, there are approximately 4,000 Lijiang ponies.

Lijiang ponies were crossed with Arab and Arab-Kabarda and the offspring were increased in size to about 12.2 hands, but additional work to increase the size of this breed has not yet been successful.

References

- Hendricks, Bonnie. *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds*, page 266

Lundy pony

Lundy Pony



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Country of origin | England |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Lundy Pony** is a breed of pony first developed on Lundy Island in England. The breed originated in 1928, when the owner of the island, Martin Coles Harman, introduced 34 New Forest pony mares, eight foals and a Welsh Mountain B strawberry roan stallion. Diana Keast, his daughter, explained why he chose to cross these breeds: "He wanted ponies with a bit of style and height. Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies were nearer and more convenient - after all he had to charter a special train to bring the ponies from Lyndhurst - but they wouldn't have had the height he wanted." The Welsh stallion died only a year after arriving on the island, having sired just one foal - a colt called Pepper. Luckily this first "Lundy pony" grew into an upstanding stud stallion, creamy dun with a black mane and tail. By the Thirties there were so many ponies roaming the island that about 50 were rounded up and sold on the mainland. During the war there was no way of shipping ponies from the island and the herd reached nearly 100. There was constant warring among the entire stallions so that in 1944 a number had to be put down.

The pony herd was moved from the island in 1980 and taken to Cornwall, where it continued to breed. Some were also taken to New Devon. In 1984, the Lundy Pony Breed Society formed to oversee the breed. The Society later decided to return some of the mares and foals to the island of Lundy.

Due to the harsh environment of the island, with its poor vegetation and severe weather, the ponies grew to be incredibly tough and hardy. They typically are dun, roan, palomino, bay, or liver chestnut in color, and rarely exceed 13.2 hh in height. The ponies have a wide, deep chest, sloping shoulder, and hard, sound legs. Their necks are usually well-set and muscular and their backs strong and compact. Lundy Ponies are useful as mounts for children, as they are both attractive animals and good natured.

External links

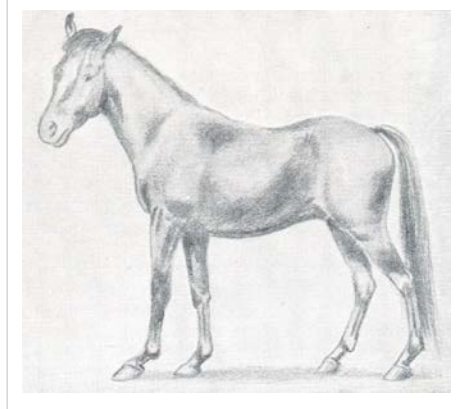
- Native Pony Enthusiasts Community ^[1] entry for Lundy Pony.

References

[1] <http://www.hamletshouse.co.uk/breeds/lundypony.htm>

Manipuri pony

Manipuri



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Medium sized pony, used mainly for polo |
| Alternative names | Manipur |
| Country of origin | India |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Manipuri pony** is a breed of pony developed in India. Experts disagree on its exact origin, although they do agree that it is an ancient breed, possibly developed from either the Tibetan pony or a cross between the Mongolian Wild Horse and the Arabian. First mentioned in written chronicles in 1584, Manipuri ponies were used as cavalry horses throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they were in demand by the British for use as polo ponies. Breed numbers have dwindled, however, mainly due to exports, and today the population is very low. In 2007, a genetic study was conducted on the Manipuri and four other Indian equine breeds. The Manipuri was shown to be genetically close to three other Indian pony breeds, but genetically more distant from the Marwari, the sole Indian horse breed in the study. The Manipuri pony was originally bred for polo and military usage, and today is bred mainly for playing polo and racing, although it is also in demand for military transport use.

Breed characteristics

The Manipuri breed has a light head with a straight profile, set on a well-formed neck, somewhat pronounced withers, a deep chest and sloping shoulders. The croup is sloping, the legs sturdy and the hooves well-proportioned. The breed's overall appearance is elegant, an inheritance from their Arabian ancestors. Manipuri ponies generally stand 11 to 13 hands (44 to 52 inches, 112 to 132 cm) high. They are often bay in color, but can also be pinto, gray and chestnut. Because of the short height of the ponies, riders use shortened mallets while playing polo. The Manipuri pony resembles, and is distantly related to, the Burmese Pony and the Indonesian Batak and Sumba ponies. In 2007, a study was published that examined genetic variation among five Indian equine breeds—the Manipuri, Marwari, Spiti, Bhutia, and Zanskari. Based on analysis of microsatellite DNA, the Manipuri was found to have the greatest genetic distance from the Marwari, and a much closer genetic distance to the other three breeds. The distance from the Marwari was not only genetic, but seen in physical characteristics, particularly height and environmental adaptability. The physical differences were attributed to differing ancestries: the Marwari horse is closely associated with the Arabian, while the four other breeds are thought to have descended at least in part from the Tibetan pony. None of the breeds in the study were found to be closely genetically associated with the

Thoroughbred.

History

Sources disagree as to the exact origins of the Manipuri pony, although all agree that it was derived from ancient stock. One source gives the ancestors of the pony as Tibetan ponies brought into India over a thousand years ago, while another states their origins to be a cross between the Mongolian Wild Horse and the Arabian, brought to India by invading Tartar tribes, who also brought the equestrian game of polo. Manipuri ponies have been bred for centuries in the Manipur area of northeast India. The first written mention of the breed dates to a brief statement in the 1584 Manipur Royal Chronicle. By the early 1600s, the breed was mentioned frequently in Manipur literature. They were often used as cavalry horses, and were ridden by Meitei warriors. Manipuri ponies played a major part in the cavalry commanded by Garib Newaz, whose horsemen terrorized upper Burma throughout the early 1700s and in 1738 were used during his Sack of Sagaing. Between 1859 and 1916, Manipuri ponies were extremely desired by the British for playing polo, and there were further infusions of Arabian blood in the 19th century, as British administrators and military officers sought to upgrade their polo ponies. The height of polo horses was initially restricted to 13 hands (52 inches, 132 cm), based on the average height of the Manipuri, and although this restriction was later relaxed to 14 hands (56 inches, 142 cm) and then removed altogether, demand for Manipuris was so high that the area was drained of them. At one point during this period, the export of ponies from Manipur was banned to allow the breed time to increase in number to a viable level. Manipuris were also used to transport British troops into Burma throughout World War II.

In 1977, the Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association was established to promote the Manipuri pony breed and the game of polo. In recent years, breed numbers have decreased, and estimates place the breed at somewhere between 2,300 and 1,000 in population in the 21st century. Population numbers continue to dwindle in part due to high numbers of ponies being smuggled into Myanmar (Burma), where the breed is in demand, after either having been purchased or stolen from their Indian owners. In 2005, a heritage park was begun by the Manipur Horse Riding and Polo Association with the goal of preventing the extinction of the breed and promoting them to tourists.

Uses

Polo was introduced into the area of Manipur state as early as the seventh century, and Manipuri ponies were one of the first breeds used in the game. The British learned of polo during the 19th century while watching it played on Manipuri ponies in India. The breed is still used for polo today in India, but other breeds are more popular in Europe and America. Manipuri ponies are often also used to play *sagol kangjei*, a version of polo believed to be close to what was originally played when the sport was invented. *Sagol kangjei* is more demanding than modern polo, as ponies are used for the entire match instead of being changed between periods. Manipuri ponies are also used for racing. During their early history, they were in demand as cavalry horses, and men that rode these ponies were thought well-mounted. They continue to be in demand for military uses.

References

Miyako pony

Miyako pony



Miyako pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Alternative names | Miyako horse |
| Country of origin | Japan |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Miyako pony** (宮古馬 *Miyako uma*Help:Installing Japanese character sets) is a rare breed of pony originating from Miyako Island, in Japan.

The Miyako is one of eight breeds considered native to Japan.^[1] Miyako Island in Okinawa Prefecture has been known as a horse breeding area for centuries, and small horses have always been found in this area. During and after World War II they were crossed with larger stallions to increased their size to around 14 hands for farming purposes. They are mostly used as riding ponies and for light draft work.

Around 1955, population of the breed peaked at around 10,000 head, but with the increase of motorization they began to decline. Since 1975 great efforts have been made to preserve the remaining few Miyako ponies, as the breed is of great antiquity. Only seven head were living as of 1983, the population grew to 25 horses by 1993, but had dropped back to 19 by 2001. The breed is protected by the Japanese government with its status listed as "Critical-Maintained."^[2]

Miyako ponies are mostly bay or dun in colour and resemble the Mongolian horse.

References

- [1] The eight native Japanese horse breeds are the Hokkaido Pony, Kiso, Misaki, Miyako Pony, Noma pony, Tokara pony, Tsushima, and Yonaguni
- [2] "Country Report (For FAO State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources Process)", Editorial Committee Office of the Japanese Country Report, Animal Genetic Resources Laboratory, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Japan. (<http://www.fao.org/AG/AGInfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/Interlaken/countryreports/Japan.pdf>)
- Hendricks, Bonnie. *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds*, page 286

External links

- Miyako pony movies (<http://nikadorifarm.ti-da.net/>) (Japanese)
 - Miyako pony images (http://zookan.lin.go.jp/kototen/uma/u324_8.htm) (Japanese)
 - Japanese horse breeds (<http://nihongoup.com/blog/japanese-horse-breeds/>)
-

Narym Pony

Narym Pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Country of origin | Siberia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Narym Pony** is similar to the Ob pony breed and originated near the same area in the central of the region near the Ob River of Western Siberia. The two breeds live under much the same ecological and economical conditions, and may be considered two groups or types of the same breed of northern forest horse. It stands between 13 and 14 hands high.

The Narym Pony is larger than the Ob pony and is crossed with draft horses and trotters in the southern part of the breeding area. In the north, it is bred pure.

References

- *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds* - written by Bonnie Hendricks - page307

New Forest pony

New Forest pony



New Forest pony at Spy Holms

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Very sturdy with plenty of speed, can be ridden by children or adults, all colours are acceptable except piebald, skewbald, and blue-eyed cream, but most are bay, chestnut, or grey |
| Country of origin | England |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **New Forest pony** is one of the recognised mountain and moorland or native pony breeds of the British Isles. Height varies from around 12 hands (48 inches, 122 cm) to 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm); ponies of all heights should be strong, workmanlike, and of a good riding type. They are valued for hardiness, strength, and sure-footedness.

The breed is indigenous to the New Forest in Hampshire in southern England, where equines have lived since before the last Ice Age; remains dating back to 500,000 BC have been found within 50 miles (80 km) of the heart of the modern New Forest. DNA studies have shown ancient shared ancestry with the Celtic-type Asturcón and Pottok ponies. Many breeds have contributed to the foundation bloodstock of the New Forest pony, but today only ponies whose parents are both registered as purebred in the approved section of the stud book may be registered as purebred. The New Forest pony can be ridden by children and adults, can be driven in harness, and competes successfully against larger horses in horse show competition.

All ponies grazing on the New Forest are owned by New Forest commoners – people who have "rights of common of pasture" over the Forest lands. An annual marking fee is paid for each animal turned out to graze. The population of ponies on the Forest has fluctuated in response to varying demand for young stock. Numbers fell to fewer than six hundred in 1945, but have since risen steadily, and thousands now run loose in semi-feral conditions. The welfare of ponies grazing on the Forest is monitored by five Agisters, employees of the Verderers of the New Forest. Each Agister takes responsibility for a different area of the Forest. The ponies are gathered annually in a series of drifts, to be checked for health, wormed, and they are tail-marked; each pony's tail is trimmed to the pattern of the Agister responsible for that pony. Purebred New Forest stallions approved by the Breed Society and by the New Forest Verderers run out on the Forest with the mares for a short period each year. Many of the foals bred on the Forest are sold through the Beaulieu Road pony sales, which are held several times each year.

Characteristics



A New Forest pony at an exhibition

Standards for the breed are stipulated by the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society. The maximum height allowed is $14.2\frac{1}{4}$ hands (58.25 inches, 148 cm). Although there is no minimum height standard, in practice New Forest ponies are seldom less than 12 hands (48 inches, 122 cm). In shows, they normally are classed in two sections: competition height A, 138 centimetres (54 in) and under; and competition height B, over 138 centimetres (54 in). New Forest ponies should be of riding type, workmanlike, and strong in conformation, with a sloping shoulder and powerful hindquarters; the body should be deep, and the legs straight with strong, flat bone, and

hard, rounded hooves. Larger ponies, although narrow enough in the barrel for small children to ride comfortably, are also capable of carrying adults. Smaller ponies may not be suitable for heavier riders, but they often have more show quality. The New Forest pony has free, even gaits, active and straight, but not exaggerated, and is noted for sure-footedness, agility, and speed.^[1]

The ponies are most commonly bay, chestnut, or grey. Few coat colours are excluded: piebald, skewbald, and blue-eyed cream are not allowed; palomino and very light chestnut are only accepted by the stud book as geldings and mares. Blue eyes are never accepted. White markings on the head and lower legs are allowed, unless they appear behind the head, above the point of the hock in the hind leg, or above the metacarpal bone at the bend in the knee in the foreleg. Ponies failing to pass these standards may not be registered in the purebred section of the stud book, but are recorded in the appendix, known as the X-register. The offspring of these animals may not be registered as purebred New Forest ponies, as the stud book is closed and only the offspring of purebred-approved registered ponies may be registered as purebred.

New Forest ponies have a gentle temperament and a reputation for intelligence, strength, and versatility.^[1] On the whole, they are a sturdy and hardy breed. The one known hereditary genetic disorder found in the breed is congenital myotonia, a muscular condition also found in humans, dogs, cats, and goats. It was identified in the Netherlands in 2009, after a clinically affected foal was presented to the Equine Clinic of Utrecht University. DNA sequencing revealed that the affected foal was homozygous for a missense mutation in the gene encoding CLCN1, a protein which regulates the excitability of the skeletal muscle. The mutated allele was found in both the foal's parents, its



New Forest pony in Dorset, in winter coat

siblings, and two other related animals, none of whom exhibited any clinical signs. The researchers concluded that the condition has an autosomal recessive mode of inheritance, whereby both parents have to contribute the mutated allele for a physically affected foal to be produced with that phenotype. The study suggested that the mutation was of relatively recent origin: the founder of the mutated gene, as all the ponies who tested positive for the mutation are direct descendants of this stallion. The probable founder stallion has been identified as Kantje's Ronaldo; testing is now underway to identify which of his offspring carry the mutated gene. All carriers will be removed from the breeding section of the New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Society's stud book, and all New Forest stallions licensed in the UK also will be tested, whether or not they descend from Kantje's Ronaldo, to cover the possibility that the mutated gene may have appeared earlier in the pedigree, although it is believed that the mutated gene has now been eradicated from the British breeding stock. All breeding stock imported to the UK also will be tested.

