

The International New Forest Pony Meeting in Vetlanda Sweden July 18-19 2013

Representatives at the meeting:

Gill Wright UK, Jane Murray UK, Denise Carmans BE, Claude Roggen BE, Ole Wienecke DK, Lene Jacobsen DK, Johanna Kyrö FI, Suvi Mäkeläinen FI, Francois Muller FR, Elisabeth Jensen DE, Thea Scholtens-Moerkoert NL, Wietske Lantinga NL, Cornelia Larsson SE, Anna Ransholm SE, Jan Mattsson SE, Håkan Erlandsson SE, Christina Ivarsson SE, Maria Andersson SE, Joakim Gullberg SE and Annelie Andersson SE.
Chairman of the meeting: Nina Gustafsson SE.

Apologies: Norway.

1. Opening and welcome

Håkan Erlandsson welcomed the delegates to Sweden and to the meeting. Håkan gave brief information about the Swedish New Forest Pony Championships and the Breed Show which are held this weekend in connection with the meeting. Håkan welcomed Mrs Nina Gustafsson as chairman of the meeting.

2. Minutes from last meeting.

The minutes from the last meeting in Finland in 2011 were accepted. Ole W raised the issue from those minutes (p. 3) of gathering a copy and description of the passport from each country, which remains outstanding.

3. Update on the breed in each country

UK:

The market for ponies has continued to decrease and the numbers of registered NF ponies is reduced.

During 2012 and 2013 just 10 stallions have been on the forest for about a month.

It is a concern that the genetic variation will decrease, and it has to be taken seriously.

BE:

The market for ponies decreases and the number of covered mares is low.

It is fairly expensive to register pure breed NF ponies. Some are registered as riding ponies as the cost is lower.

DK:

It is the same situation in Denmark, the number of covered mares is decreasing.

FI:

In Finland there are around 40 New Forest ponies registered each year, 50% are foals born in Finland, the other 50% are imports mainly from UK and Netherlands.

Population is around 1000 ponies. There are 15 stallions almost all of which are actively used for breeding but only for 1-2 mares each, so that is why there are only those 20 foals born each year. No new stallions this year. Number of covered mares is fairly equal to last year.

FR:

The number of covered mares decreases and will probably be below 100 mares during 2013. High costs to register the foals.

DE:

The market for pure bred ponies is low. Pure bred ponies since year 2008 are not allowed to participate in the German young pony championship.

NL:

The market has reduced but the situation for the New Forest pony is better than for other breeds.

SE:

The numbers of covered mares are still decreasing.
Many stallions are in competition.

NO:

Summary: It is important to keep as wide gene base as possible.

This should be expressed to the judges at stallion licensing, stallions with unusual lines which are very close to the limit to pass could be passed due to pedigree. The stallion must, of course, be of a good standard.

4. EU Proposal on Animal Health Regulation

In connection with the horse meat scandal EU commission made some suggestions to improve traceability and security. Two of the suggestions were that there should be one national database in each country, and to transfer the responsibility for issuing passports to the competent authority. A later revision says either there should be a national database, or alternatively multiple databases collecting the necessary information provided they could communicate with each other.

The view of several delegates at the meeting was to argue against the suggestion to transfer responsibility for issuing passports to the competent authority. This is based on the risk for controlling the stud book in a proper way and for cost reasons. There is no evidence that this step to a single authority would improve traceability.

5. “Grey” Passports edited for purebred NF ponies by other Belgian organizations than the Belgian Stud Book

NF ponies registered in the Belgian NF stud book have a green or olive green passport. The Belgian Confederation of Equide could issue passports if the owner does not want it to be done by a studbook. These passports are grey. If ponies with such grey passports are exported to another EU country they should not be accepted as pure bred NF. In case of questions/checking could the Belgian NF stud book be contacted.

6. Myotonia

Status from different countries.

UK:

134 British-born stallions have been tested, no carrier stallions have been found. Checks have been made for the tested UK stallions with relatives in the back pedigree of Kantje's Ronaldo, and no carriers have been found.

BE: 22 stallions are so far tested, 1 is a carrier.

The society tries to convince the mare owners to test the mares.

DK:

42 stallions are tested, 1 is carrier and this stallion has been withdrawn from breeding. There is no legal right to force the mare owners to have the mares tested. There is a possibility to register foals from suspected mares in a separate section.

FI:

15 stallions are tested with no carriers.
No mares are tested so far.

FR:

Of 65 stallions 30 are tested and 3 of those are carriers. Another 30 stallions should be tested. During 2014 all stallions will be tested and the result published.

DE:

Only tested stallions may be on the breeding list. The test result will be published. Mares from suspected lines will also be tested. A stallion carrier may not be used for NF breeding.

NL:

All new stallions will be tested and may not breed if they are carriers. Older stallions may be used if they are a carrier but the result is published. Next year mares from suspected lines will be tested and also foals from carriers will be tested.

SE:

All licenced stallions (58) are tested and no carrier found.
New stallions must be tested before they get license.
Owners of mares from suspected line are advised to test the mare before breeding. Further action will be taken to register carriers in a separate section (also foals that could be suspected carrier before it is proven not to be).

Summary:

All societies should send a list of tested stallions (no carriers and carriers) to the Mother Society. The Mother Society will put together one list of all carriers.

If the pony is tested it should be stamped in the passport what status it has.

The Mother Society has the policy that any carriers should be in a separate section of the Stud Book. Also ponies which could not be excluded as carrier (for example, has a carrier in the pedigree and the later generations from this line have not yet been tested as no carrier), and have not been tested free should be put in this register. If mares in this section were used for breeding, then provided the foal is tested as no carrier, the foal can be entered in the Approved Section.

It is important to work with the goal to eradicate the myotonia-carrying gene. Most of the other societies agreed with this policy. It is strongly advised to go further in this way to have similarity in the rules of all societies.

7. GW

UK: Have no ponies with more than 6.25%

DK: Has a special register for those with more than 6.25%.

BE: From 2006 ponies with 6.25% or less have been registered as 0%

FR:

NL: Ponies with more than 6.25% are registered in a separate register.

DE: Since year 2000 no stallions with more than 6.25% have been licensed. Have no GW problems.

SE: Ponies with more than 6.25% have always been entered in a separate register.

Summary:

Following the changes from year 2006 in how to calculate GW %. It means that the GW % could be recalculated for several ponies which have GW several times in the

pedigree. When the percentage for an individual pony is 6.25% or less, this percentage need not be written in the passport. This means that the pony should be considered as free from GW and does not pass any GW percentage to its progeny. This calculation applies from 1 January 2006.

8. Measurement, breeding rules in relation to measurement rules for sports

Sweden has new rules for measuring ponies for sports. The measure is rounded off downwards to the nearest whole cm and a pony with shoes get 1 cm in reduction for that. It means that a shod pony measured at 149.9 cm will get a measurement certificate of 148 cm.

The breed conditions are clear - the maximum height for a New Forest Pony is 148 cm. This means that a measurement certificate for sports could not be accepted as a measurement for breed type.

9. International judges

Updated lists are enclosed (new updates from other countries could be sent later).

10. What is the way in which - and based on what documents - foals are registered with a sister studbook when the foal is sired by a licensed stallion from another sister studbook and in ownership of a member of that sister studbook

Stallions moving to another country and covering mares in that other country are reported with covering certificates in the country where the covering took place. The foal is registered in the country of birth. If the stallion has an owner in another country and that owner's society wants information about covered mares, they should contact the other country.

11. Next meeting

German delegate said that they might be interested in hosting the next meeting. UK thanked the chairman and the Swedish NF Society.