

Animal Pedigree Act Committee Report

AGM - November 2007

This committee known as the APA Committee was reestablished about mid year and has held four meetings to date. Since three members from the old committee are on the new committee, it was easy to continue the work already in progress.

The first item was to revise the previous Terms of Reference and gain council's approval. The document is considered the committee's running orders and the changes included adding more members, reducing the committee's authority and removing the confidentiality clause to enable members the ability to discuss committee work and solicit input from pony owners and breeders.

The second item was to review and revise the draft Breed Description for the Newfoundland Pony. This description had never been fully completed although what had been committed to paper was a very good start. The new committee has spent some time on this item and the recently completed draft document has been attached. This document will now be used to poll pony owners and breeders for further input and obtain their comments, etc.

The last meeting reopened the subject of the Breeding Plan for the Newfoundland Pony. This too has had earlier work but also incomplete work. Although the need to process the unregistered but DNA'd ponies (and their progeny) into the Registry has been documented, other problems such as limited stallions and stallion lines, pony distribution and breeding limitations, the pony market, genetic health of the population, etc. have not. There is still much work to do on the Breeding Plan.

How will the Newfoundland Pony be positioned for the APA - Evolving or Distinct or somewhere in between? This is still under investigation. Distinct will be hard to prove and documentation will be needed. It is the safest option for the survival of the traditional pony. The pony would be classified as a purebred immediately. This status would take much longer to obtain under the Evolving option. At present, we have started compiling data on a number of good to excellent ponies. All manner of measurements are being taken as well as conformation photographs and videos. Both parents and offspring are being viewed. Already the information has been a good source for helping confirm and describe the breed characteristics. We hope to do as many ponies as possible (36 +) to provide a good base. The information will be useful for comparison purposes, the development of acceptable ranges and determining just what makes a Newfoundland Pony a Newfoundland Pony.

Submitted by
Pat Morris