History



11th-century Normans shipping horses to
England: Bayeux Tapestry

Ponies have grazed in the area of the New Forest for many thousands of years, predating the last Ice Age. Spear damage on a horse shoulder bone discovered at Eartham Pit, Boxgrove (about 50 miles (80 km) from the heart of the modern New Forest), dated 500,000 BC, demonstrates that early humans were hunting horses in the area at that time, and the remains of a large Ice Age hunting camp have been found close to Ringwood (on the western border of the modern New Forest). Evidence from the skeletal remains of ponies from the Bronze Age suggests that they resembled the modern Exmoor pony. Horse bones excavated from Iron Age ritual burial sites at Danebury (about 25 miles (40 km) from the heart of the modern New Forest), indicate that the

animals were approximately 12 hands (48 inches, 122 cm) – a height similar to that of some of the smaller New Forest ponies of today.

William the Conqueror, who claimed the New Forest as a royal hunting ground, shipped more than two thousand horses across the English Channel when he invaded England in 1066. The earliest written record of horses in the New Forest dates back to that time, when rights of common of pasture were granted to the area's inhabitants.^[2] A popular tradition linking the ancestry of the New Forest pony to Spanish horses said to have swum ashore from wrecked ships at the time of the Spanish Armada has, according to the New Forest National Park Authority, "long been accepted as a myth", however, the offspring of Forest mares, probably bred at the Royal Stud in Lyndhurst, were exported in 1507 for use in the Renaissance wars. A genetic study in 1998 suggested that the New Forest pony has ancient shared ancestry with two endangered Spanish Celtic-type pony breeds, the Asturcón and Pottok.

The most notable stallion in the early history of the breed was a Thoroughbred named Marske, the sire of Eclipse, and a great-grandson of the Darley Arabian. Marske was sold to a Ringwood farmer for 20 guineas on the death of Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, and was used to breed with "country mares" in the 1760s.

In the 1850s and 1860s, the quality of the ponies was noted to be declining, a result of poor choice of breeding stallions, and the introduction of Arab to improve the breed was recommended. The census of stock of 1875 reported just under three thousand ponies grazing the Forest, and by 1884 the number had dropped to 2,250. Profits from the sale of young ponies affected the number of mares that commoners bred in subsequent years. The drop in numbers on the Forest may have been a consequence of introducing Arab blood to the breed in the 1870s, resulting in fewer animals suitable for use as pit ponies, or to the increase in the profits from running dairy cattle instead of ponies. The Arab blood may have reduced the ponies' natural landrace hardiness to thrive on the open Forest over winter. Numbers of ponies on the Forest also declined as a result of demand for more refined-looking ponies for riding and driving work prior to the introduction of motor vehicles. Later, the Second World War drove up the demand for, and thus, the market value of, young animals for horse meat.^[3]

Founded in 1891, the Society for the improvement of New Forest Ponies organised a stallion show and offered financial incentives to encourage owners of good stallions to run them on the Forest. In 1905 the Burley and District NF Pony Breeding and Cattle Society was set up to start the stud book and organise the Breed Show; the two societies merged in 1937 to form the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society.^[4] Overall numbers of livestock grazing the Forest, including ponies, tended to decline in the early twentieth century; in 1945 there were just 571 ponies depastured.^[5] By 1956 the number of ponies of all breeds on the Forest had more than doubled to 1,341. Twenty years later pony numbers were up to 3,589, rising to 4,112 in 1994, before dipping back below four thousand until 2005. As of 2011, there were 4,604 ponies grazing on the New Forest.



New Forest ponies in their natural habitat

In 2014, the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) conservation charity watch-listed the New Forest pony in its "minority breed" category, given the presence of less than 3,000 breeding females in the forest. Over the course of five years, the number of foals born each year had dropped by two-thirds (from 1,563 to just 423 in 2013) – a change attributed by The New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society to a declining market, and by the New Forest Verderers to steps that had been taken to improve the quality rather than the quantity of foals.

For a variety of reasons, including normal trade in the area and attempts to improve the breed, Arabian, Thoroughbred, Welsh pony, and Hackney blood had been added to ponies in the New Forest. Over time, however, the better-quality ponies were sold off, leaving the poorer-quality and less hardy animals as the Forest breeding stock. To address this situation, as well as to increase the stock's hardiness and restore native type, in the early twentieth century animals from other British native mountain and moorland pony breeds such as the Fell, Dales, Highland, Dartmoor, and Exmoor were introduced to the Forest. This practice ended in 1930, and since that time, only purebred New Forest stallions may be turned out. The New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society has been publishing the stud book since 1960. New Forest ponies have been exported to many parts of the world, including Canada, the U.S., Europe, and Australia, and many countries now have their own breed societies and stud books.^[6]

Uses

In the past, smaller ponies were used as pit ponies.^[3] Today the New Forest pony and related crossbreeds are still the "working pony of choice" for local farmers and commoners, as their sure-footedness, agility, and sound sense will carry them (and their rider) safely across the varied and occasionally hazardous terrain of the open Forest, sometimes at great speed, during the autumn drifts.^[1] New Forest ponies also are used today for gymkhanas, show jumping, cross-country, dressage, driving, and eventing.

The ponies can carry adults and in many cases compete on equal terms with larger equines while doing so. For example, in 2010, the New Forest Pony Enthusiasts Club (NFPEC), a registered riding club whose members compete only on purebred registered New Forest ponies, won the Quadrille competition at the London International Horse Show at Olympia. This was a significant win, as the British Riding Clubs Quadrille is a national competition, with only four teams from the whole of Britain selected to compete at the National Final.^[7]



A New Forest pony jumping

Ponies on the New Forest

The ponies grazing the New Forest are considered to be iconic. They, together with the cattle, donkeys, pigs, and sheep owned by commoners' (local people with common grazing rights), are called "the architects of the Forest": it is the grazing and browsing of the commoners' animals over a thousand years which created the New Forest ecosystem as it is today.



Stallion engaging in courtship behaviour with a mare near Homlesley Camp

The cattle and ponies living on the New Forest are not completely feral, but are owned by commoners, who pay an annual fee for each animal turned out.^[8] The animals are looked after by their owners and by the Agisters employed by the Verderers of the New Forest. The Verderers are a statutory body with ancient roots, who share management of the forest with the Forestry Commission and National park authority.^[9] Approximately 80 per cent of the animals depastured on the New Forest are owned by just 10 per cent of the commoning families.^[10]

Ponies living full-time on the New Forest are almost all mares, although there are also a few geldings. For much of the year the ponies live in small groups, usually consisting of an older mare, her daughters, and their foals, all keeping to a discrete area of the Forest called a "haunt." Under New Forest regulations, mares and geldings may be of any breed. Although the ponies are predominantly New Foresters, other breeds such as Shetlands and their crossbred descendants may be found in some areas.

Stallions must be registered New Foresters, and are not allowed to run free all year round on the Forest. They normally are turned out only for a limited period in the spring and summer, when they gather several groups of mares and youngstock into larger herds and defend them against other stallions. A small number (usually fewer than 50) are turned out,^[11] generally between May and August. This ensures that foals are born neither too early (before the spring grass is coming through), nor too late (as the colder weather is setting in and the grazing and browsing on the Forest is dying back) in the following year.

Colts are assessed in their two-year-old year by the New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society for suitability to be kept as stallions; any animal failing the assessment must be gelded. Once approved, every spring (usually in March), the stallions must pass the Verderers' assessment before they are permitted onto the Forest to breed.^[11] The stallion scheme resulted in a reduction of genetic diversity in the ponies running out on the New Forest, and to counteract this and preserve the hardiness of Forest-run ponies, the Verderers introduced the Bloodline Diversity Project, which will use hardy Forest-run mares, mostly over eleven years old, bred to stallions that have not been run out on the Forest, or closely related to those that have.

Drifts to gather the animals are carried out in autumn. Most colts and some fillies are removed, along with any animals considered too "poor" to remain on the Forest over the winter. The remaining fillies are branded with their owner's mark, and many animals are wormed.^{[12][13]} Many owners choose to remove a number of animals from the Forest for the winter, turning them out again the following spring.^[14] Animals surplus to their owner's requirements often are sold at the Beaulieu Road Pony Sales, run by the New Forest Livestock Society.^[15] Tail hair of the ponies is trimmed, and cut into a recognisable pattern to show that the pony's grazing fees have been paid for the year. Each Agister has his own "tail-mark", indicating the area of the Forest where the owner lives.^[16]



Ponies gathered in a pound at a drift

The Agisters keep a constant watch over the condition of the Forest-running stock, and an animal may be "ordered off" the Forest at any time.^[8] The rest of the year, the lives of the ponies are relatively unhindered unless they need

veterinary attention or additional feeding, when they are usually taken off the Forest.^[17]

The open nature of the New Forest means that ponies are able to wander onto roads. The ponies actually have right of way over vehicles and many wear reflective collars in an effort to reduce traffic fatalities, but despite this, many ponies, along with commoners' cattle, pigs, and donkeys are killed or injured in road traffic accidents every year. Human interaction with ponies is also a problem; well meaning but misguided visitors to the forest frequently feed them, which can create dietary problems and cause the ponies to adopt an aggressive attitude in order to obtain human food.

New Forest ponies are raced in an annual point to point meeting in the Forest, usually on Boxing Day, finishing at a different place each year.^{[18][19]} The races do not have a fixed course, but instead are run across the open Forest, so competitors choose their own routes around obstructions such as inclosures (forestry plantations), fenced paddocks, and bogs. Riders with a detailed knowledge of the Forest are thus, at an advantage. The location of the meeting place is given to competitors on the previous evening, and the starting point of the race is revealed once riders have arrived at the meeting point.^[18]

References

- [1] Fear 2006, p. 29.
- [2] Fear 2006, p. 91.
- [3] Tubbs 1965, pp. 37–38.
- [4] Ivey, p. 11.
- [5] Tubbs 1965, pp. 38–39.
- [6] See for example: USA, New Forest Pony Association & Registry (<http://www.newforestpony.net/>); Australia, New Forest Pony Association of Australia (<http://newforestpony.asn.au/>); Belgium, Newforestpony Belgium (<http://www.newforestpony.be/index.php>); Norway, Norsk Ponnialforening – New Forest (<http://www.ponniavl.no/artikkel.aspx?id=37>) (in Norwegian); Sweden, The Swedish New Forest Pony Society (<http://www.newforest.g.se/indexeng.asp>); Denmark, Newforest.dk (<http://www.newforest.dk/>) (in Danish); Netherlands, Nederlands New Forest Pony Stamboek (<http://www.newforestpony.nl/>) (in Dutch); Finland, Suomen New Forest Poniyhdistys (<http://www.newforestponi.com/>) (in Finnish). All retrieved 15 June 2012.
- [7] (from British Riding Clubs, britishridingclubs.org.uk). Retrieved 9 June 2012.
- [8] Fear 2006, p. 75.
- [9] Fear 2006, p. 72.
- [10] Fear 2006, p. 22.
- [11] Fear 2006, p. 96.
- [12] Fear 2006, pp. 49–54.
- [13] Fear 2006, p. 79.
- [14] Fear 2006, p. 24.
- [15] Fear 2006, p. 59.
- [16] Fear 2006, p. 116.
- [17] Ivey, p. 9.
- [18] Ivey, p. 32.
- [19] Fear 2006, p. 70.

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External links

- The New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society (<http://www.newforestpony.com/>)
 - The Verderers of the New Forest (<http://www.verderers.org.uk/>)
 - New Forest Livestock Society (<http://www.nfls.org.uk/>)
 - New Forest National Park Information (<http://www.new-forest-national-park.com/new-forest-pony.html>)
 - New Forest Pony Association (USA) (<http://www.newforestpony.net/>)
 - New Forest Pony Society of North America (<http://www.nfpsna.com/>)
 - New Forest Pony Association of Australia (<http://newforestpony.asn.au/>)
 - New Forest Pony Owners and Breeders of Australia (<http://www.nfpob.com/>)
 - New Forest Pony, Norway (<http://www.ponniavl.no/artikkel.aspx?id=37>)
 - The Swedish New Forest Pony Society (<http://www.newforest.g.se/indexeng.asp>)
 - The Danish New Forest Pony Society (<http://www.newforest.dk/>)
 - Netherlands New Forest Pony Studbook (<http://www.newforestpony.nl/>)
 - New Forest Pony Society of Finland (<http://www.newforestponi.com/>)
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Newfoundland pony

Newfoundland Pony



Newfoundlands in Change Islands

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Sturdy, hardy island pony |
| Country of origin | Canada (Newfoundland) |
| Breed standards | |
| Newfoundland Pony Society | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Newfoundland pony** is a breed of pony originating in Newfoundland, Canada. They are sturdy and muscular ponies, found in many colors, including the relatively rare white coloration. The Newfoundland developed from a mix of English, Irish and Scottish pony breeds brought to Newfoundland by settlers over a period of four centuries. Initially free-roaming, they crossbred to produce the modern type. They were used by settlers as draft and multi-purpose ponies until the mid-20th century, when they were brought almost to the point of extinction by mechanization and slaughter. The population rebounded slightly after the formation of a breed registry in 1980, but still remains low. In 1997, the Newfoundland pony was declared a heritage breed of Newfoundland and Labrador, which afforded it protection under the law, but the breed has not yet been recognized under the Canadian federal Animal Pedigree Act. As of 2008, there were 248 registered ponies of breeding age, out of a total population of 361. In 2013, the widely dispersed breeding population is still estimated at between 200 and 250 animals.

Physical Characteristics

Newfoundland ponies are usually 11 to 14.2 hands (44 to 58 inches, 112 to 147 cm) tall and weight 400 to 800 pounds (180 to 360 kg). They are often black, bay or brown in color. Roan, chestnut, gray and dun are also seen. White coloration is occasionally found in the breed, though white in horses is very rare. Gray horses, whose hair coats become white as they age, are much more common. Grays are born dark colored with dark skin and lighten in color as they age, retaining the dark skin. White horses are born and remain white in color, and have pink skin. Pinto color patterns are not eligible for registration. White markings are minimal, and seasonal color changes are often drastic.

The head is small, with thickly-furred ears that are small and quite pointed at the tips. Overall, the body is stocky and muscular, with a deep, narrow chest, short back, sloping croup and low-set tail. The coat and mane are thick, especially in winter. In order to be registered with the Newfoundland Pony Society, ponies must "[have] a good temperament and [be] docile and easy to work with." They are generally used as family horses for pleasure riding and driving, although they are also seen at horse shows.

History

The ancestors of the Newfoundland pony arrived in Newfoundland from the British Isles, brought there by settlers between 1611 and the mid-1900s. Dartmoor ponies formed the initial shipment, imported by John Guy, the first Proprietary Governor of Newfoundland. Lord Falkland imported additional animals soon after, and these were followed by a spate of pony shipments from England, Ireland and Scotland. Additional breeds found in the shipments included the now-extinct Galloway pony, as well as Connemara, Dartmoor, Exmoor, Fell, Highland and New Forest ponies. Beginning with the first imports, the breeds crossbred, eventually forming the modern Newfoundland pony.

In the past, the Newfoundland pony was used for ploughing, assisting with gardens, hauling kelp from the beaches, gathering hay, and carrying wood, and they were also used for transportation. They were successfully used and bred to withstand the hard climate, and by 1935 there were over 9,000 ponies on the island. During the mid-20th century, however, increasing mechanization and a ban on free-roaming ponies contributed to a decline in the population, and increased exports to France for horse meat in the 1970s almost led to the extinction of the breed.

