



Leisure Horse Ireland

Welsh Pony & Cob Studbook of Ireland Breeding Programme 2021

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1.0 The Studbook and Location of the Studbook

The Welsh Pony & Cob Studbook of Ireland (WPCSI) is operated by the recognised breed society 'Leisure Horse Ireland' in accordance with the Animal Breeding legislation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1012). The offices of Leisure Horse Ireland are located in Furbo Hill, Spiddal, Co. Galway, H91 VH04, Republic of Ireland. Leisure Horse Ireland is also approved as a Passport Issuing Organisation.

The Welsh Pony & Cob Studbook of Ireland is a daughter studbook of the breeding book of origin, 'The Welsh Pony and Cob Society' located in Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, SA488AG <https://wpcs.uk.com/> and it follows the principals established by the breeding book of origin.

2.0 Mission Statement

Leisure Horse Ireland's mission statement commits to supporting the Welsh Pony & Cob Owners/Breeders in the preservation and conservation of the breed, and to endeavor to establish the breed to excel in sport and recreation, through the provision of services of the highest standards of excellence, and to act in the best interests of its owners/ breeders.

3.0 Aims of the Breeding Programme

The studbook operates a breeding programme for the improvement of the breed in Ireland which is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The aims of the breeding programme are:

- To promote the preservation and improvement of the breeding of Purebred Welsh Ponies and Cobs.
- To assist encourage and record all information in respect of the breeding in Ireland of Welsh Pony and Cobs
- To produce a purebred Pony or Cob that is sound, athletic with good paces, good temperament and capable of performing at the highest international level in its given discipline.
- To encourage breeders to breed for the characteristics of the breed standard by way of improved breeding practice and classification.

4.0 Name of breed

The name of the breed is The Welsh Pony and Cob.

5.0 Geographical Territory

WPCSI'S Breeding Programme is focused on the 26 counties of Ireland, animals born into and / or entered into the Studbook.

6.0 Characteristics of the Breed

Welsh Ponies and Cobs derived from a hardy native pony used essentially to carry the Welsh Shepherds up the hills to tend their sheep. The breed has been defined and developed since then. However, the characteristic and traits which originate from these ponies are evident in all sections and they are;

“An attractive head well set on, in good proportions showing a bold, intelligent eye set in a broad forehead, the lower head is fine with well-defined nostrils. The neck is elegant and long and can have a defined crest particularly in a stallion, with a good length of rein. The shoulders are notably well laid back with a defined wither. The ribs are well sprung with good depth of girth. The quarters are strong with a well set on tail that is characteristically carried well and, in some cases, gaily. They are generally of solid colour and show elevation and agility in their action. They are highly trainable in any discipline and are suitable for children and adults for Riding, Driving, Showjumping, Dressage and Eventing.”

The main section of the breeding book has been sub-divided into classes and each class has evolved, in addition to above, with specific breed characteristics as follows:

Class 1 (Section A) The Welsh Mountain Pony

- The height should not exceed 12.0 hh (121.9 cms)

GENERAL CHARACTER

Hardy, spirited and pony-like

HEAD

Small, clean-cut, well set on and tapering to the muzzle

EYES

Bold

EARS

Well placed, small and pointed, well up on the head, proportionately close.

NOSTRILS

Prominent and open

JAWS AND THROAT

Clean and finely-cut, with ample room at the angle of the jaw

NECK

Lengthy, well carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of mature stallions

SHOULDERS

Long and sloping well back. Withers moderately fine, but not “knifey”. The humerus upright so that the foreleg is not set in under the body.

FORELEGS

Set square and true, and not tied in at the elbows. Long, strong forearm, well developed knee, short flat bone below knee, pasterns of proportionate slope and length, feet well-shaped and round, hoofs dense.

BACK AND LOINS

Muscular, strong and well coupled

GIRTH

Deep

RIBS

Well sprung

HIND QUARTERS

Lengthy and fine. Not ragged or goose-rumped. Tail well set on and carried gaily.

