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Supported by the Europea Union
Project co-financed by the ERDF



KERRY BOG PONY NEWS

Vol I Issue 2
July 2005

KERRY BOG PONY GETS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE APPROVAL AS A RECOGNISED NATIVE PONY BREED

Following a series of meetings with officers of the Department of Agriculture and Food an accepted form of Stud Book Rules was drawn up. This was the last step towards full recognition of the KBP as an official breed. A letter has now been sent to the European Commission and to the Irish Horse Board confirming the Department's approval.

The Irish Horse Board will now issue the official new BROWN Kerry Bog Pony passports. SO if you have not already done so **PLEASE SEND YOUR BLACK PASSPORTS TO Pat Byrne, 045- 485404 —NOW.**

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BOG ORCHID A WINNER

Bog Orchid driven by Norma Cook here accompanied by Simon Sterling has had great success in harness. He has won or been placed in all his competitions to date. His speciality is negotiating obstacles and cones and he has now acquired quite a fan club.

Bog Orchid, b. 1995 is a gelding by Flashy Fox out of Golden Plover

EQUISAVE NEWS:FESTIVAL OF RARE BREEDS

Dr Leo Curran, Chairman of the Equisave Project, has been in contact with Failte Eireann regarding funding a festival in 2006 and 2007. So far signs are very positive. In addition he has spoken to Cork/Kerry Tourism and to members of the Tourism Department of the Institute for Technology in Tralee. There is great interest in the project and it is likely that we will receive invaluable assistance and cooperation. Our aim is to celebrate the rare breeds associated with Kerry: the Kerry Bog Pony, the Kerry Blue Terrier, the Natterjack Toad, The Kerry Beagle, the Derrynane Lily, and other rare species. This will be coupled with an exhibition of Bogland Plants and ecosystems. We will also involve local schools by means of folklore and history projects involving music and songs.

In this way we will combine the main objectives of the Equisave Project: development of tourism relating to the economic, natural and cultural assets of rural areas, celebrating the natural and cultural heritage, and most important conserving the Kerry Bog Pony in in the context of environmental biodiversity

The new address for the Kerry Bog Pony Co-operative Society is:

KBPS, Ellenborough House, Dublin Road, Naas, Co Kildare.

Tel: 045 886907

New Society Mobile: 087-7545642

New Society Email: info@kerrybogpony.ie

Website: www. kerrybogpony.ie

Single Membership Fee for 2005 : Eur 40.00

OFFICIAL KERRY BOG PONY WEBSITE

A new website will be in place in the next few days. It will be called **www.kerrybogpony.ie**. We intend to update it regularly so that members will be aware of all the latest developments. Please send in photos, information regarding events, details of ponies for sale etc, for inclusion in the site. (Mary : 045 432007 for further info).

This will be the **Official Kerry Bog Pony Website** and will contain information concerning registration, classification and brown IHB passports issued to Kerry Bog Ponies. Other information regarding the Co-operative Society, important updates, membership forms and Committee Members names and contact details will also be published. Our new email address will be: **info@kerrybogpony.ie**

RECENTLY APPROVED KERRY BOG PONY STUDBOOK RULES

These rules are quite complex. A copy will be sent out in the post to every member of the Society for their close attention. Rules for REGISTRATION and CLASSIFICATION are dealt with in detail.

The main studbook is divided into four classes:

- Class 1 is for ponies that pass inspection for classification
- Class 2 is for ponies that fail inspection for Class 1 only because they are over the height
- Class 3 is for un-inspected foals and all other animals that have a legal right of entry into the studbook to start with before inspection
- Class 4 is for animals [other than those placed in Class 2] that fail inspection.

The following registration procedure will be followed for foals eligible for entry in the studbook:

- A covering certificate is sent by the stallion owner to the IHB.
- The IHB sends a marking chart and a DNA kit to the mare owner.
- The owner's vet inserts an Irish Horse Register issued microchip, takes the markings of the foal, [see below, before Adult animals] and hair samples for DNA parentage testing.
- The marking chart is returned to the IHB and the hair samples are sent to Weatherbys' laboratory for testing.
- When the parentage results are confirmed by Weatherbys' to the IHB the passport will be issued by the IHB to the foal owner on payment of the appropriate fee.

KERRY BOG PONY SURVEY

Aisling Heffernan has begun carrying out her survey of Kerry Bog Ponies. You may remember that she sent out a questionnaire to KBP Owners requesting details of the ponies they own. To date the response has been a little disappointing. **Every single pony included will add to the information on the breed.**

Please contact Aisling NOW at : Weatherbys, Kill, Co Kildare , to arrange for your ponies to be seen, measured, photographed and included in this vital survey. Tel: 087 9523938 after 5.00pm.

KERRY BOG PONY OWNERS AND BREEDERS ARE THE SOCIETY 'S MOST IMPORTANT ASSET

For the past year the Committee's efforts have been directed towards making sure that the Society conformed to the requirements of the Department of Agriculture. Now that the Irish Horse Board has agreed to maintain the KBP register we will be making greater efforts to contact and get to know KBP owners and breeders and to encourage them to register their ponies and to make the most of this rare and special breed of native pony.

REGISTER YOUR OWN PREFIX

If you wish to use a prefix in front of your pony's name you can register it if you become a member of the IHB co-op. This means that no one else anywhere in Europe, in any studbook, will be able to use your prefix. Bog related prefixes are encouraged. Existing names in black passports will be checked against the European database to avoid duplication.

SNIPPETS

- **Our thanks to Peter Keyes and family for providing an Information Stand containing a mare and foal during the recent World Sheepdog Championships at Tullamore . The Minister for Agriculture, Mary Coughlan admired the ponies and was very well informed about the breed. Through his efforts Peter brought the Kerry Bog Pony to the attention of an audience of thousands of people from all over the world. This is the kind of publicity that can not be bought—thank you Peter for all your hard work.**

We have received a letter from Mrs Linda Ashar who has Kerry bog Ponies in the USA. She would like to include a NEWS FROM IRELAND section in her website and is keen to maintain contact with The Kerry Bog Pony Co-operative Society.

- **Have you sent in your Black Passport?**

You could soon have an official new IHB BROWN passport for your Kerry Bog Pony