Shortly before the breed would have become extinct, several interested breeders came together and formed the Newfoundland Pony Society in 1980. The group was formed to gather the remaining free-roaming herds, register the horses and breed them in captivity, and was successful in locating around 300 animals. In 1997, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador passed the Heritage Animals Act, which made the Newfoundland pony the first (and, so far, only) heritage animal of Newfoundland and Labrador. A subsequent order designated the Newfoundland Pony Society as "the group which will maintain the registry of ponies and otherwise act for the preservation of the animal." In part, this Act required anyone wishing to export ponies from Newfoundland to first acquire a permit; this ensured that ponies were going to private homes instead of slaughterhouses. Also in 1997, the Newfoundland Pony Breed Association was formed. This group sought to have the Newfoundland pony recognized under the Canadian Animal Pedigree Act, which may have given it additional protection and recognition. In March 2014, the Newfoundland Pony Society stated that they believed the breed should not have federal recognition, believing that the "federal act is meant for farm stock and breeding animals", not heritage breeds. Members of the society also fear that protection of the breed may be lessened under federal law when compared with current provincial regulations. However, the provincial government will make the final decision on whether to move forward with the process for federal recognition.

In a study of mitochondrial DNA published in 2012, the Newfoundland pony and Canadian horse were found to be the most genetically diverse of the Canadian breeds studied, which also included the Sable Island horse and the Lac La Croix pony. When an estimation was made using microsatellite loci, the Newfoundland was found to have high autosomal diversity and a high number of haplotypes, some of which overlapped with the mountain and moorland pony breeds (historically documented as the ancestors of the Newfoundland), Nordic breeds and a feral population at Saint-Pierre et Miquelon. Overlapping haplotypes also suggested a relationship with the Standardbred and Clydesdale, suggesting possible crossbreeding at some point, although previous studies using microsatellite markers had not come to this conclusion. Although the microsatellite loci showed a relationship between the Newfoundland and the Sable Island horse, the study did not find overlapping haplotypes that would support this, possibly due to the population bottleneck in the 1980s that may have resulted in such haplotypes being lost. In order to be registered with the Newfoundland Pony Society, ponies must undergo DNA testing to verify Newfoundland parentage.

In 2011, The Livestock Conservancy (TLC) added the Newfoundland pony to their Conservation Priority List in the "study" category, as it worked to verify the breed's history and population numbers. In 2012, with studies completed, the breed was moved to the "critical" category, meaning that the breed has a global population of less than 2,000 and



A pony in driving tack

annual registrations in the US of less than 200. Rare Breeds Canada also considers the breed critically endangered, with fewer than 15 annual registrations of purebred female breeding stock. As of 2008, there were 248 registered ponies of breeding age, out of a total registered population of 361 ponies. The largest populations were in the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador and Ontario, with smaller populations in seven other Canadian provinces and the United States. As of 2013, TLC estimates that the widely dispersed breeding population consists of between 200 and 250 ponies.

References

[1] <http://www.newfoundlandpony.com/characteristics/index.html>

Further reading

- Fraser, Andrew F. (1992), *The Newfoundland Pony : The Lone Member of the Moorland Family of Horses in North America, Now on the Verge of Extinction*, Creative Publishers, ISBN 1895387140

External links

- Official Newfoundland Pony Society Website (<http://www.newfoundlandpony.com/>)
 - Official Newfoundland Pony Breed Association Website (<http://www.npba.ca>)
-

Noma pony

Noma pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Country of origin | Japan |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Noma** (野間馬 *Noma-uma*Help:Installing Japanese character sets) is a pony breed originating in Imabari, Ehime Prefecture, Japan. They originated in the 17th century from Mongolian stock, and are the smallest native ponies from that country, standing about up to 10.1 to 10.3 hh. The ponies are used for draft and riding. They are one of the 8 recognized native horse breeds in Japan.^[1]

The breed is currently being preserved as local cultural heritage. At one point the population was as low as six.^[2] It rebounded to the point that by December, 1988, there were 27 pure Noma ponies, and as of 2008 there are now 84 purebred ponies in existence.

References

- [1] The eight native Japanese horse breeds are the Hokkaido Pony, Kiso, Misaki, Miyako Pony, Noma pony, Tokara pony, Tsushima, and Yonaguni
- [2] Japan Times article on the Noma pony (<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/fl20080518x2.html>)

External links

- "Country Report (For FAO State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources Process)", Editorial Committee Office of the Japanese Country Report, Animal Genetic Resources Laboratory, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Japan. (<http://www.fao.org/AG/AGAInfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/Interlaken/countryreports/Japan.pdf>)
- Japanese horse breeds (<http://nihongoup.com/blog/japanese-horse-breeds/>)
- "A rare, short breed returns" (<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/fl20080518x2.html>)
- "Japan Saves Noma horse" (<http://deforestationwatch.org/index.php/Latest/Japan-saves-Noma-horse.html>)
- "Horse" (<http://gigax.jp/blog/japan/6446/>)

Nooitgedacht pony

Nooitgedacht pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Country of origin | South Africa |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

One of the few indigenous breeds in South Africa, the **Nooitgedacht** pony is the only true descendant of the better-known Basuto pony. The Nooitgedacht is a rare horse breed, with only about 400 purebreds in existence.

History

Development of this breed began in 1951 when the South African Department of Agriculture brought a nucleus group of Basuto-type ponies. In 1952 a breeding project began on the Nooitgedacht Research Station. This was done primarily to save the famous Basuto from extinction but also because South Africa needed an indigenous farm and riding horse adapted to conditions of the region.

Due to large-scale inbreeding in the past, the breeders at Nooitgedacht had to use extreme care. For this reason, a Boer stallion and a partbred Arab were used to a limited extent in addition to Vonk, a stallion selected from a departmental committee to be the founder of the breed. The progeny of Vonk dominated the breeding project to such an extent that nearly every member of the Nooitgedacht breed today is a descendant of Vonk through the sire, dam, or both. The foaling percentage was very high, ranging at 90 percent. So strict was the selection that only one in four ponies were kept.

Systematic breeding resulted in the gradual crystallization of a recognisable and uniform type, and breeders were able to start talking about a "breed". In 1967, breeding stock of these horses were supplied to eight studs, and they were established as part of the project.

In 1968, the Nooitgedacht Breeders' Association was formed by participants in the project. Breeding standards were established as guidelines for breeders and judges at shows. Satisfied that the development task had been completed, the Department of Agriculture Technical Services sold all of its horses by public auction in March 1977. The breeding project was then in the hands of the breeders' association, which had some sixty members in 1979.

In 1976, the Nooitgedacht pony was affiliated with the South African Stud Book Association as South Africa's first indigenous pony breed.

Characteristics

According to the standards set by the Nooitgedacht Breeders' Association, the Nooitgedacht pony should ideally be a good riding horse with outstanding stamina. It should be of a compact build, with a short back, and a well-sloping shoulder. The animal should be good natured and intelligent. It extremely hardy with good bone structure, good joints, and excellent hooves which seldom require shoeing. Bay, brown (a variant of bay) and chestnut roans are the most common colours. Spotted, skewbald and piebald coats are not permitted. It usually stands between 13.2 (138 cm) and 15 (153 cm) hands high.

Uses

The Nooitgedacht pony is tall enough to be used by both children and adults. It is a good jumper, and it is becoming more popular as a show horse. It excels in gymkhana, polo, endurance riding and hacking.

References

- Hendricks, Bonnie. *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds*. University of Oklahoma Press. ISBN 0-8061-3884-X.
- Official Website of Nooitgedachter Horses & Ponies ^[1]

References

[1] <http://www.nooitgedachter.co.za>

Ob pony

Ob pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Alternative names | Priob |
| Country of origin | Siberia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The rare **Ob pony**, also known as the **Priob**, is from western Siberia in Russia and is used as a draft pony.

Similar to the Narym Pony, the Ob pony is bred in the Khanty–Mansi national district near the lower areas of the Ob and Irtysh rivers. The climate is severe with extreme cold, deep snow and lack of grain foods, creating difficult conditions for working horses. They are used chiefly as pack animals in winter and also work in forests. During the summer months the horses do not work and are left free to graze the marshes.

Long lived and fertile, Ob ponies work until the age of eighteen or twenty. In general appearance, the Ob is similar to the Yakut Pony, although more of draft type. Small in stature with a long back and well-developed skeleton, Ob ponies are hardy and enduring. The legs are short. The head is of medium length, coarse and often Roman-nosed; the neck is short and thick; the shoulder is slanted and short; the withers low; the back long and often carp-shaped; the legs are sturdy. The hooves are wide and flat, an adaptation to the muddy terrain. They usually stand between 13 and 14 hands high.

Colours are various in the Ob breed, but most typical is dun. Dun, grullo, and bay Ob ponies usually have dun factor markings - dorsal stripe, shoulder stripes, and zebra striping on the legs.

The first research on this breed was done in 1936. The Ob is rare today and should be bred pure and upgraded, as it is invaluable in the northern forest regions.

References

- *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds* - written by Bonnie Hendricks
 - Ob Pony information (<http://www.petpig.com/horse/Ob.aspx>)
-

Peneia Pony

Peneia

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alternative names | Geogalidiko Georgalidiko Pinia |
| Country of origin | Greece |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Peneia Pony** (Greek: αλογάκι της Πηνειάς) is a rare breed of pony from the Peloponnese in southern Greece. *Peneia* is a poetic name for the peninsula, often found in classical texts.

History

The breed was founded on an autochthonous Greek variety very possibly related to the Pindos, and later crossed with Anglo-Arab, Anglo-Norman and Nonius strains. Its herdbook was only established in 1995. The breed is found in Elis and Achaea in the northwest of the Peloponnese.

According to Greek Agriculture Ministry statistics, as of 2002 there were two hundred thirty-one breeding mares and sixty-nine stallions.

Breed Characteristics

Peneias generally stand between 10.1 and 14 hands high, and are usually bay, black, chestnut, or gray, although other colors are seen. They have a well-proportioned head with a convex profile and a well-set neck running into low withers, a wide chest, and muscular, sloping shoulders. They have a short back, sloping croup, and long lets with small, tough hooves.

The natural gait of the Peneia breed is fairly stilted, so they are usually taught a smoother gait called the *aravani*.

Uses

Peneias are used as draft animals, pack animals, and mounts for riding and jumping. The stallions are often used for breeding hinnies. Crosses with the Thoroughbred have produced faster horses, while the Hellenic National Stud Book Society is promoting a new breeding program crossing Peneia stallions with light draft mares.

References

Petiso Argentino

The **Petiso Argentino** is a new pony breed developed from Shetland ponies and Welsh ponies imported by Argentine farmers in the first half of the 20th Century. There is undoubtedly also a bit of Criollo blood in this pony, judging by the colour and conformation of the breed. As time passed, the Shetland and Welsh breeds were no longer distinguishable and the new breed, Petiso Argentino, was created.

References

- *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds* - written by Bonnie Hendricks - page 341

External links

- Picture of Petiso Argentino pony ^[1]
- "Races Argentinas" ^[2]

References

- [1] http://www.yannarthusbertrand.com/yann2/affichage_bestiaux.php?reference=BCH-290&pais=
- [2] <http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=es&u=http://caballopastoreo.galeon.com/enlaces673356.html&sa=X&oi=translate&resnum=4&ct=result&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dpetiso%2Bargentino%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DG>
-

Pindos Pony

Pindos



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Long head and limbs, light frame |
| Alternative names | <i>Pindhosor Thessalonian</i> |
| Country of origin | Greece |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Pindos pony** (Greek *αλογάκι της Πίνδου*) is a pony native to the Pindus mountain range in Thessaly and Epirus, Greece. It is also known as the Thessalonian.

History

The Pindos pony is now probably somewhat different from its ancestors, who are believed to have been largely oriental types and horses brought from the Scythian people^[*citation needed*], who were well known for their horsemanship. The Pindos pony is probably a direct descendant of the old Thessalonian breed which was developed by the Greeks and was noted for its courage and beauty.

Breed Characteristics

They are typically very surefooted and are still used to perform many of the tasks around the local people's small holdings. These may range from agricultural work, ploughing the land, working in harness to transport goods, as a pack pony, and also for riding. They have great endurance and stamina and have an extremely sound constitution. The ponies are frugal and can live on minimal rations, are extremely long lived and have very sound legs and feet, rarely going lame. Pindos mares are often used to breed a good stamp of working mule.

In appearance, the Pindos has a rather coarse head with an unattractive small eye. The neck and back are of reasonably length. They are light and narrow through the frame, with poor and underdeveloped quarters, and a high-set tail of seemingly oriental influence. The legs are fine in bone, with small joints, but they are strong and the hooves are very tough. The Pindos has a reputation for being difficult and stubborn. The coat colours are mostly dark, such as bay, black and grey and they stand at up to 13 hands high.

External links & sources

Print sources

- Springate, Lynda (1998) [1997]. "Twenty-five: Principal Pony Breeds of the World". *The Encyclopedia of the Horse* (reprint ed.). New York: Crescent Books. p. 205, s.v. "Pindos Pony". ISBN 0-517-18461-3.

External links

- Breed description: Pindos Pony ^[1]

References

- [1] <http://www.tiho-hannover.de/einricht/zucht/eaap/descript/1595.htm>

Poney Mousseye

Poney Mousseye

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Country of origin | Cameroon |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Poney Mousseye** is a small, light pony which comes from Cameroon.

History

The exact heritage of the Pony Mousseye is not known although it is thought that may have some common roots with the Nigerian. They are small ponies, which also exhibit some horse-like characteristics, and, like the Nigerian, the Pony Mousseye has been described as a 'degenerate Barb'.

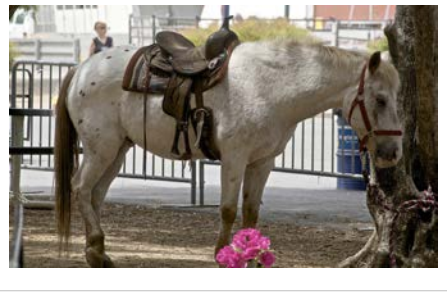
Interestingly, the fairly rare Pony Mousseye mainly lives in the area around the river Logone, notorious for the tsetse fly that produced sleeping sickness. The Pony Mousseye, however, appears to be resistant to this, while other equine breeds are not. They live a very geographically isolated existence and have been largely unaffected by other breeds.

Breed Characteristics

The ponies make good riding ponies and, in appearance, have a large and heavy head, a short thick neck and a long back. The legs are short and strong and the breed possesses great stamina and endurance. They have an easy temperament. They can be any colour, but are mostly grey or chestnut, and stand under 12 hands high.