HIND LEGS

Hocks to be large, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards nor outwards. The hind legs not to be too bent. The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well-shaped, hooves dense.

ACTION

Quick, free and straight from the shoulder. Knees and hocks well flexed with straight and powerful leverage and well under the body.

Class 2 (Section B) - The Welsh Pony

- The height should not exceed 13.2 hh (137.2 cms)

The general description of ponies in Section “A” of the Stud Book is applicable to those in Section “B”, but more particularly the Section “B” pony shall be described as a riding pony, with quality, riding action, adequate bone and substance, hardiness and constitution and with pony character.

Class 3 (Section C) - The Welsh Pony of Cob Type

- The height should not exceed 13.2 hh (137.2 cms)
- The Welsh Pony of Cob Type, Section C, is the stronger counterpart of the Welsh Pony, but with Cob blood.
- Their true worth as a dual purpose animal has been fully realized in recent years, and their numbers have increased accordingly.
- Active, sure-footed and hardy, they are ideal for so many purposes both for adults and children
- Like all the Welsh Breeds they are natural jumpers and they also excel in harness – there are, in fact, few things that they cannot be used for.

Class 4 (Section D) The Welsh Cob

- The height should exceed 13.2 hh (137 cms) with no upper limit.

Aptly described as “the best ride and drive animal in the World”, the Welsh Cob has been evolved throughout many centuries for his courage, tractability and powers of endurance. The general character is the embodiment of strength, hardiness and agility, the head shows great quality with Pony character: bold prominent eyes, a broad forehead and neat, well set ears. The body must be deep, on strong limbs with good “hard wearing” joints and an abundance of flat bone. Actions must be straight, free and forceful, the knees should be bent and then the whole foreleg extended from the shoulders as far as possible in all paces, with the hocks well flexed, producing powerful leverage. The Welsh Cob is a good hunter and a most competent performer in all competitive sports. In recent years they have had great success in the international driving world. Their abilities in all spheres are now fully recognised throughout the world.

7.0 Division of the Breeding book

The Studbook consists of two sections, a main section and supplementary section, for the breed as follows:

7.1 Main Section

To qualify for entry into the main section of the WPCSI Studbook an animal must:

- Be descended from parents that are entered in the main section of a breeding book for the same breed.
- Have a pedigree established according to the rules of the breeding programme.
- Be identified in accordance with Union animal health law for equines and in accordance with the rules of this breeding programme.
- In the case of trade in or entry into the Union of an animal and that animal is intended to be entered in the breeding book that animal shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate.
- Where the animal is produced from a germinal product which is traded or which entered into the Union and the animal is intended for entry in the breeding book, that germinal product shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate.

7.2 Division of Main Section

The main section of the WPCSI Studbook is divided into four classes. The criteria for entry into each class is as follows:

Class 1 (Section A) The Welsh Mountain Pony

- Both Sire and Dam are entered in Class 1 (Section A)
- Over 4yr old with an official recorded maximum height 121.9cm

Class 2 (Section B) The Welsh Pony

- Sire or Dam are entered in Class 1 (Section A) and the other Sire or Dam are entered in Class 2 (Section B)
or
both sire and dam are entered in Class 2 (Section B)
or
where both Sire and Dam are entered in Class 1 (Section A) and the pony measures over the official recorded maximum height of 121.9cm required for a Class 1 pony
- Over 4yr old with an official recorded a maximum height 137.2cm

Class 3 (Section C) The Welsh Pony of Cob Type

- Sire or Dam are entered in Class 3 (Section C) and/or in Class 4 (Section D)
- Over 4yr old with an official recorded maximum height 137.2cm

Class 4 (Section D) The Welsh Cob

- Over 4yr old with an official recorded minimum height of 137.2cms

Class 5 Entry level

- All animals under 4 years old are entered in this class. Once officially measured at 4 years or older the animal will be reclassified into the appropriate class. The status on the passport will be amended accordingly.

See Section 8.0 for information on acceptable official height measurements.

