

Newfoundland Pony Breed Description
Draft – 2007 11 17 Issue 3

Current Breed Standard - For Comparison Purposes

- a) Demonstrates and/or documents ancestry to the Newfoundland Pony, acceptable to the Society;
- b) Has a good temperament, is docile and easy to work with;
- c) Is a good winter animal, being all around hardy;
- d) Is sure-footed;
- e) Has a structure that can vary from fine-boned types to larger stocky types;
- f) Has a height that can vary from 11.0 to 14.2 hands;
- g) Has a coat colour of bay, black, brown, chestnut, dun, grey, roan and white (pink skin). Piebalds and skewbalds (pintos) are not acceptable;
- h) Has a heavy coat which sometimes changes colour and character seasonally;
- i) Has a thick mane and tail;
- j) Has a low set of tail;
- k) Has feathered fetlocks with hair extending below fetlock points;
- l) Has flint hard hooves;
- m) Typically have dark limb points. White or light colour on limbs is acceptable;
- n) Is free of defects, which might endanger the ability to live a normal, healthy life.

New Breed Standard

General

The NF Pony is a medium size pony (average 13 hh) that evolved from the Mountain and Moorland Pony breeds brought to Newfoundland from the British Isles by the early colonists. It is the lone member of the Moorland Family of Horses in North America. The foundation breeds included in the NL Pony's ancestry are the Exmoor, Dartmoor, New Forest, Galloway (extinct), Welsh Mountain, Connamara, and Highland.

The NL Pony gives an overall impression of strength and compactness with a muscular build and can vary from lighter pony types to larger stocky types. The pony should never appear leggy. It has pony character, durability and level headedness with a self-preserving nature while also being full of willingness and heart. Its shape and proportion is distinctly pony. They are winter hardy, sure footed and easy keepers. Their pedigree is traceable to Newfoundland and to Newfoundland Pony ancestry.

1) Height and Size

The height range is 11 hh (112cm) to 14.2 hh (148 cm) at maturity. In pony proportion, the height at the wither should not be longer than the length of the pony from point of shoulder to point of buttock.

2) Colour

Coat

Coat colour may be bay, brown, black, chestnut, dun, grey, and roan. Piebald and scowbald colouration is unacceptable. Dappling, or hammer marks as it is known in Newfoundland, may occur in any colour type. Often the limbs will be black or dark brown in colour however this is not always the case. Pink skinned white is not known to occur as a body colour. The darker colours of black, brown, and bay, minimally marked, and the roan modifications of those colours, are the most common. Most often, chestnut coloured ponies have flaxen manes and tails. Sooty countershading or the presence of black hairs among the body hair is common on bays.

Radical Changers

Coat colour may change dramatically from season to season with two or three colour changes being present per year. Animals exhibiting this trait are referred to as radical changers and are of roan colouration.

3) Markings

Head

No markings or a small white marking (e.g. star) on the forehead are typical but stripes, snips, and blazes can occur as well either individually or in combination.

Leg

White markings on the limbs are discouraged but are known to occur primarily on the hind legs. White marking extending beyond the knees or hocks are unacceptable. Very minimal to no white markings are preferred.

Body

White marking anywhere on the body except as described above are unacceptable unless they are the result of scarring.

Primitive

Zebra stripes and dorsal stripes (line back) occur. Shoulder, wither and leg stripes are possible. Mealy or buff coloured ring around the eyes, muzzle and flank often occur.

4) Coat, Mane and Tail

The winter coat is double layered consisting of a fine, furry dense insulating undercoat with an overlying outercoat. The outercoat consists of strong wiry springy hairs that are long enough to project beyond those of the undercoat and are stiff to the touch. In some cases, the outer coat can be 4 inches long. It is the changeover of the outercoat that causes the radical changer effect in some ponies. The beard is more pronounced in winter. The outercoat hairs grow in a pattern which diverts water from the vulnerable body parts. In addition, the skin produces a greasy overlay substance in the undercoat which adds to the winter coat's water repellent capabilities. The coat's thermal insulation can best be observed during a snowfall. A phenomenon known as "snow-thatching" occurs whereby the snow collects on the body and does not melt because insufficient heat escapes through the thick coat. In spring, the winter coat is shed and replaced by a sleek summer coat.

The tail and mane should be thick and are sometimes wavy. The mane is often double (falls on both sides of neck). A snow or rain chute tail (short hairs at base of tail) is typically present. Ponies have lightly feathered (some feathering is wavy or even curly) lower legs and fetlocks with hair extending below fetlock points but not over the hooves.