Pony of the Americas

Pony of the Americas

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|  | |
| Distinguishing features | Appaloosa coloring, small size, suitable for riding |
| Alternative names | POA |
| Country of origin | United States |
| Breed standards | |
| Pony of the Americas Club | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Pony of the Americas** (POA) is a pony breed developed in the state of Iowa in the United States. The foundation stallion was an Arabian/Appaloosa/Shetland pony cross. A breed registry was founded in 1954, and within 15 years had registered 12,500 ponies. Today, the Pony of the Americas Club is one of the largest and most active youth-oriented horse breed registries in the US. Although called ponies, POAs have the phenotype of a small horse, combining mainly Arabian and American Quarter Horse attributes. The registry is open, allowing blood from many other breeds, but has strict criteria for entry, including Appaloosa coloration, specified height and other physical characteristics. Although mainly bred for Western riding, the breed has been used for many other disciplines, including driving, endurance riding and some English disciplines.

Breed characteristics

Ponies are only registered with the Pony of the Americas club if they have Appaloosa coloring visible from 40 feet (12 m), otherwise known as "loud" Appaloosa coloring. The coloration includes the typical leopard complex characteristics of mottling around the eyes, muzzle and genitalia, as well as visible white sclera of the eyes and striped hooves. Pinto coloration is not allowed, nor is ancestry from a breed noted for pinto coloring, such as the American Paint Horse. The facial profile of the POA is slightly concave. It is a muscular breed, with a deep chest and well-sloped shoulders. The breed averages 11.2 to 14 hands (46 to 56 inches, 117 to 142 cm) high. Despite having the size and name "pony", the breed has the phenotype (physical characteristics) of a small horse of an American Quarter Horse/Arabian type, not a true pony breed.

The Pony of the Americas Club will register the offspring of registered POAs, as well crosses with Connemaras, Galiceno ponies, Australian Stock Horses, Morgans and Thoroughbreds, and the original Appaloosa and Arabian breeds. These crosses are allowed into the registry as full members as long as they meet the physical breed requirements. Crosses with other breeds, including Quarter ponies, Shetland ponies, Anglo-Arabs, Spanish Mustangs and Welsh ponies, are accepted on an individual basis.

History

The POA was developed in the United States in the 1950s by Les Boomhower, a Shetland pony breeder in Iowa. The foundation stallion of the breed was an Arabian/Appaloosa/Shetland pony cross with Appaloosa markings named Black Hand. Boomhower appreciated the stallion's conformation and disposition and decided to use him to develop a new breed of Appaloosa-colored ponies. In 1954, Boomhower and a group of associations founded the Pony of the Americas Club, with Black Hand receiving the first registration number. A year later, twelve ponies and twenty-three members had been registered. The club's goal was to develop a medium-sized pony for older children and small adults, with the coloration of the Appaloosa, the refinement of the Arabian and the muscle and bone of an American Quarter Horse. Originally the height requirement called for ponies between 44 and 52 inches (110 and 130 cm); in 1963 this was changed to a range of 46 and 54 inches (120 and 140 cm), and in 1985 a final change was made to height, raising the upper limit to 56 inches (140 cm).



An Appaloosa, one of the founding breeds of the POA

Over the first 15 years of its existence, the breed club registered 12,500 ponies. Between the founding of the breed club and the present, the early Shetland blood has been almost completely bred out, in order to maintain and improve the small stock horse look sought by the breed founders. The Pony of the Americas Club hosted its first national convention in 1988, and in 1990, the Club developed a Hall of Fame for its members and ponies. As of 2012, the Pony of the Americas Club has registered over 50,000 ponies. The Club has become one of the equine industry's largest youth-oriented breed registries, with over 2,000 members, and one of the most active, with over 40 affiliated chapters.

Although originally developed mainly for Western riding and stock uses, it has also been seen competing in endurance riding, three-day eventing, show hunter, and driving. It jumps well, and can be used for dressage. Originally, breed club shows did not allow people over the age of 16 to show POAs under saddle; adults could, however, show them in halter or driving classes. In 1973, the age limit for riders was raised to 18, and in 1987 it was decided that adults 19 and over could show horses two to four years old under saddle.

References

[1] <http://www.poac.org/organization/breed-info/characteristics/>

External links

- Pony of the Americas Club (<http://www.poac.org/>)

Pottok

Pottok



Pottoka horse in the Pagoeta Nature Reserve.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | small, large head, heavy winter coat |
| Alternative names | Pottoka, Pottock |
| Country of origin | Basque Country |
| Breed standards | |
| Les Haras Nationaux (France) | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Ingurumen, Lurralde Plangintza, Nekazaritza Eta Arrantza Saila; Departamento de Medio Ambiente, Planificación Territorial, Agricultura y Pesca | Breed standards ^[2] |
| Schweizerischer Verband für Ponys und Kleinpferde; Fédération Suisse des Poneys et Petits Chevaux | Breed standards ^[3] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Pottok** or **Pottoka** (/ˈpɒtək(ə)/ or /pəˈtjɒk(ə)/, Basque: *pottoka* [*poˈcoka*]), is an endangered, semi-feral breed of pony native to the Pyrenees of the Basque Country in France and Spain.

It is considered an ancient breed of horse, particularly well adapted to the harsh mountain areas it traditionally inhabits.

Once common, it is endangered through habitat loss, mechanization and crossbreeding but efforts are increasingly made to safeguard the future of this breed. It is considered iconic by the Basque people.

Etymology

Pottoka is the Basque language name for this horse, both north and south of the mountains. In Upper Navarrese, *potto* and *pottoka* are generic terms for colts and young horses whereas in Lapurdian and Lower Navarrese the meaning of *pottoka* is "pony".^[4] Ultimately the name is linked to words such as *pottolo* "chubby, tubby".

In French sources, the spelling Pottok predominates. In English, both Pottoka and Pottok are encountered^[5] but the term term Basque Pony can occasionally also be encountered.^[6]

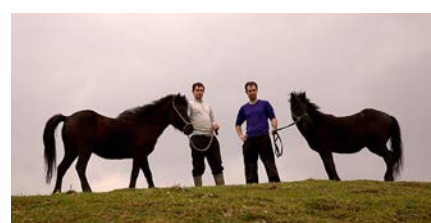
Origins

Many opinions exist on the origins of the Pottok. It is deemed by the scientific community to have lived in the area for at least several thousand years. It displays signs of genetic isolation and is genetically closest to breeds like the Asturcón, the Losino, the Galician, the Landais, and the Monchino horses. Tests have revealed considerable genetic differences between populations in the Northern Basque Country and the Southern Basque Country, leading some to consider them separate breeds.



Paleolithic paintings of horses in the Ekainberri cave near Ekain, in Zestoa.

Some claim the Pottok's origins derive from the horses on ancient cave paintings in the area and thus claim to descend from the Magdalenian horses of 14,000-7000 BC. Other link its origins to an influx of horses during the Bronze Age. However, neither of these theories has to date been scientifically verified.^[7]



Pottoks bred by the ZAPE Society

Genetic research by the University of the Basque Country's Genetics, Physical Anthropology and Animal Physiology department into various genetic markers amongst the 4 indigenous horse breeds in the Basque Country have examined their relationship to other horses. Based on microsatellite tests, of the four Basque horse breeds, the Pottok and the Basque Mountain Horse, are genetically the most distant from other breeds. The others, the Burguete horse and the Jaca Navarra (today considered meat breeds), less so.^[8] This variability in the Pottok and the Basque Mountain Horse appears to be related to the fact males mate range more widely and mate with more females in these feral or semi-feral herds. Research into a known single-nucleotide polymorphism showed this non-native alternation is very rare in purebred Pottoks. Tests of mitochondrial DNA revealed Pottoks are most likely to crossbreed with the Basque Mountain Horses, less so with other breeds. Although some genetic markers of other European horse breeds were found, overall the genetic distance to the other European breeds is large. Interestingly, one marker previously only found in certain British breeds has also been found in Pottoks.



Pottoks on a coat of arms in Zestoa.

Habitat

Its traditional range extends west as far as the Biscayan Encartaciones and east roughly as far as the Saint-Jean-le-Vieux area. A census carried out in 1970 found roughly 3.500 purebred Pottoks north of the Pyrenees and approximately 2.000 purebreds to the south, a considerable drop from historic populations, linked to an overall drop in the number of horses being bred and used commercially. Competition with sheep and more recently commercial forestry has also infringed on the Pottok's natural habitat.

The traditional core habitat are the mountains of Labourd and Navarre from about 1.500m upwards, generally on poor acidic soil and limestone formations.

Characteristics

The Pottok measures 1.15 to 1.47 metres (11.1 to 14.2 hands) in height, and weighs between 300 to 350 kilograms (661 to 772 lb). It has a large, square head, small ears, short neck and long back with short but slim legs, and small, sturdy hooves.



Pottoks with the heavy winter coat, (the *borra*)

The winter fur (*borra*) is one of the key characteristics of the Pottok and can reach up to 10 centimetres (3.9 in) in length on young horses. The archetypal coat colorations are in bay range with no patterning, but today various shades of brown and black exist in Pottok herds. Pottok pintos first appeared in Biscay in the 1850s and have spread to parts of Navarre and Labourd since.

There are noticeable differences between mountain herds of Pottok and valley or flatland herds, with mountain horses generally being smaller.

The official French breed standard distinguishes two types, the Pottok de Montagne or Mountain Pottok, with a height range of 1.15–1.32 m

(11.1–13.0 h), and the larger Pottok de Prairie or Plains Pottok, which has a height range of 1.20–1.47 m (11.3–14.2 h).^[9]

The Government of Biscay carried out research into some 250 horses of the Pottok population of Biscay, both wild and stabled, in 1996-97. The census revealed that the majority of semi-feral Pottoks in Biscay live in the far northwest of the province, in the Encartaciones. These semi-feral herds are rounded up twice a year, once in March before birthing and once in October after weaning. The survey also concluded that the main characteristics of the Biscayan population were:

- black or blackish coats dominating (73%), followed by bays with (19%)
- Height range 1.15 to 1.30 metres (11.1 to 12.3 h), average height 1.256 m (12.1 h)
- long, slim legs with black hooves
- large, heavy heads
- a heavy winter coat (the *borra*)

Behavior

Semi-feral Pottoks tend to be shy and live in small, territorial herds or harems numbering between 10-30 mares. They are able to predict the weather conditions, moving into the valleys in anticipation of bad weather and upland when high pressure builds. During the autumn, the herd breaks up into smaller groups of 5-10 horses and re-unite in spring.

Foals mature quickly. Fillies become fertile at age 2, normally mate at age 3 and give birth at age 4, which is also the age of maturity for males. Foals, like those of other breeds, are born after 11 months during spring/early summer and are weaned after 6–7 months.

Cross-breeding

Pottok numbers have been severely reduced by habitat loss and crossbreeding. In the 20th century, piebald Pottoks were bred, particularly for circus use. Stockier ponies for agricultural work were bred by crossbreeding with draught horses, also often with a large variety of coat colours.

They have also been bred with Iberian horses following guidelines of pony clubs, Arabian horses and Welsh ponies. This cross-breeding has left perhaps no more than 150 purebred mares north of the Pyrenees.



Cross-bred pottoks near Ainhoa.

Use

Their adaptation to mountain life and coloration made them ideal for use by smugglers in former times. From the 16th Century onwards, they became popular as circus horses but also as pit ponies in France and Britain. Today, they are in demand as children's ponies because they adapt well to domestication.

Conservation

Efforts are now being made to ensure the continued survival of purebred Pottoks. The Pottok was the first Basque horse breed to be included in the list of indigenous Basque breeds requiring conservation efforts in June 1995.^[10] Its status was classified as endangered.

Various reserves, for example in Bidarray in Lower Navarre or the ZAPE Society in the Aralar Range have been set up to protect the pony and its environment. There is much debate about how best to increase numbers - whether to focus only on the purebreds or to employ selective crossbreeding to build greater numbers of Pottok-like ponies.

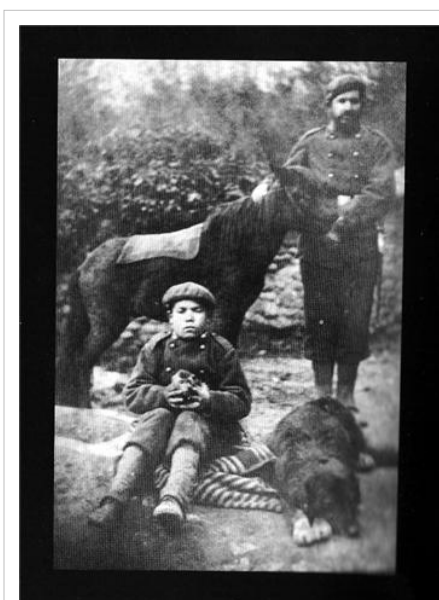
Pottok are shown both at agricultural shows and town festivals:

- Espelette (Labourd) on the last Tuesday and Wednesday in January
- Markina-Xemein (Biscay) on the second Saturday in October at the *Euskal Herriko Arrazen Erakusketa* ("Basque Country Breeds' Show")
- Zumarraga (Gipuzkoa) on the 13th of December at the Santa Lutzi Feria

Studbooks

In the Northern Basque Country, two studbooks for the Pottok were set up in 1970. Crossbreds, covered under Book B, must have at least 50% Pottok blood, while Book A covers those of higher purity.^[11] Horses in Book A are divided into two types, the Mountain Pottok and the Plains Pottok. Only horses which live for a minimum of nine months in the year in semi-feral conditions in a harem containing mares, foals and stallions in the mountainous areas of la Rhune, Baïgorry, Ursuya and Artzamendi are considered Mountain Pottoks.

The breed standard specifies:



A Pottok used by the military in the Third Carlist War.

- robust, intelligent horse
- short, forward-facing ears
- short neck with a thick mane to the withers
- broad chest, long back
- short, sloping croup with a thick tail
- small, hard hooves
- height of 1.15–1.32 m (11.1–13.0 h) at the withers for the Mountain Pottok, and 1.20–1.47 m (11.3–14.2 h) for the Plains Pottok
- coat in black, bay or brown or chestnut. Colour may also include pinto but not gray

In the Southern Basque Country, the criteria specify:^[citation needed]

- Type A: Purebreds with original coat types in black or bay with a height of 1.30 m (12.3 h) or less.
- Type B: Purebreds with any coat type up to 1.40 m (13.3 h) in height.
- Type C: Crossbreds with at least 50% Pottok blood up to 1.40 m (13.3 h) in height.