The Proprietors reserve the right to remove horses from the Stud-Book in the event of misinformation having been provided in the first instance to warrant such entry.

7.3 Supplementary Section (Part bred)

The supplementary section of the WPCSI Studbook is divided into 3 Sections: Supplementary Section A, Supplementary Section B and Supplementary Section C. Animals that are not eligible for classification in the main section of the WPCSI studbook may be recorded into the supplementary section providing they meet the following criteria:

Supplementary Section A

- Are identified in accordance with Union animal health law for equines and the rules set out in the breeding programme.
- Are judged by the breed society to conform to the characteristics of the breed. Breeders should contact breed society for details of this procedure.
- Be required to have a Sire or Dam entered in the main section of the breeding book for the breed and the other Sire or Dam recorded in supplementary section B of the breeding book.

Supplementary Section B

- Are identified in accordance with Union animal health law for equines and the rules set out in the breeding programme.
- Are judged by the breed society to conform to the characteristics of the breed. Breeders should contact breed society for details of this procedure.
- Be required to have a Sire or Dam in the main section of the breeding book for the breed and the other Sire or Dam entered in the main section of one of those breeds listed in the cross-breeding programme (see Section 7.5).

Or

Be required to have a Sire or Dam entered in the main section of the breeding book for the breed and the other Sire or Dam recorded in supplementary section C of the breeding book.

Supplementary Section C

- Are identified in accordance with Union animal health law for equines and the rules set out in the breeding programme.
- Are judged by the breed society to conform to the characteristics of the breed. Breeders will be requested to take the animal to a WPCSI show to be judged by a listed judge on the day. Breeders should contact breed society for details of this procedure.
- Be required to have at least one great grandparent entered in the main section of the breeding book for the breed and the other Sire or Dam entered in the main section of one of those breeds listed in the cross-breeding programme (see Section 7.5).

Or

Be required to have a at least 2 Grandparents recorded in supplementary section B of the breeding book for the breed and the other Grandparents entered in the main section of one of those breeds listed in the cross-breeding programme (see Section 7.5).

7.4 Upgrading of Progeny from the Supplementary Section

The progeny descended from a sire or dam recorded in the supplementary section A and the other sire or dam entered in the main section of a breeding book for this breed shall be eligible for entry into the main section of the breeding book.

The classification of the sire or dam in the main section in addition to the official height measurement of the animal from the age of 4 years old will determine the class the upgraded animal will be entered in. Under 4 years old or until an official height certificate is submitted will be entered in Class 5.

7.5 Cross Breeding Programme

The WPCSI facilitates a crossbreeding programme in order to introduce desirable genetics into the breed which may be lacking and to assist the breed meet the breeding objectives for the breed. Animals of the following breeds that are entered in the main section of studbooks that are approved by the Ministry of their country of operation are eligible to be considered in the cross-breeding programme in accordance with the criteria they meet.

List of breeds that are acceptable to cross with the Welsh Pony:

Arab Horse,

The Arab should enhance a plainer part bred with more quality and movement.

Anglo Arab Horse,

An Anglo Arab would give height and quality to improve a small heavy pony.

British Riding Pony,

Would give quality and long low movement to its crossbred pony

Connemara pony,

Would give bone and good temperament to a crossbred that lacked bone.

Coloured Horse and Pony,

The coloured Horse and Pony will give a coloured dimension to the crossbreed

Dartmoor Pony,

The Dartmoor will give bone and substance to a smaller crossbreed

Fell Pony,

The fell pony will give bone and temperament to a crossbred pony.

Dales Pony,

The Dales pony will give bone and temperament to a crossbred pony.

Highland Pony,

The Highland pony will give bone and temperament to a crossbred pony.

Hackney Horse and Pony,

Will give movement and enhance qualities for driving animals

Thoroughbred Horse,

The Thoroughbred crossed with a welsh pony has been well established as a high-performance animal for jumping and eventing.

Kerry Bog Pony,

The Kerry Bog will give enhanced temperament to the smaller breeds.