5) Head and Neck

In shape and proportion the head is distinctly pony type (short with a broad forehead) with a deep heavy jaw of good width but not coarse in any way. The usual profile is straight with a slight raised area "bump" occurring just above the nostrils. This is common on equines but particularly common on NL Pony. A dished profile and roman nose occasionally occur. Extending below the eyes on both sides of the upper cheeks is a boney ridge giving prominent straight lines contributing to the appearance of a nicely sculpted head with a neat muzzle and open generous crescent shaped nostrils. Prominent brow ridges (hooded eyes) are generally present. Ears are small to medium in size with small being most typical, and they are furred within. The large expressive eyes are separated by a wide flat forehead and situated on the corners of the forehead and so provide a proper range of vision. The eyes are soft and intelligent, and brown in colour. Walleyes are unacceptable.

Preferably the neck has a slightly arched topline, a fine throatlatch and a straight underline. Typically NL Ponies possess a short length of neck which are often full on the

underside and many have thick throats. The neck is in proportion and has good development at its base and blends in strongly with the shoulder and is set on at the point of shoulder or higher. The neck is not considered long but has a reasonable length of rein. The neck can have a small to medium neck crest that is more prominent in stallions. A “bull” neck with a thick throatlatch are undesirable as is an over crested neck.

6) Forequarters

Forelegs will be set square with prominent muscle mass above the elbow joint. When viewed from the front, the muscling on the inside of the elbows (at the chest) shows a “V” shape rather than a straight line (barrel chest). Limbs should be straight. The knees are broad and well developed. The cannons are short. Most NL Ponies have very good bone. Good bone is defined as a ratio of cannon circumference to height. For example a 14hh pony would be expected to have at least 8.0 inches or greater of cannon bone circumference. The shoulders are visibly muscular, of good length and usually well laid but some more upright shoulders are known.

7) Hooves

The hooves are typically of good conformation and sound. They are dense and flint hard, usually blue/black in colour with a thick hoof wall. White hooves or part white hooves are acceptable but less desired as with the white leg markings. The soles are concave and tend to be more concave on the hind. The front hooves are rounded and symmetrical with the rear hooves being more oval. They have large well-developed frogs with proportionate size hooves to the size of the pony.

8) Body/ Frame

The chest is of a suitable width between the forelegs. It is considered narrow to average. This is not a negative characteristic but contributes to their agility. Very narrow chested ponies do occasionally occur and this is considered undesirable. The chest should also extend forward beyond the front legs. The pony has a deep girth. Withers are moderately to well defined and extend back past the front leg. The withers are normally equal to the height of the croup or slightly higher but can be lower and this is undesirable. The ribs should be rounded out (well sprung) when viewing the pony from the front and above. Some ponies may have “roofed” croups and barrels (the ribs can be wide at mid-body but narrow at the point of origin on the spine) but this is not desirable. The back is powerful, short, broad and well coupled. The loin should be short, straight to slightly convex and wide.

9) Hindquarters

The quarters are well muscled. The thigh extends well down to a muscular gaskin with a strong hock of generous size. The hocks point slightly inward (in line with the stifle

which points outward) when standing. Stifles will be slightly turned out to clear the barrel. The groin is higher than the depth of the chest. The tail is low set with the slope from croup to tail head.

10) Gait and Action

Newfoundland ponies possess all the basic gaits: walk, trot, canter and gallop. At the trot the action is free and active, ranging from a moderate action with extension to a longer lower type action. Some ponies are gaited with the pace and/or amble being present.

11) Temperament

The NL Pony has a good temperament, is docile and easy to work with.

12) Other Traits

The NL Pony has a high fertility rate. The dams are good milk producers and are excellent mothers. The sires are generally easy to manage when breeding and are also good fathers. If given the opportunity, they are gentle and playful with their offspring and other young ponies.

13) Unacceptable Characteristics

- flat platter shaped hooves
- barrel chested
- coarse boned
- level croup
- long narrow or coarse head
- long ears
- pig eyes
- prominent dish
- extreme Roman nose
- flat way of going (tripping on rough ground)
- over 14.2 hands or under 11.0 hands
- very fine boned
- hot temperament
- ewe-neck
- piebald, skewbald, palomino, or non-dun, example buckskin

14) Unsoundness

The NL Pony must be free of defects, which might endanger the ability to live a normal, healthy life.