According to an atlas of Basque breeds compiled by IKT Nekazal Ikerketa eta Teknologia (Agricultural Research and Technology), there were 986 Pottoks in the Basque Autonomous Community in 1997; 40 in Álava, 849 in Biscay and 97 in Gipuzkoa.^[12]

In 2005 Switzerland was the only other country holding a studbook recognised by the French breed standard and regulations. This has been kept since 2000 by the Swiss Pottok Society, which since 2004 is a member of the Swiss Society for Ponies and Small Horses SVPK.^[13]

Pottoks in popular culture

- Pottoks featured in the 1935 film *Ramuntcho* by René Barbéris with Louis Jouvet.
- Bayonne's rugby club, Aviron Bayonnais has 'pottoka' as its official mascot.
- The Smurfs are known as the *pottokiak* in Basque

References

- [1] <http://www.pottok.net/docs/studbook.pdf>
- [2] http://www.pottoka.info/files/REGLAMENTACION_ESPECIFICA_DE_LA_RAZA_POTTOKA.pdf
- [3] http://www.svpk.ch/deutsch/html/zucht/rassen/pottok_a.html
- [4] Trask, L. *Etymological Dictionary of Basque*, edited for web publication by Max Wheeler, University of Sussex 2008
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- [11] Association Nationale du Pottok (<http://www.pottok.net/index.php?theme=pottok& sujet=livresab>), accessed August 2011
- [12] Gómez, M. *Razas Autóctonas Vascas* IKT Nekazal Ikerketa eta Teknologia S.A.: 1997; (<http://www.nekanet.net/razas/>) retrieved 21.11.2009
- [13] Schweizerischer Verband für Ponys und Kleinpferde; Fédération Suisse des Poneys et Petits Chevaux (<http://www.svpk.ch/>), retrieved 19.11.2009
- *The Basque Country* (2002), Yasna Maznik, Hachette UK. ISBN 1-84202-159-1

External links

- (French) French National Pottok Association (<http://pottok.anp.free.fr/>)
 - (French) Pottok.com (<http://www.pottok.com/>)
 - (English) Basque Pottoka Federation (<http://www.pottoka.info>)
-

Quarter pony

Quarter Pony



A Quarter pony

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Country of origin | United States |
| Breed standards | |
| American Quarter Pony Association | Breed standards ^[1] |
| National Quarter Pony Association | Breed standards ^[2] |
| International Quarter Pony Association | Breed standards ^[3] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Quarter Pony** is a breed of pony that is similar to the American Quarter Horse. It stands up to 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm) high and was developed from American Quarter Horse foundation bloodstock. The breed was originally developed from Quarter Horses that did not meet the American Quarter Horse Association's height requirement. It is bred to look like a small Quarter Horse, although the various registries also allow crosses with other breeds, including Paint horse, Appaloosa and Pony of the Americas, all stock types. There are three registries for the Quarter Pony, all with slightly different registration requirements. The first registry was begun in 1964, and two more were started in the 1970s. The breed is used today in a variety of Western riding disciplines.

Characteristics

The Quarter Pony is bred to be an American Quarter Horse built on a smaller scale. Breeders focus most on the height and conformation of the breed, and insist that their ponies display Quarter Horse-type characteristics and stand between 11.2 and 14.2 hands (46 and 58 inches, 117 and 147 cm) high. Depending on the registry, the Quarter Pony may come in any color or combination of colors, including pinto patterns such as tobiano and overo and spotted Appaloosa patterns. In the early years of the breed, only solid colors were allowed. The breed averages 13.2 hands (54 inches, 137 cm) high, however, some breeders are working to breed taller animals between 13.2 and 14 hands (54 and 56 inches, 137 and 142 cm) high. The breed has a short, broad head with small ears and wide-set eyes, set on a slightly arched neck. The shoulders are sloping, the withers sharp, the chest broad and deep. The back is short and the hindquarters broad and deep.

Quarter Ponies are often used in western riding activities as mounts for children because of their small size, and calm, even temperament. Larger ponies are more suitable for adult riders and sometimes used for rodeo events such as steer wrestling.

The Quarter Pony is recognized by several different breed registries that each have different requirements. The American Quarter Pony Association requires that, although parentage may be unknown, the pony must have conformation that is desirable for breeding and be easily recognizable as having Quarter Pony or Quarter Horse breeding. pinto, leopard complex (Appaloosa), and white horses are not eligible for registration, nor are gaited ponies. The National Quarter Pony Association requires that stallions be registered with the AQHA before they can be registered with the NQPA. Mares must have one parent registered with the AQHA, be registered with the AQHA themselves, or go through a special registration process. Geldings simply have to be of Quarter Horse type to be eligible for registration. Horses with Pinto or Appaloosa markings, or with excessive white, are not eligible for registration. The International Quarter Pony Association allows Pinto and Appaloosa markings, and simply requires that ponies be of Quarter-type conformation and good disposition for registry. Any type of pony meeting these requirements may be registered through the hardship registration program, which includes a special inspection. However, if ponies have a parent registered with an approved breed registry (approved breeds include the Quarter Pony, Quarter Horse, Paint horse, Appaloosa and Pony of the Americas), they are automatically eligible for registration, with no inspection required. Crosses with gaited breeds are not accepted for registration.

History

The Quarter Pony was originally developed from horses that did not meet the American Quarter Horse Association's original height requirement of 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm) high. This height requirement was later removed, but the Quarter Pony breed continued. Breeders and registries encourage known bloodlines from Quarter Horses, but these are not required by all registries.

The American Quarter Pony Association was begun in 1964 with the ideals of a registry which would register small horses and ponies of western type, whose breeding could be unknown but which were desirable for breeding purposes. Crossbred and purebred animals are eligible for registration, as are animals registered with other registries that meet the entry requirements. In 1975, the National Quarter Pony Association was begun to preserve the smaller, stockier type Quarter Horse when breeding trends were leaning towards taller, leaner animals. The AQPA now registers horses in several foreign countries, as well as all US states and Canadian provinces. The International Quarter Pony Association, begun in the 1970s, also registers Quarter Ponies, and is a worldwide association for ponies of Quarter Horse type. The Quarter Pony Association is an association affiliated with the International Quarter Pony Association, with the goal of promoting the Quarter Pony. In 2005, the IQPA and the QPA became one organization, with the IQPA acting as the registry and the QPA as the membership branch. As of 2005, there were an estimated 3,000 Quarter Ponies registered with all registering organizations. Registries say that registrations of adult animals outnumber those for foals every year, as many owners wait until the pony is old enough to be shown under saddle before registering them.

References

- [1] http://www.aqpa.com/Forms/registration_pro_form.htm
- [2] <http://www.nqpa.org/register.html>
- [3] <http://www.quarterponyassociation.com/IQPAregistration.htm>

External links

- American Quarter Pony Association (<http://www.aqpa.com/>)
- National Quarter Pony Association (<http://www.nqpa.org/>)
- International Quarter Pony Association (<http://www.quarterponyassociation.com/IQPA.htm>)
- Quarter Pony Association (<http://www.quarterponyassociation.com/main.htm>)

Sable Island horse

Sable Island Horse



Feral Sable Island Horses

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Small, stocky feral horses |
| Country of origin | Sable Island, Canada |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Sable Island Horse**, sometimes **Sable Island Pony**, is a type of small feral horse found on Sable Island, an island off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada. It is a small type, often pony sized, but with a horse phenotype and horse ancestors, and usually dark in color. The first horses were released on the island in the late eighteenth century, and soon became feral. Additional horses were later transported to improve the herd's breeding stock. They were rounded up for private use and sale for slaughter, which by the 1950s had placed them in danger of extinction.

In 1960, the Canadian government protected the horses by law in their feral state. From the 1980s on, long-term, noninvasive herd studies have been performed, and in 2007 a genetic analysis was conducted that concluded the herd was genetically unique enough to interest conservationists. In 2008, the horses were declared the official horse of Nova Scotia, and in 2011, the island was declared the Sable Island National Park Reserve. The herd is unmanaged, and legally protected from interference by humans. The horses live only at Sable Island and at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park on the mainland of Nova Scotia, with the latter herd descended from horses removed from Sable Island in the 1950s.

Characteristics

The horses that remain on Sable Island are feral. They generally stand between 13 and 14 hands (52 and 56 inches, 132 and 142 cm). Males from the island average about 360 kilograms (790 lb) and females about 300 kilograms (660 lb). The available food on the island limits their size, and the offspring of horses removed from the island and fed more nutritious diets are generally larger. Physically, the horses resemble Spanish horses, with arched necks and sloping croups. Overall, they are stocky and short, with short pasterns that allow them to move easily on sandy or rough ground. Sable Island horses have very shaggy coats, manes and tails, especially during the winter. The tail is full and low-set. Their coats are mostly dark colours, but some do have white markings. About half are bays, with the rest distributed among chestnut, palomino and black. Many Sable Island Horses have a natural ambling gait. Prior to their protection, when they could be kept for the use of humans, the horses were known for their surefootedness and gaits.

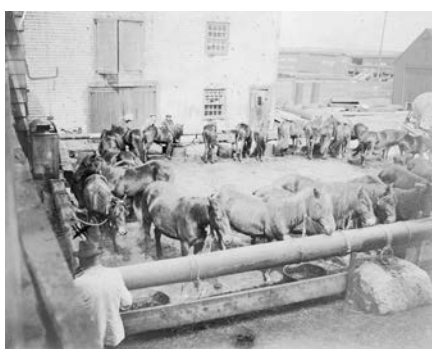


Typical colour patterns

The Sable Island horses are a feral horse population that is entirely unmanaged: they are not subject to any kind of interference. Observational research, which is considered noninvasive to the herd, is sometimes conducted. Herd numbers fluctuate between 160 and 360 animals, with numbers changing based on weather severity. The population is split into numerous smaller herds, ranging from 40 to 50 in number, each ranging over approximately 3 square kilometres (1.2 sq mi). Due to the lack of predators, older horses often die of starvation after their teeth are worn down by a lifetime of exposure to sand and marram, a tough grass. A lack of nutritional food on the island limits the horses' size, and the offspring of those removed from the island and raised on better diets are significantly larger.

History

Sable Island is a narrow, crescent-shaped island located approximately 300 kilometres (190 mi) southeast of Nova Scotia. It is 42 kilometres (26 mi) long and covered in sand dunes and grasses. Over 350 bird species and 190 plants species are found on the island, in addition to the herd of feral horses, which are the most well-known inhabitants.



Ponies in Halifax, Nova Scotia for auction in 1902, after having been removed from the island

Although popular legends claim that Sable Island horses swam ashore from the island's many shipwrecks, or were introduced by 16th-century Portuguese explorers, this is not supported by historical or genetic evidence. In reality, the horses were deliberately introduced to the island during the 18th century. The first recorded horses were brought by a Boston clergyman, the Reverend Andrew Le Mercier, in 1737 but most were stolen by passing mariners. The present-day horses are thought by most historians and scientists to have descended mostly from horses seized by the British from the Acadians during the Expulsion of the Acadians. The Acadian horses were descendents of several shipments of French horses, including members of the Breton, Andalusian and Norman breeds, later crossed with horses from New

England, including Spanish Barbs. The Boston merchant and shipowner Thomas Hancock purchased some Acadian horses and transported them to Sable Island in 1760, where they grazed the island as pasture. Although often referred to as ponies due to their small size, they have a horse phenotype and an ancestry composed solely of horses.

After the government of Nova Scotia established a lifesaving station on Sable Island in 1801, workers trained some of the horses to haul supplies and rescue equipment. Lifesaving staff recorded the importation of a stallion, Jolly, taken there in 1801, who was probably similar in type to the original Acadian horses released on the island. Although

Jolly was not the first horse on the island, he was the first to be identified by name in historic records, and is known to have survived on the island until at least 1812. Other breeding stock, probably including horses of Thoroughbred, Morgan and Clydesdale breeding, were sent to the island during the first half of the 19th century, in the hopes of improving the type of horses found on the island and raising the price for which they could be sold on the mainland.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the horses on Sable Island were periodically rounded up and either kept by islanders or transported to the mainland, where they were sold, frequently for slaughter. Their meat was primarily used for dog food by the late 1950s, and the island horses were in danger of extinction. A public campaign was begun by school children to save the horses. In 1960, as part of the Canadian Shipping Act, the Canadian government declared the horses fully protected and no longer able to be rounded up and sold. The law requires that people receive written permission before "feeding, interfering with, or otherwise having anything to do with the horses on the island."

Study and preservation

Beginning in the mid-1980s, long term studies were begun of the Sable Island herds, and by the mid-2000s, most horses living on the island had documented histories. In 2007, a genetic analysis of the Sable Island herd was performed. It was concluded that these horses were genetically similar to multipurpose and light draft breeds found in eastern mainland Canada, with differences probably created by natural selection and genetic drift. However, the researchers also stated that Sable Island horses had genetically "diverged enough from other breeds to deserve special attention by conservation interest groups," and that the loss of the Sable Island horses would be more damaging to the genetic diversity of the Canadian horse population than the loss of any other breed. Genetic erosion is a possibility within the Sable Island population, due to the small number of horses. In a study of mitochondrial DNA published in 2012, the Sable Island horse was found to be the least genetically diverse of the 24 horse populations studied, which included horse and pony breeds as well as feral populations from North America and Europe.

In 2008, the Nova Scotia Legislature declared the Sable Island Horse as one of the provincial symbols, making them the official horse of Nova Scotia. In 2011, the Canadian government created the Sable Island National Park Reserve, which allows further protection of the island and horses. Aside from the island, Sable Island Horses live only at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia. It maintains descendants of Sable Island Ponies removed from the island in the 1950s by the Canadian Department of Transport.



Sable Island Horses at the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park

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Further reading

- Christie, Barbara J. (1980), *The Horses of Sable Island*, Petheric Press, ISBN 0919380360

External links

- Wild Ponies of Sable Island (<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=9801E0DD1F39E433A2575AC2A9619C94649ED7CF>) - 1895 *The Halifax (N.S.) Herald* article on capture of ponies
 - Green Horse Society - Sable Island Horses (<http://www.greenhorsesociety.com>)
-

Sandalwood Pony

Sandalwood Pony



Sandalwood Pony

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Country of origin | Indonesia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Sandalwood Pony** originated in Indonesia, on the Sumba and Sumbawa Islands. It is named after the Sandalwood trees, which are a major export of the country. The Sandalwood pony is one of the finest in the country, partly due to the great amount of Arabian blood. They make suitable children's ponies, and have been exported to Australia for this purpose. They have also been exported to other Southeast Asian countries for use as racing ponies.

The Sandalwood is used for light draft, pack, farm, and riding work. They are especially popular in horse racing, both on the flat and in harness. They are also used in the bareback races held on the islands, which are often over three miles long.

Sandalwoods have incredible endurance, and are very easy to manage. They should have a nice head with small ears, a short, muscular neck, and a deep chest with a sloping shoulder. The back is usually long, and the croup is sloping. The ponies are usually 12-13 hh, and may be any color.

There are eight breeds native to Indonesia, the Batak Pony, Gayoe, Deli pony, Bali Pony, Java Pony, Sumba and Sumbawa Pony (and closely related Sandalwood Pony) and Timor Pony.^[1]

References

- [1] "Races de chevaux et d'équidés" *Lexique du cheval!* (Includes English section) (http://www.lexiqueducheval.net/lexique_races_b.html)
Web page accessed December 8, 2007
-

Shetland pony

Shetland Pony



A Shetland pony shown in Europe

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Intelligent, small size, sturdy build, thick coat, compact and strong. American subtype more refined with longer legs and finer coat |
| Alternative names | Shetland |
| Country of origin | Shetland Islands, United Kingdom |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Shetland pony** is a breed of pony originating in the Shetland Isles. Shetlands range in size from a minimum height of approximately 28 inches (71 cm) to an official maximum height of 11 hands high (107 cm) at the withers (11.2 hands for American Shetlands). Shetland ponies have heavy coats, short legs and are considered quite intelligent. They are a very strong breed of pony, used for riding, driving, and pack purposes.