Irish Sports Pony,

The Irish Sports Pony will give bone and performance to its crossbreeds.

Irish Cob,

The Irish Cob would give bone and temperament to a section D for riding and Driving

Irish Draught,

The Irish Draught would give bone, substance and height for a crossbred horse.

Irish Piebald and Skewbald.

The Irish Piebald and Skewbald will give bone, substance and colour to the ponies crossbreeds

Irish Sports Horse.,

The Irish Sports Horse will give height and bone when crossed with the Section D for a performance Horse.

New Forest Pony,

The New Forest Pony would give bone and a good temperament to a crossbred pony

Irish Riding Pony,

This breed would historically have been crossed with Welsh Ponies and cobs and has proven to produce good jumping and performance ponies.

Warmblood Horse,

The warmblood horse would give athleticism and expressive movement to a crossbreed and be very likely to produce a dressage horse.

8.0 Official Height Measurements

- Animals 4 years and older will have to be measured at an official SJA I measuring.
- The official certificate of measurement as recorded on the animal's identification document should be submitted to the Society and the appropriate reclassification will be updated on the identification document and zootechnical certificate.
- The society reserve the right to request the owner / keeper to represent the pony for measuring at an appointed measurement centre at any time where a society representative may be present. The animal may be re classified.

9.0 Identification Verification and Reproductive Techniques

- Where purebred breeding animals are used for the collection of semen the donor stallion must be parentage verified by DNA analysis.
- Where purebred breeding animals are used for the collection of oocytes and embryos, the donor stallion and donor mare must be parentage verified by DNA analysis.
- Clone animals are not currently accepted; however, this may be subject to review in the future.

10.0 System for Identifying Breeding Animal in WPCSI Studbook

All animals entered in WPCSI Studbook are uniquely identified by the Unique Equine Life Number (UELN). This UELN identifies the country and Studbook where the horse was first entered and the registration number within the studbook. All UELN numbers contain 15 digits.

The first three digits of animals entered in the WPCSI Studbook are '372' which is the code for Ireland; the next three digits are '003' which is the code for Leisure Horse Ireland the next two digits '00' are gap numbers and the remaining 7 digits form the registration number used to identify the animal in the WPCSI Studbook and also correspond to the last 7 digits on the microchip number where possible.

An animal entered in another studbook retains its original identification number as issued by the approved studbook keeping authority when classified in the WPCSI Studbook.

In addition, all animals are named in the WPCSI Studbook when first entered in the breeding book. Prefixes in addition to the animal's name may be used by breeders as follows:

- **Prefix Registration**

Breeders may have a prefix name registered with Leisure Horse Ireland. Any horse named with a registered prefix cannot have its name changed without the permission of the person who owns the prefix. Prefix forms are available to download or upon request from Leisure Horse Ireland and the following rules apply:

- i. The current fee payable will apply.
- ii. Prefix may have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 25 characters.
- iii. Prefix may be one word only.
- iv. Breed names are not permitted.
- v. The prefix name will be registered with Leisure Horse Ireland only.

The maximum number of characters included spaces for animal's name and any assigned prefix is 60.

11.0 Procedures for entering animals in the Studbook

- Owner / custodian notify Leisure Horse Ireland of their intention to enter the horse in the studbook by ordering a registration kit i.e., registration form, LHI identification marking chart and DNA envelope. Alternatively, an owner / custodian may utilise a vet supplied marking chart.
- All animals entering the studbook must be parentage verified by DNA analysis.
- Owner / custodian appoints a registered veterinary surgeon at their own expense who confirms the

animal details by taking the markings and scans for any pre-existing transponder.

