

The New Zealand Shetland Pony Breeders Society (Inc.)

Shetland Pony Standard of Excellence

General: The Shetland Pony should provide a versatile hardy pony ideally suited as a child's saddle pony or a harness pony, driven either single or multiple hitch. Shetland Ponies should possess a kindly nature free of vice (kicking, biting, etc) be level headed by nature but still retain an alert, bright manner. The Shetland Pony by nature is intelligent and is easy to train and control.

Height: Registered Shetland Ponies must not exceed the height of 42" (10.2 hands high). Ponies are measured with a measuring stick from the top of the wither, to the ground.

Colour: Black is the foundation colour, with black/brown, grey, bay, chestnut, palomino, buckskin, brown, dun, roan, piebald and skewbald being other acceptable colours. White stars, blazes, snips, socks and stockings are all acceptable.

Coat: The winter coat consists of a double coat – a dense undercoat and long straight guard hairs that shed the rain and keep the ponies' skin completely dry in the worst weather. By contrast, the summer coat is short and should carry a beautiful sheen. Clipping and dyeing of the coat is not acceptable.

Head: The head should be relatively strong without coarseness and be in balance with the body. The ears should be well placed, small and almond shaped. The eyes should be large and prominent. The face should be neither dished nor roman-nosed. The muzzle must be broad and the teeth and jaw correct. ie, the teeth must meet together when the jaw is shut.

Body: The body should be strong & thick set, with plenty of heart room and deep, well sprung ribs, broad chest and quarters, nice sloping shoulders and tail well set on. Loins should be strong and muscular. The mane and tail hair, and feathering, should be long, straight and profuse.

Fore-Legs: The fore-legs should be strong and muscular, and well placed under the shoulders with well muscled forearms. The knees should be strong though not coarse, flat faced in profile, followed through by good flat bone and not 'back at the knee'. The cannon bones should be short and strong, with nicely sprung pasterns. Legs should not be knock-kneed, too wide apart, pigeon toed or splay footed.

Hind-legs: Thighs should be strong and muscular with broad well developed hocks carried under the body, and in balance with the fore-legs. When viewed from behind, they should not be cow hocked or too wide apart.

Hooves: The hooves should be round, open and very hard.

Action: Straight, free movement fore and aft, with sufficient action to show all four soles when viewed from the rear. Action should not be exaggerated or stilted.

Presentation: When shown as a representative of their breed, Shetland Ponies must be shown in natural coat and full feather. Shetland Ponies must not be clipped or dyed.