History



Two women of the Shetland Isles with ponies:
photograph taken about 1900

Shetland ponies originated in the Shetland Isles, located northeast of mainland Scotland. Small horses have been kept on the Shetland Isles since the Bronze Age.^[citation needed] People who lived on the islands probably later crossed the native stock with ponies imported by Norse settlers.^[citation needed] Shetland ponies also were probably influenced by the Celtic Pony, brought to the islands by settlers between 2000 and 1000 BCE.^[citation needed] The harsh climate and scarce food developed the ponies into extremely hardy animals.

Shetland ponies were first used for pulling carts, carrying peat, coal and other items, and plowing farm land. Then, as the Industrial Revolution increased the need for coal in the mid-19th century, thousands of Shetland ponies traveled to mainland Britain to be pit ponies, working underground hauling coal, often for their entire (often short) lives. Coal mines in the eastern United States also imported some of these animals. The last pony mine in the United States closed in 1971.^[1]

The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society of the United Kingdom was started in 1890 to maintain purity and encourage high-quality animals. In 1957, the Shetland Islands Premium Stallion Scheme was formed to subsidize high-quality registered stallions to improve the breeding stock.

Uses

Today, Shetlands are ridden by children and are shown by both children and adults at horse shows in harness driving classes as well as for pleasure driving outside of the show ring. Shetlands are ridden by small children at horse shows, in riding schools and for pleasure. They are seen working in commercial settings such as fairs or carnivals to provide short rides for visitors. They are also seen at petting zoos and sometimes are used for therapeutic horseback riding purposes. In the United Kingdom, Shetlands are also featured in the Shetland Pony Grand National, galloping around a racecourse with young jockeys.

Junior Harness Racing was founded in Queensland by a group of breeders to give young people age 6 - 16 an opportunity to obtain a practical introduction to the harness racing industry. The children have the opportunity to drive Shetland ponies in harness under race conditions. No prize money is payable on pony races, although winners and place-getters receive medallions.

Miniature Shetlands have been trained as guide horses to take the same role as guide dogs. This task is also performed by other miniature horse breeds.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, prior to the regiment's formation, adopted the Shetland as its regimental mascot and names them Cruachan.



A Shetland pony in harness.



Shetland pony "Grand National" in the UK

Characteristics



Shetland ponies grazing near Papil, West Burra,
Shetland Islands

Shetland Ponies are hardy and strong, in part because the breed developed in the harsh conditions of the Shetland Isles. In appearance, Shetlands have a small head, sometimes with a dished face, widely spaced eyes and small and alert ears. The original breed has a short, muscular neck, compact, stocky bodies, and short, strong legs and a shorter than normal cannon bone in relation to their size. A short broad back and deep girth are universal characteristics as is a springy stride. Shetlands have long thick manes and tails and a dense double winter coat to withstand harsh weather. Different breed registries have different height standards, but the outside ranges are between 7 and 11.2 hands (28 to 46 inches (71 to 117 cm)).

Shetlands can be almost every colour, including skewbald and piebald (called pinto in the United States), but are mainly black, chestnut, bay, grey, palomino, dun, roan, cremello, and silver dapple. Registered shetlands are not leopard spotted (Appaloosa), nor do they carry the champagne gene, though these colours are sometimes seen in Shetland-sized crossbreds.

Shetland ponies are generally gentle, good-tempered, and very intelligent by nature. They make good children's ponies, and are sometimes noted for having a "brave" character, but can be very opinionated or "cheeky", and can be impatient, snappy, and sometimes become uncooperative. Due in part to their intelligence and size, they are easily spoiled and can be very headstrong if not well-trained.



A classic image of an ideal Shetland pony,
Nordisk familjebok (Swedish encyclopedia),
circa 1904-1926.



Shetland ponies on a German stamp

For its size, the Shetland is the strongest of all horse and pony breeds^[citation needed]. It can pull twice its own weight under circumstances where a draft horse can only pull approximately half its own weight, as well as many being able to carry up to 9 stone – 130 pounds (59 kg). Shetland ponies are found worldwide, though mainly in the UK and North America. In general, UK ponies tend to preserve more of the original characteristics of the breed and are often stockier than their American cousins.

Many ponies are long-lived, it is not unusual for a Shetland pony to live more than 30 years. Conversely, their small size also predisposes some individuals to a greater probability of heart problems than in larger animals, on occasion leading to early death. Shetland ponies, like many hardy small horse and pony breeds, can easily develop

laminitis if on a diet high in non-structural carbohydrates. Therefore owners must pay careful attention to nutrition, being careful to regulate feed quantity and type.

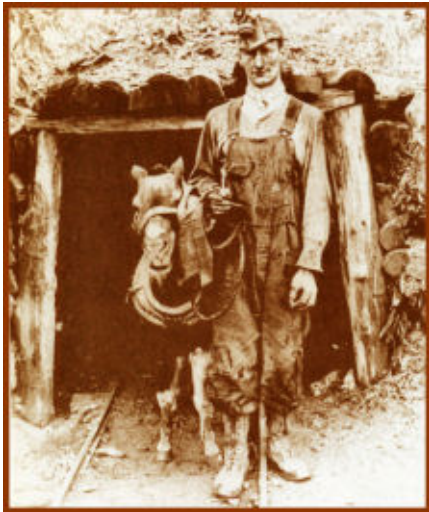
The American Shetland

The first Shetland ponies for which there are written records were imported to the United States in 1885 by Eli Elliot. These ponies provided the foundation stock for the development of the American Shetland, and were crossed with ponies of other breeds, including the Hackney pony, Welsh pony, and Harness Show Pony. The breeding of the ponies was mainly centered in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa.

In 1888, the American Shetland Pony Club was formed and now has two studbooks: Division A and Division B. Division A registers ponies with 12.5% or less outcross (non-Shetland) blood, and Division B is open to any pony with 12.5% or more outcross blood. Foundation Certification is also available for ponies from 4 generations of Division A breeding. As of 2009 A and B designations are no longer on Registrations.



An American Shetland, showing finer bone and more of a "horse" phenotype.



Shetland pony and miner in Virginia

American Shetland Ponies are more refined than the traditional Shetland. They often have a long, thin, "hooky" neck, a more refined body, and longer legs. The breed tends to be long and narrow through the back, with broad and muscular hindquarters and high withers. The shoulder has good slope, allowing for extravagant action. These ponies are most often used for harness work and as children's ponies. They can be seen show jumping in classes for young riders, at horse shows in both Western and English riding classes, as well as many other competitive events, including gymkhana, novelty harness racing, and shown at halter, Costume.

The American Shetland Pony Club recognizes four types of Shetlands-Modern, Pleasure, Classic and Foundation. Modern Shetland are typically the tallest of the breed; they are shown with a high head set, ribbon braids in their manes, tail sets and have high stepping action. Pleasure ponies have similar breeding though their action is

more subdued. Classic Shetlands are the most typical type and are known for their refinement and gentle nature while lacking most of the action of the Modern ponies. Finally, Foundation ponies do not have any Hackney influence for four generations and are all under 42" tall. Their looks are most reflective of their British ancestry.

However, the compact "classic" type of Shetland is still more prevalent in overall numbers in the USA, though such ponies are not always registered.

German Classic Pony

In 1965, German breeders began to selectively breed American Shetlands to create a "Sporty Shetland Pony." with a more elegant appearance, refined head, friendly look, better gaits, and better temperament.^[2] In 2000, when the British Shetland registry refused to register ponies with American bloodlines as purebred, the German breeders formed their own registry, with the breed's official name being the "Deutsches Classic-Pony."^[3] All coat colors are acceptable, but liver chestnut with a flaxen mane is particularly common and popular.^[4]

Standards in the USA and the UK

There are several major registries for Shetland ponies, the Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society (SPSBS) based in UK, American Shetland Pony Club (ASPC), and the Shetland Pony Society of North America (SPSNA), both based in the USA. Shetland ponies registered with the SPSBS cannot be taller than 42" at maturity. ASPC Shetlands range in height from about 30"(rare) to 46" (the breed is measured in inches, not in hands). The Shetland Pony Society of North America was formed to honor the traditional Shetland Pony of island type. Any pony registered with other American, British, or Canadian registries can be cross-registered if it meets the pedigree and conformation standards of the SPSNA.



Traditional Shetland pony under saddle in Europe

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- [2] <http://www.classic-pony.com/rasse.php>
- [3] <http://classic-pony.npage.de/how-did-the-germann-classic-pony-come-about.html>
- [4] <http://www.spezialrassen-online.de/pferderassen/dasdeutscheclassicpony/index.html>

External links

- The Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society (<http://www.shetlandponystudbooksociety.co.uk/>)
- Pony Breeders of Shetland Association (<http://www.shetlandponybreeders.com/>)
- "Shetland Pony", from International Museum of the Horse (http://imh.org/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=193:europa&id=2193:shetland-pony&Itemid=252)
- Shetland Pony Society of North America (<http://shetlandponysociety.com>)
- American Shetland Pony Club's home website (<http://www.shetlandminiature.com/>)

Skyros Pony

Skyros



Skyros mare and foal

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Very small stature, semi-domesticated |
| Alternative names | Skyrian Horse Skyrian Pony |
| Country of origin | Greece (Skyros) |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Skyros Pony** (Greek *αλογάκι της Σκύρου*) is a breed of pony found on the Greek isle of Skyros.

Breed Characteristics

The Skyros breed generally stands between 9.1 and 11 hands high, and may be, bay, dun, brown or grey. The small-bodied species of the Skyrian horse is one of the rarest horse breeds in the world. It is native to Greece, and in ancient times lived throughout the country, but now is only found in the wild in Skyros. At the time of writing [2009] there are 220 Skyrian horses in Greece, of which 152 live in Skyros. The Skyrian horse is a protected species.

The Skyrian horses are friendly, social, robust, intelligent animals; they are a particularly friendly breed. The head is very handsome, the mane long thick and usually in a hue darker than skin colour. Their legs are slim, strong and wiry, with strong joints. The tail is low set. The hooves are small, compact and strong, usually black in colour, and do not need shoeing.

A group called the Silva Project is currently working to promote the foundation of Skyros herds elsewhere in Greece and abroad. The Skyros Island Horse Trust [1] based in Skyros is running a highly successful breeding, conservation, education and welfare project with the Skyrian Horses. Another key organisation working to protect the skyrian horse is the Skyrian horse society [2] who have created a stud book and are in the process of setting up a pedigree for the Skyrian Horse. Also another non profit organisation Hippolytus est.2010 (ελληνικά Ιππόλυτος) based in Falani Larissa is making efforts towards promoting the breed culturally and at the same time helping with its preservation.

History

The Skyros breed is believed to be descended from horses brought to the island of Skyros during the 5th to 8th centuries BCE by Athenian colonists. It is possible that they were used by Alexander the Great in his conquests, and also possible that they are the horses depicted in the friezes of the Parthenon.

They developed mainly as semi-feral horses in the mountainous area on the southern part of the island, although individuals were caught and tamed by farmers for agricultural uses. The advances in agricultural mechanization during the 1960s called into question the survival of the breed, as they were no longer needed for farm work and their numbers were already low. The prevalence of feral donkeys in the same area of the island that the Skyros calls home is also a threat, as the two groups cross-breed and prevent pure breeding by the Skyros ponies.

During the 1970s there was a short-lived breeding program focused on the Skyros breed. This program brought publicity to the breed, and resulted in them being declared critically endangered in 1991.

Uses

The ponies are often kept semi-wild, ranging the mountainous interior of the island until they are needed at the harvest for threshing grain. Skyroi are also used as pack horses, harness horses, and for riding.

References

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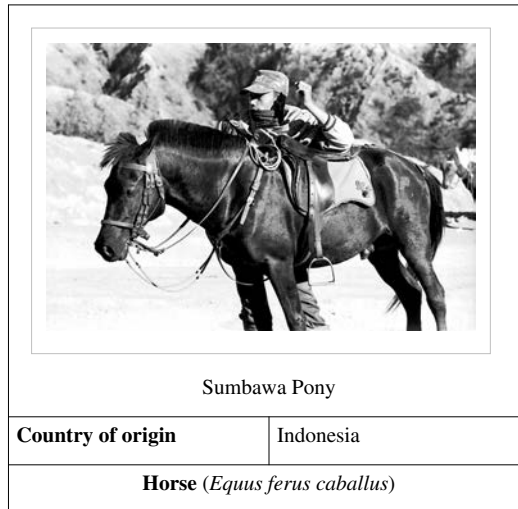
[2] <http://www.skyrianhorsesociety.gr/en/main-content/to-skuriano-alogo/description.html>

External links

- Katsarelias Simpson Project Blog (<http://skyrianhorse.wordpress.com/>)
- Silva Project homepage (<http://www.thesilvaproject.org/>)
- Hippolytus homepage (<http://www.ippolitos.gr/>)
- Hippolytus blog (<http://www.skyrianoalogaki.blogspot.com/>)

Sumba and Sumbawa Pony

Sumba and Sumbawa Ponies



The **Sumba Pony** and **Sumbawa Pony** are named after the islands on which they are bred -- Sumba and Sumbawa Island respectively. However, the two breeds are very similar. The ponies descended from Mongolian Horses and ancient Chinese stock. A closely related breed also developed in these islands is the Sandalwood Pony, which came from crossing the native ponies on horses of Arabian breeding.^[1]

Uses

Sumba and Sumbawa ponies are today used for pack, riding, and light draft work. They are incredibly strong, and many are ridden by men in games of lance throwing despite never reaching 13 hands high. Young boys also ride the ponies bareback in traditional dance competitions, manoeuvring them in patterns as instructed. The knee of the ponies are decorated with bells, that chime in rhythm to the drumming.

Characteristics

The ponies are quick, agile, athletic, and fast, with great endurance, and a willing temperament. They usually have primitive coloring, being dun with a dorsal stripe and black points, although they may be any color. The Sumba and Sumbawa have a heavy head, short, muscular neck, and low withers. The back is usually long, although it is still strong, and the legs are fine but tough with good hooves. Most ponies do not exceed 12.2 hh, and the average height is around 12 hh.^[2]

There are eight pony breeds native to Indonesia, the others are the Batak Pony, Gayoe, Deli pony, Bali Pony, Java Pony, and Timor Pony.^[3]

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- [1] *The Encyclopedia of Horses and Ponies*. Pickeral, Tamsin. Parragon Plus, 2001. ISBN 0-7525-4158-7
 - [2] *Simon & Schuster's Guide to Horses and Ponies*. Bongiani, Maurizio. Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1988, pg. 90. ISBN 0-671-66068-3
 - [3] "Races de chevaux et d'équidés" *Lexique du cheval!* (Includes English section) (http://www.lexiqueducheval.net/lexique_races_b.html)
Web page accessed December 8, 2007
-

Tibetan pony

Tibetan Pony

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | |
| Country of origin | Tibet and China |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Tibetan pony** is today found in Tibet. Once thought to be simple hardy mountain ponies developed from Mongolian stock, recent research indicates that there may be up to six separate horse breeds native to Tibet.^[1]

History

It is generally believed that most Tibetan ponies descended from ancient stock, likely partly from the Mongolian Pony and Chinese breeds. However, some breeds, such as the Nangchen horse have apparently have been bred pure for centuries. Another type, the Riwoche horse, has been hypothesized to have been developed in isolation to a degree that some claim it is an evolutionary link between the prehistoric wild horse and the modern domestic horse, though it could also be a domesticated variety that reverted to primitive coloring.^[2]



Working ponies

Horses in general are well regarded by the local people, and they have been traditionally kept by both wealthy Tibetans and farmers alike, as well as by the Dalai Lama and other religious figures. The ponies were sent as gifts to Chinese Emperors, especially during the Ming and Tang dynasties. Horses also were commonly traded for tea from the southern parts of Sichuan province, China even as late as the 1950s. The trade was prolific to the extent that the route between Lhasa and Sichuan came to be known as the Tea-Horse Road.^{[3][4]}

Characteristics

The ponies are known for having considerable strength and endurance for their size, as well as sure-footedness and resilience. They are mostly kept as light draft animals, as well as for pack and riding work. The Nangchen horse is used as a race horse and for handling livestock. Most Tibetan ponies have a pronounced jaw line, straight profile, and small ears and eyes. The neck is muscular and a bit short, the chest is deep, the shoulder is straight. The ponies have powerful hindquarters, and short, strong legs with good joints.