- Where no transponder exists in the animal, the registered veterinary surgeon must implant a compliant transponder (see definition).
- Where a pre-existing transponder is found the owner / custodian must check with the issuing authorities in Ireland to ensure the animal was not identified previously. If the animal was identified previously the only course of action is to apply for a duplicate passport from that issuing authority which can be provided to LHI for an application of an upgrade to the studbook where appropriate.
- Where a pre-existing transponder is found and it is established that the animal was not identified previously,
 - a) If the existing transponder is of a compliant type, this number must be detailed on the markings by the vet and may be used for registration.
 - b) If the existing transponder is not of a compliant type, a compliant transponder must also be implanted by the vet and both (or all) numbers detailed on the markings.
- The vet takes a DNA sample, places it in the envelope provided and completes all sections thereof.
The owner should send all completed paperwork and the DNA sample to LHI.
- Where an animal has received a breeding and production identification document and is eligible for entry/recording into the breeding book as an 'upgrade' the breeder may submit an application accompanied by the animal's breeding and production identification document as follows.
 - Owner / custodian notify Leisure Horse Ireland of their intention to enter the horse in the studbook by ordering a registration kit i.e., registration form, LHI identification marking chart and DNA envelope. Alternatively, an owner / custodian may utilise a vet supplied marking chart.
 - All animals entering the studbook must be parentage verified by DNA analysis
 - Once pedigree have been proven by DNA typing the animal will be upgraded into the studbook. The proven pedigree and height will determine the class.
 - The breeding and production passport will be rescinded, and the issuing body will be notified of the upgrade.
 - LHI will issue a new lifetime identification document (passport) with a zootechnical certificate (see section 13) where all criteria of the breeding programme are met.
- Where an animal is the offspring of a germinal product and the sire and/or dam are entered in another breeding book the application for entry must be accompanied by the appropriate zootechnical certificate.
- Where a purebred Animal is entering the breeding book from another breeding book of the same breed it shall be entered into the same section or equivalent section as that of the breeding book.

12.0 Lifetime Identification Document (Passport)

All Animals are issued with a lifetime identification document issued by the L.H.I on entry of the animal into the WPCS studbook. This document contains the date of registration, the unique 15 digit identification number (UELN) applicable to that animal only, the registered name, details of microchip inserted by the veterinary authority, an authorized record of all individual markings as recorded on the marking chart, DNA verified pedigree, date of birth, breeder, owner, of the animal and a copy of the Zootechnical Certificate as issued by the L.H.I. This documentation must accompany the animal on all occasions.

The Passports shall state the category, i.e. "Leisure Horse Ireland – Welsh Pony & Cob Studbook of Ireland".

13.0 Zootechnical Certificates

To comply with current EU legislation all purebred breeding animals are issued with a zootechnical certificate. The zootechnical certificate is issued in accordance with Chapter I of Part 2 of Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

The Zootechnical Certificate will be attached to the Lifetime Identification Document and be issued at the same time as the passport when the equine is entered into the studbook. Once the animal is entered in the studbook it will be issued within weeks.

The zootechnical certificates shall be available on-line.

A zootechnical certificate will not issue for an equine recorded in the supplementary section however breeding book details including the parentage and DNA results will be recorded on a non-statutory page at the back of the passport.

14.0 Database – System for Recording Pedigree

In conjunction with Streamline Data Ltd, LHI have designed and on a continuous basis maintain and improve the Microsoft Access Database Software for LHI's Equine Registrations. The software has the capability to record the necessary information including pedigrees as required by relevant legislation and has the capability to report to the DAFM AIM Interface (the Central Equine Database of Ireland) all data as required in the format and detail specified.

The following fields (where applicable) are recorded for each individual animal in the breeding book:

Database Fields

Microchip Number, 2nd microchip Number 3rd Microchip Number
Owner / Keeper/ Breeder
Vet practice and Actual Vet Name of Identification
Date and place of markings
Equine premises Number
Horse Name
Country of Origin / Country of Holding / County

Date of Birth
Species
Sex
Colour
Breed
Replacement passport
Food chain status
Written description of vet markings
Passport over stamp
Duplicate Passport
DNA on file
Lab DNA reference number
Parentage test
Passport security tag number
Vets registration details
Sire pedigree
Dam pedigree
Registration class
Registration Category. Main stud book Class
Registration Status
Passport status
Date registered
Completed registration history

15.0 Breeding and Selection Objectives

The breeding objective for the breed can be divided as follows:

- The Welsh pony (Class 1 and Class 2) has a small head and ears with a big bold eye and wide forehead. The limbs should be set square with good bone and round dense hooves.
- The Welsh pony cob (Class 3 and Class 4) has the substance of a cob yet retain the Welsh pony characteristics: bold prominent eyes, a broad forehead and neat, well-set ears, deep girth, strong limbs with sufficient bone.