A Tibetan pony at work

Cross Breeding

The Tibetan Pony has been extensively crossbred with the Bhutia Pony and the Spiti Pony to create a new type called the Indian Country Bred. The Tibetan breeds in their pure form do retain individual characteristics and heritage, however.

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Timor Pony

Timor



| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Country of origin | East Timor, Indonesia |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Timor Pony** was developed on Timor Island, likely from Indian breeds of horses and ponies that were imported to the island. The Timor Pony is thought to be closely related to the Flores Pony, which was developed on nearby Flores Island.^[1] Both breeds are used by the local people for cattle work, as well as riding, driving, and light farm work. Many of these ponies have been exported to Australia, where they have had an influence on the breeding of the Australian Pony.

Timor Ponies are strong, frugal, and agile, and have a quiet and willing temperament. The ponies have a narrow frame, short back, muscular neck, prominent withers, and a sloping croup. The shoulders tend to be straight, but the legs and feet are strong. The ponies usually stand 10 to 12 hands high (40 to 48 inches (102 to 122 cm)), and are usually brown, black, and bay, but a few are gray. The Flores Pony is usually around 12.1 hh and the dominant colors are bay and chestnut.

In addition to the Timor pony, there are eight other breeds native to the islands that make up Indonesia, the Batak Pony, Gayoe, Deli pony, Bali Pony, Java Pony, and three breeds so closely related that there is debate over whether they are one, two or three, the "Sumba and Sumbawa Pony" and the closely related Sandalwood Pony.^[2]

Sixty Timor Ponies that were imported into Australia formed the foundation of the Coffin Bay Pony breed that was developed in South Australia.^[3]

The Timor Pony is referenced in the poem *The Man from Snowy River* by Banjo Paterson,^[4] first published in 1890.

References

- [1] Hendricks, Bonnie. *International Encyclopedia of Horse Breeds*, page 186
- [2] "Races de chevaux et d'équidés" *Lexique du cheval!* (Includes English section) (http://www.lexiqueducheval.net/lexique_races_b.html) Web page accessed December 8, 2007
- [3] Cuddly Koalas, Beautiful Brumbies, Exotic Olives (<http://www.utas.edu.au/arts/imaging/bagust.pdf>) Retrieved 2009-9-22
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Tokara pony

The **Tokara pony** (トカラ馬 *Tokara-uma*Help:Installing Japanese character sets) (also known as the Kagoshima pony) is a Japanese pony native to the Tokara Islands, a group of islands in Kagoshima Prefecture at the southwestern tip of the island of Kyushu. Its height is about 100 to 120 centimetres (39 to 47 in) (9.3 – 11.3 hands high), or larger than a Shetland pony. Its coat color is predominantly seal brown. The Tokara has a good tolerance for heat and is used for agriculture, riding and sugar cane processing.^[1]



Tokara ponies grazing in a pasture

History

In 1952 the ponies were discovered on Takarajima by Shigeyuki Hayashida, a professor of Kagoshima University, and designated the Tokara Pony. It was theorized that the ponies were brought to Takarajima from Kikaijima around 1900. In 1953, the Tokara pony was designated a natural monument of Kagoshima. When Professor Hayashida first discovered the ponies, he counted 43. Their numbers gradually declined during the 1960s because of agricultural mechanization, however, and it was difficult to monitor the population on Takarajima. Therefore, some of the ponies were transferred to the Mt. Kaimon Natural Park and Iriki Farm, part of the agricultural department of Kagoshima University.

Endangered population

By 1974, there was only a single Tokara pony remaining on the Tokara Islands. This pony was transferred to Nakanoshima on the Tokaras, and was bred with Tokara ponies which were reintroduced from the mainland. Currently, about ten Tokara ponies are kept at Nakanoshima. A breeding farm is located at Takao, at the center of one of the islands. The pony population at Nakanoshima and on the mainland is increasing, and there is currently a total of 107 Tokara ponies. Tokara-Penn's three mares are on display at the Hirakawa Zoo in Kagoshima. Due to its small stature,^[2] the Tokara pony is no longer in demand as a plow horse on the Tokaras or the mainland and has limited utility as a riding horse; therefore, finding a practical use for the Tokara pony is a problem which will affect its future protection.

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Vyatka horse

Vyatka



Vyatka stallion

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Country of origin | Russian Federation |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Vyatka** or **Viatka** is an endangered breed of horse native to the former Vyatka region, now the Kirov Oblast of the Russian Federation. It is mainly found there and in the Udmurt Republic.

History

The Vyatka breed was influenced by the climate and terrain of the Kirov, Udmurtia and western Perm regions; Estonian horses and Kleppers brought to northern Russia by Novgorod colonists from the 14th century may have affected its conformation, as may later imports of Estonian horses for mining work in the Ural Mountains. The Vyatka horse became known for draft abilities including endurance, speed and frugality. By the early 19th century, it was often used for pulling troikas, and some were exported from the Vyatka region, including to Poland. The breed has possibly also been influenced by Konik ponies.^[1]

Breed characteristics

It is a useful and versatile breed and has stamina, hardiness and endurance. It is used for riding and driving and is commonly used for pulling the traditional troika; it is also useful for light agricultural work. It has a willing and honest temperament and is easy to handle.

The Vyatka horse has a small head, set onto a strong, thick neck. It is powerful through the shoulders, deep through the girth and has muscular quarters. The Vyatka horse has a luxurious mane and tail, and in winter grows a thick coat. It is usually chestnut or bay roan, or dun colored with primitive markings – a dorsal stripe, shoulder cross and sometimes zebra markings on the legs. The average height at the withers is 140 centimetres (13.3 hands), and the average weight 400 kilograms (880 lb).^[1] In 1917 the breed was virtually extinct; some efforts at re-establishment were made after the Russian Revolution.^[1] In 2003 the known population numbered 560. In 2007 the Vyatka horse was on the FAO's Endangered List.^[2]

References

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- [2] %20of%20breeds%20at%20risk/endorsed_2007.pdf "Endangered List 2007" (ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1250e/annexes/List) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Accessed September 2011.

Welara

Welara

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Refined but hardy pony breed |
| Country of origin | Originally bred in England, registered in United States |
| Breed standards | |
| American Welara Pony Registry | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Welara** is a part-Arabian pony breed developed from the Arabian horse and the Welsh pony. It was originally bred in England by Lady Wentworth at the Crabbet Arabian Stud in the early 1900s from imported Arabian stallions and Welsh pony mares. Breeding then spread throughout North America. In 1981, a breed registry was formed in the United States, and a studbook began to be published. They are used for many disciplines of English riding, and are known for their refinement, hardiness and spirit.

Breed characteristics



An Arabian horse



A Welsh pony

The two breeds used to create the Welara

Welara stallions average 14 to 15 hands (56 to 60 inches, 142 to 152 cm) and mares 13.1 to 14.3 hands (53 to 59 inches, 135 to 150 cm). To be registered, Welaras must stand between 11.2 and 15 hands (46 and 60 inches, 117 and 152 cm) high. Crosses between Arabians and each of the four sections of Welsh Pony (A, B, C and D) tend to produce slightly different types of pony. Section A Welsh Pony crosses (the smallest) tend to be under 13 hands (52 inches, 132 cm), and be used mainly as light driving ponies and mounts for small children. Section B crosses usually stand 13 to 13.2 hands (52 to 54 inches, 132 to 137 cm) and can be used for driving and as riding ponies for

larger children and small adults. Section C crosses average 13.2 to 14.2 hands (54 to 58 inches, 137 to 147 cm) hands and tend to be a heavier pony, sometimes with feathered feet, although still showing the refinement of their Arabian ancestors. Section D crosses generally stand 13.3 to 15 hands (55 to 60 inches, 140 to 152 cm) high. The latter two types are suited to riding by average and slightly larger adults and for the majority of disciplines.

All colors other than Appaloosa are allowed for registration. Welara Sport Ponies may be of any color or size, without the restrictions of the purebred Welara. The mix of Arabian and Welsh blood gives the breed refinement, spirit and hardiness, as well as good movement. The head is small and slightly concave, the neck is arched (and prone to be cresty in stallions). The shoulders and croup are long and the back short. Welaras are used mainly in English riding, especially in hunter classes. They are also seen in show jumping, three-day eventing, pleasure driving and as general leisure riding horses. Welara/Thoroughbred crosses are popular mounts for riders competing in hunter and jumper classes.

History

Crosses began to be made between the Arabian horse and the Welsh Pony in Sussex, England the early 1900s, by Lady Wentworth of the Crabbet Arabian Stud. She began breeding Arabian stallions, including Skowronek (1909–1930), a Polish Arabian stud, to Welsh mares from North Wales, especially the Coed Coch stud farm, which she imported beginning in the early 1920s. Other breeders in England and North America soon followed suit, although at this time they were not focused on creating a new breed, and the cross became known as the Welara.

In 1981, a breed registry, called the American Welara Pony Registry, was created in the US in order to develop and promote the breed. A studbook also began to be published, and pedigrees of Welaras were collected and preserved. Only Welsh and Arabian blood is allowed for purebreds, and all registered ponies must have at least 1/8 and no more than 7/8 blood from each breed. As of 2005, the registry claimed slightly over 1,500 ponies registered in North America, with around 100 new foals registered annually. Welara Sport Ponies may also be registered – these are ponies at least 50 percent Welara but with blood from other breeds, often the Thoroughbred. The association also registers pureblood Welsh and Arabian foundation stock.

Welaras have now spread to additional areas of the world, including the Caribbean, Oceania and Europe. In Europe, Welsh/Arabian crosses, sometimes with additional Thoroughbred blood, are often called "riding ponies" or "sport ponies". In the US, the breed is seen most often in the central and western parts of the country.

References

[1] <http://www.welararegistry.com/registry/registry.html>

External links

- <http://www.welararegistry.com> Welara Registry



Lady Wentworth, original breeder of the Welara

Welsh Pony and Cob

Welsh Pony



Welsh Pony (Section B)

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Distinguishing features | Hardy, surefooted, intelligent. Refined with clean bone, with substance, stamina and soundness. |
| Alternative names | Welsh Mountain Pony, Welsh Cob, Welsh Pony of Cob Type |
| Country of origin | Wales |
| Breed standards | |
| Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America (WPCSA) | Breed standards ^[1] |
| Welsh Pony and Cob Society (WPCS) | Breed standards ^[2] |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Welsh Pony and Cob** are closely related horse breeds including both pony and cob types, which originated in Wales in the United Kingdom. The breed society for the Welsh breeds has four sections, primarily distinguished by height, but also by variations in type: the **Welsh Mountain Pony (Section A)**, the **Welsh Pony (Section B)**, the **Welsh Pony of Cob Type (Section C)**, and the **Welsh Cob (Section D)**. Welsh ponies and cobs are known for their good temperament, hardiness, and free-moving gaits.

Native ponies existed in Wales prior to 1600 BC, and a Welsh-type cob was known as early as the Middle Ages. They were influenced by the Arabian horse, and possibly also by the Thoroughbred and the Hackney horse. In 1901, the first stud book for the Welsh breeds was established in the United Kingdom, and in 1907 another registry was established in the United States. Interest in the breed declined during the Great Depression, but revived in the 1950s. Throughout their history, the Welsh breeds have had many uses, including as a cavalry horse, a pit pony, and as a working animal on farms.

Today, the modern Welsh Pony and Cob breeds are used for many equestrian competitive disciplines, including showing, jumping and driving, as well as for pleasure riding, trekking and trail riding. The smaller types are popular children's ponies. The Welsh also crosses well with many other breeds and has influenced the development of many British and American horse and pony breeds.

History



Section A Welsh pony

Evidence suggests that a native Welsh-type of pony existed before 1600 BC. The original Welsh Mountain Pony is thought to have evolved from the prehistoric Celtic pony. Welsh ponies were primarily developed in Wales and their ancestors existed in the British Isles prior to the arrival of the Roman Empire.^[3] Bands of ponies roamed in a semi-feral state, climbing mountains, leaping ravines, and running over rough moorland terrain.

They developed into a hardy breed due to the harsh climate, limited shelter and sparse food sources of their native country. At some point in their development, the Welsh breeds had some Arabian blood added, although this did not take away the physical characteristics that make the breed unique.

The Welsh Cob existed as a type as early as the Middle Ages, and mentions of such animals can be found in medieval Welsh literature. During this time period they were known for their speed, jumping ability and carrying capacity. Before the introduction of large, "coldblood" draft horse breeds, they were used for farm work and timbering. In 1485 the Welsh Militia, riding local animals presumed to be ancestors of the modern Welsh Cob, assisted Henry Tudor in gaining the English throne. During the 15th century, similar small horses were also used as rounceys, leading war horses known as destriers.

The characteristics of the breeds as they are known today are thought to have been established by the late 15th century, after the Crusaders returned to England with Arabian stallions obtained from the Middle East.^[citation needed] In the 16th century, King Henry VIII, thinking to improve the breeds of horses, particularly war horses, ordered the destruction of all stallions under 15 hands and all mares under 13 hands in the Breed of Horses Act 1535. The laws for swingeing culls of 'under-height' horses were partially repealed by a decree by Queen Elizabeth I in 1566 on the basis that the poor lands could not support the weight of the horses desired by Henry VIII because of "their rottenness ... [they] are not able to breed beare and bring forth such great breeds of stoned horses as by the statute of 32 Henry VIII is expressed, without peril of miring and perishing of them", and (fortunately for the future of Britain's mountain and moorland pony breeds) many ponies in their native environments, including the Welsh breeds, therefore escaped the slaughter.

On the upland farms of Wales, Welsh ponies and cobs would often have to do everything from ploughing a field to carrying a farmer to market or driving a family to services on Sunday. When coal mining became important to the economy of England, many Welsh ponies were harnessed for use in mines, above and below ground.^[citation needed]

In the 18th century and 19th century, more Arabian blood was added by stallions who were turned out in the Welsh hills. Other breeds have also been added, including the Thoroughbred, Hackney, Norfolk Roadster, and the Yorkshire Coach Horse.^[citation needed] Before the car was developed, the speediest mode of transportation in Wales was the Welsh Cob. Tradesmen, doctors and other businessmen often selected ponies by trotting them the 35 uphill miles from Cardiff to Dowlais. The best ponies could complete this feat in under three hours, never breaking gait. Formal breeding stock licensing was introduced in 1918, but before this, breeding stock was selected by trotting tests like these.

In 1901 English and Welsh breeders established a breed registry, called the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, and the first stud book was published in 1902. It was decided that the Welsh Stud Book should be separated into sections divided by type and height. Welsh Ponies were originally only classified as Section A, but in 1931, with the rising demand for riding ponies for children, Section B was added. In the first stud books, the Section B was the Welsh Pony of Cob Type, and the Welsh Cob was Section C and Section D. The upper height limit for Section D Cobs was removed in 1907 and in 1931 Sections C and D were combined as simply Section C. The current standards of Cobs

as Sections C and D were finalised in 1949. Until the mid 20th century, the British War Office considered the Welsh Cob so valuable that they paid premiums to the best stallions. After World War II, only three stallions were registered with Section C, but numbers have since recovered.



Welsh mountain pony in a natural setting

Welsh ponies adapted easily to the terrain and climate variations they encountered when exported to Canada and the United States. They were first exported to the United States as early as 1880s, and large numbers of animals were exported between 1884 and 1910. The United States registry, also named the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, was incorporated in 1906., and by 1913 a total of 574 ponies had been registered. During the Great Depression, interest in the breed declined, but made a comeback in the 1950s. The population continued to grow, 2,881 ponies had been registered by the end of 1957, and annual studbooks began to be published. All Welsh ponies and cobs in the United States today descend from ponies registered with the UK

registry, and over 34,000 have been registered with the US registry as of 2009.

Foundation lines

The stallion Dyoll Starlight was credited with being the foundation sire of the modern breed, and was a combination of Welsh and Arab breeding. From his line came an influential stallion of the Section B type: Tan-y-Bwlch Berwyn. This stallion was sired by a Barb and out of a mare from the Dyoll Starlight line. Influential stallions on the Section C and D bloodlines include: Trotting Comet, foaled in 1840 from a long line of trotting horses; True Briton, foaled in 1930, by a trotting sire and out of an Arabian mare; Cymro Llwyd, foaled in 1850, by an Arabian stallion and out of a trotting mare; and Alonzo the Brave, foaled in 1866, tracing his ancestry through the Hackney breed to the Darley Arabian.

Characteristics

All sections of Welsh ponies and Welsh cobs have small heads with large eyes, sloped shoulders, short backs and strong hindquarters. The forelegs are straight and the cannon bone short. The tail is high-set. The breed ranges from 11 hands (44 inches, 112 cm) for the smallest ponies to over 16 hands (64 inches, 163 cm) for the tallest cobs. They may be any solid colour, but not piebald, skewbald, (US: pinto) or leopard-spotted. Black, greys, chestnut and bay are the most common, but there are also duns and palominos. However, it should be noted that British equine colour terminology commonly refers to the buckskin colour, which is caused by the same dilution gene that produces palomino, as "dun", but the true dun gene is extremely rare in the Welsh breed.^[citation needed]

Their movement is bold and free and characteristically fast, especially at the trot, with great power coming from the hocks. Their trot has been favorably compared to that of the Standardbred horse. They are reputed to be trustworthy, of a good disposition with even temperaments and friendly characters, but spirited and with great endurance, and are known for their stamina, soundness, and high level of intelligence.



Welsh Cob mare with her partbred foal.

The Sections

Section A

The Section A Welsh Pony is also known as the Welsh Mountain pony. Both the Section A and Section B ponies are more refined than those in Section C and D. They are characterised from the cob types by a large eye, small head (often with a dished face from the Arabian influence), high set on tail, and refined leg conformation, but retaining good bone and correctness.

The **Welsh Mountain Pony (Section A)** may not exceed 12.2 hands (50 inches, 127 cm) in the US^[1] or 12 hands (48 inches, 122 cm) in the United Kingdom.^[1]



Welsh section A pony

Section B

The **Welsh Pony of Riding Type (Section B)** is the second division within the Welsh pony registry.^[4] The Section B Welsh Pony is a larger, riding-type pony. The Section B combines the hardiness and substance of the Section A with elegant movement and athletic ability. Section B ponies are taller than Section A with a maximum height of 13.2 hands (54 inches, 137 cm) in the UK and 14.2 hands (58 inches, 147 cm) in the US. They are known for elegant movement and athletic ability while still retaining the substance and hardiness of the foundation stock, the Section A Welsh pony. They have no lower height limit.



Section B Welsh pony

Section B ponies also generally have a slightly lighter build, as a result of Thoroughbred and Hackney blood. Section B ponies resemble the Section A pony, but are of a more refined "riding type". However, they should not be light of bone; they should resemble their Mountain Pony ancestors for quality of bone. In addition to the desirable characteristics of the Type A pony, Type B ponies have a free-flowing movement. They should have a muscular neck, arching from withers to poll, and have a deep, wide chest. Section B ponies are more commonly used as children's ponies and as pony hunter-jumpers.^[citation needed]

Section C



A Section C Welsh Pony of Cob type.

The **Welsh Pony of Cob Type (Section C)** may not exceed 13.2 hands (54 inches, 137 cm) high. They are known for their strength, hardiness and gentle nature. Unlike the Welsh pony (Section B), it is heavier and more coblike and compact.^[5] They have a moderate amount of feathering on their legs.

The Welsh Pony of Cob Type first resulted from a crossbreeding between the Welsh mountain pony (Section A) and the Welsh Cob (Section D). Today, some Section C ponies are still produced from this cross. In the past the WPCS also accepted Section C ponies with Section B blood but that is no longer the case. There were also crosses

with Iberian horses, which led to the development of the Powys horse, which was also a foundation for this type. Other breeds also influenced the Section C, including the Norfolk Trotter, the Hackney and Yorkshire Coach Horse.^[citation needed]

The Welsh Pony of Cob Type is shown in jumping events and in harness, notably in competitive driving.^[citation needed]

Section D – Cob

The **Welsh Cob (Section D)** is the largest size within the Welsh Pony and Cob breed registries. They must be taller than 13.2 hands (54 inches, 137 cm), with no upper height limit.^[16] They are used as riding animals for both adults and children, and are also used for driving. They are known for their hardiness and gentle nature.



A Section D Welsh Cob pulling a carriage.



A Welsh Cob shown in-hand

Though they are the tallest and stockiest of the Welsh sections, the head remains full of pony character, with large eyes, and neat ears. The legs may be relatively short, also akin to pony proportions. Mature stallions have somewhat cresty necks, those of mares are generally leaner. Like the section C, they have powerful, extravagant action. Grey colouring is rarer in the section D cob than other types of Welsh ponies, but bold white markings are common.

Today, the Section D is best known for use in harness driving, but they are also shown under saddle and in hand. Like other Welsh ponies, Cobs are also exhibited over fences as hunters and jumpers.

Influence

The Welsh also crosses well with many other breeds and has influenced the Pony of the Americas and the British Riding Pony. Many are also crossbred with Thoroughbreds, and other horse breeds. The Welsh Pony has contributed to the founding of several other horse and pony breeds. The Morgan horse is one such breed, being in part descended from Welsh Cobs left behind by British forces after the end of the Revolutionary War.^[citation needed] They are crossed with Arabians to produce riding horses, and with Thoroughbreds to produce jumpers, hunters and eventers. Mares have also been used to breed polo ponies that were agile and nimble. The Welsh Pony was used to create the Welara, a popular crossbreed of the Welsh and the Arabian horse, which created a separate breed registry in America in 1981.



Children on Welsh Mountain Ponies

Uses

The Welsh Pony has been put to many uses. Historically, they were used for postal routes and in coal mines. The British War Office used the Welsh Cob to pull heavy guns and equipment through terrain where motorised vehicles could not, and also used them for mounted infantry. Today, they are used as riding and driving ponies for both children and adults. They have proven their ability at driving in Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) level competition, and they have been used for dressage. They also compete against one another in breed show competition as hunters, eventers, and western pleasure horses. The abilities of the Welsh pony were showcased in 2008 when the first champion Large Pony Hunter to be made into a model Breyer horse was a grey Welsh pony gelding.



Welsh Cob under saddle

In former times many Liverpool docks carthorses were sourced in Wales.

Trivia

A life-sized statue of a Welsh cob stallion, created by sculptor David Mayer, was erected in the town of Aberaeron in 2005, and was donated to the town by the Aberaeron Festival of Welsh Ponies and Cobs to denote the area as Welsh Cob country.

A small semi-feral population of about 180 animals roams the Carneddau mountains in Snowdonia, Wales.^[7]

Notes

[1] <http://www.welshpony.org>

[2] <http://www.wpcs.uk.com>

[3] Evans, p. 61

[4] Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America: Section B (<http://www.welshpony.org/SectionB.htm>) accessed on 14 September 2007

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[7] Daily Post North Wales – Farming – Farming News – Our little ponies facing extinction (<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/farming-north-wales/farming-news/2007/11/22/our-little-ponies-facing-extinction-55578-20142744/>)

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External links

- Cymdeithas y Merlod a'r Cobiau Cymreig (The Welsh Pony and Cob Society) (<http://www.wpcs.uk.com/>)
- The Welsh Pony And Cob Society of Australia (<http://www.wpcsoa.com.au/>)
- The Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America (<http://www.welshpony.org/>)
- The Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Canada (<http://www.welshponyandcob.org/>)

Western Sudan pony

The **Western Sudan pony** (also known as the **Darfur Pony**, **Gharkawi**, and **Kordofani**) is a breed of pony that is found in southern Darfur and southwestern Kordofan in Sudan.

It is usually light bay, chestnut or grey with white markings.^[1]

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Zaniskari pony

Zaniskari pony

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Country of origin | India |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Zaniskari pony** is a breed of pony found around Leh and Laddakh in the area of Jammu and Kashmir in northern India. A mid-sized pony, they are often gray in color. The breed is considered endangered, as there are only a few hundred Zaniskaris alive today, and a conservation program has been started in India. Little of the breed's history is known, although it is thought to be descended at least in part from the Tibetan pony.

Physical characteristics

Zaniskari ponies usually stand 11.1 to 12 hands (45 to 48 inches, 114 to 122 cm) high. They are most often gray in color, but are also found in bay, brown, black and chestnut. They are strong, compact ponies, known for their endurance and ability to work in cold climates and at high altitudes.

History

The Zaniskari pony is most often found in Leh and Laddakh in the state of Jammu and Kashmir in northern India. Today, only a few hundred ponies are thought to exist, mainly in the valleys of Laddakh, including the Zanskar Gorge from which the breed takes its name. The breed is considered endangered, and indiscriminate crossbreeding with other pony breeds has reduced the number of purebreds. The Animal Husbandry Department of Jammu and Kashmir has started a selective breeding program for conservation at a farm in Leh.

In 2007, a study was published that examined genetic variation among five Indian equine breeds—the Zanskari, Manipuri, Marwari, Spiti and Bhutia. Based on analysis of microsatellite DNA, the Zaniskari was found to have the greatest genetic distance from the Marwari, and a much closer genetic distance to the other three breeds. The distance from the Marwari was not only genetic, but seen in physical characteristics, particularly height and environmental adaptability. The physical differences were attributed to differing ancestries: the Marwari horse is closely associated with the Arabian, while the four other breeds are thought to have descended at least in part from the Tibetan pony. None of the breeds in the study were found to be closely genetically associated with the Thoroughbred.

References

Žemaitukas

Žemaitukas



Žemaitukas

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Alternative names | Zhmud, Zhemaichu |
| Country of origin | Lithuania |
| Horse (<i>Equus ferus caballus</i>) | |

The **Žemaitukas** (plural: Žemaitukai, literally: *little Samogitian*) is a historic pony breed from Lithuania. Known from the 6–7th centuries, it was used as a war horse by the Lithuanians during the Northern Crusades and is hailed in Lithuania as part of the state's historic heritage. Its origin is uncertain, but it is related to indigenous forest horse breeds and the Konik, a Polish breed, which were both probably descended from the Tarpan. The breed contributed to the foundation of the Trakehner. Once popular, the breed was brought to the brink of extinction by changing agricultural demands and World War II. As of 2010, the total population is estimated at 400 individuals.

History

Known in written sources since the 6–7th centuries, the Žemaitukas became famous as an excellent war horse during the Northern Crusades. During the centuries, the breed was influenced by Tatar, Russian, light Polish, and other horses. Once widespread, the breed went almost extinct three times. In the 19th century, new agricultural machinery required taller and stronger horses. Therefore the horses were crossed with the Trakehners, Arabians, and draft horses threatening survival of pure breed Žemaitukas. The breed was saved by the Ogiński family, who established Žemaitukas breeding societies in Raseiniai, Plungė, and Rietavas between 1881 and 1890. The Ogińskis popularized the breed and exhibited it at the Paris International Agricultural Show in 1900 where the horses won two gold and one silver medals. At the end of World War II, the Germans took all Žemaitukas horses from the Gruzdziai stud farm. A single stud was found in 1958 in Užventis. The stud was transferred to the Vilnius State Stud Farm, where a new generation of Žemaitukas horses was bred. A new challenge was presented by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and rapid de-collectivization in 1990. Horses, that belonged to the kolkhozes (collective farms), were distributed to private owners who often showed little interest in the survival of the breed. In 1994, only 30 adult individuals remained. However, the Vilnius State Stud Farm preserved its horses and remains the major breeding center. As of 2010, it had 98 Žemaitukas horses.

Breed characteristics

Arabian blood was added during the 19th century, giving the horse an Arab-type head, including the characteristic dish-shaped Arabian profile. The infusion of Arabian blood created two subtypes of the Žemaitukas: those with Arabian ancestry were considered suitable for riding, while the other, more closely related to the indigenous horses, was better adapted to farm work. After World War II, the distinction was muted. With limited crossbreeding with North Swedish Horse, a deliberate effort was made to increase the size and bulk of the animals so that they could be used for both riding and draft work.

The ponies are said to be hardy, possessing excellent stamina, disease resistant, and displaying a willing temperament. It is now a multi-purpose breed; it is ridden, used in farm work, and crossed with lighter and larger breeds to produce sport horses. The horses are usually a dun color and often display the primeval dorsal stripe, but they may also be brown, bay, black, or palomino. The Žemaitukas generally stands 1.28–1.42 m (4 ft 2 in–4 ft 8 in) high, placing it among the taller pony breeds.

As with other domestic animals around the world, studies have been carried out on this horse's genetic heritage, since it may possess unique characteristics. Maternal DNA sequencing indicated that one of its haplotypes is similar to an old haplotype present in horse breeds of the North East European area. In 2004 study, scientists discovered allele T, common among the Žemaitukas and observed only a few times among all other tested horse breeds. The FAO Mission Conference for Central and Eastern European countries recognized the Žemaitukas as an internationally watched breed, and included it into the FAO World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity.

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Žemaitukai in harness

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