In selecting breeding animals to meet the objectives of the breed, breeders should consider the direction they wish to achieve as referred to above. Breeders should select on the heritable traits in relation to the height and conformation of the animal as referred to in the breed characteristics for the specific class relative to their breeding objective they wish to achieve.

16.0 Performance Testing and Genetic Evaluation

Currently the breeding programme does not provide for these activities.

17.0 Semen Collection Centres

LHI have been authorized a derogation by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to permit the following equine semen collection and storage centres (as referred to below) issue zootechnical certificates for semen. (Article 31(1) of Regulation (EU 2016/1012) For example, when semen from breeding animals is being exported to another Member States it must be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate where the offspring is to be entered in the breed book of that Member State. The zootechnical certificate for semen is in two parts with Part A providing information on the donor male and Part B on the identification of the semen.

A derogation has been granted by the competent authority to the following centres:

EQUINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRES

Member State Ireland		List of approved semen collection centres for intra Community trade in semen of domestic animals of the equine species (Directive 92/65/EEC)	
Approval Number	Approval Date	Name	Contact Details
IR.E4	1995	Kedrah House	Address: Kedrah House Stud Cahir County Tipperary Tel No.: 052 7441790 Fax No. 052 7441009 www.kedrah.com
EI.01	1995	Hartwell Stud	Address: Kill Naas, County Kildare Tel No.: 045 877494 Fax No.: 045 877745 Email: hartwellstud@gmail.com
IR E12	11/10/2016	Kylemore Stud	Address: Ballyscully, Kylebrack, Loughrea, County Galway Tel No:090 9745599 Fax No: 090 9745599 Email: info@kylemorestud.com
IR E14	30/01/2016	Ballymureen Stud	Address: Littleton, Thurles, Co Tipperary Tel. No.: 0504 44124 Fax No.: 0504 44297 ballymureenstud@gmail.com
IR E16	28/04/2017	Sean Barker	Address: Treanlaur, Tourmakeady, Co Mayo Tel. No. 087 6631747
IR E17	21/03/2019	Euro Stallions (Ireland) Ltd	Address: Aghancarnan, Tullamore, Co Offaly, R35 V840 Tel. No. 086 0746345 Email: info@eurostallions.ie

EQUINE SEMEN STORAGE CENTRES

Member State Ireland		List of approved semen storage centres for intra-Community trade in semen of domestic animals of the equine species (Directive 90/429/EEC)	
Approval Number	Approval Date	Name	Contact Details
IR E051	21/03/2019	Euro Stallions Ireland Ltd	Emma Rose Conway Euro Stallions (Ireland) Ltd Durrow Co Offaly Tel. No. 00353 (0) 860746345 Email: info@eurostallions.ie
IR E052	30/01/2016	Ballymureen Stud	Patrick & Mary Quirke Littleton Thurles Co Tipperary Tel. No. 00353 (0) 504 44124 Email: ballymureenstud@gmail.com
IR E003	01/05/2015	Rockmount AI Centre	Philip McManus Rockmount Claregalway Co Galway Tel. No. 00353 (0) 91739685 Email: rockmountaicentre@gmail.com
IR E055	18/02/2019	Stallion AI Services	Lower Goggins Hill, Ballinhassig, Co Cork, T12 F89E Tel. No. +44 (0) 1948666295 Email: teresa.osullivan3@gmail.com

18.0 Outsourcing of Technical Activities

No activities are outsourced.