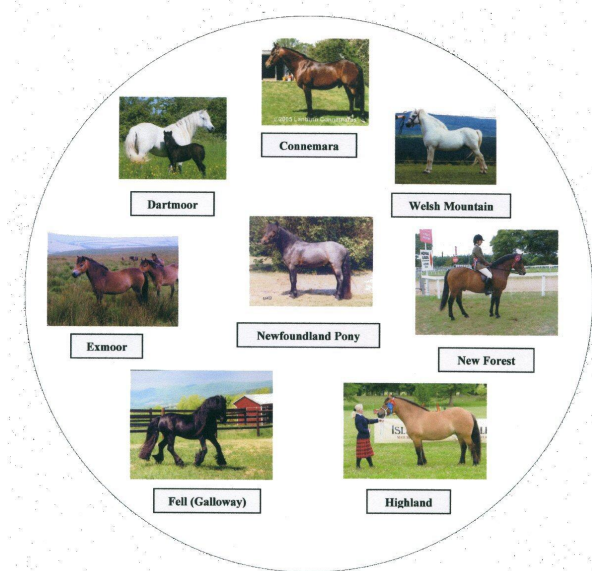


As long as there have been Newfoundlanders, there have been ponies assisting them in their labours. As the people have struggled to survive inhospitable weather and landscape, and a changing society, so the ponies have had to struggle to adapt to the changes brought on by a modern, mechanized world.

The Newfoundland Pony

The Newfoundland Pony is descended from many of the native pony breeds of Great Britain and Ireland. It is said that in 1611 John Guy brought Dartmoor and Exmoor Ponies to the island. Also, Lord Falkland sought a “hardy type for living on hard ground” for his colony. More settlers followed and the native pony breeds followed their migration patterns to the New Founde Land.



Evolution

The pony’s work year was mainly in the spring, fall and winter when they hauled caplin and seaweed for the gardens and firewood for the winter. They also transported the family around. In summer, the owners were occupied at sea and ponies were turned out onto open spaces to roam freely and breed. No

law restricted their movements. The animal that evolved from 400 years of interbreeding on the island is now known as the Newfoundland Pony.

Characteristics

The Newfoundland Pony is intelligent, has a good temperament, is docile and easy to work with. Their coat colours are solid and range from brown, black and chestnut to bay and dun. There are also many greys and roans. White markings are limited on most ponies. They have heavy winter coats and some have coats which can change color seasonally. They have small furry ears and a low set of tail to conserve heat in winter. They have short backs and heights that ranges from 11.0 to 14.2 hands. One old timer said of the Newfoundland Pony "it has small ears, small head, small back, small legs, like they're all bunched together”.

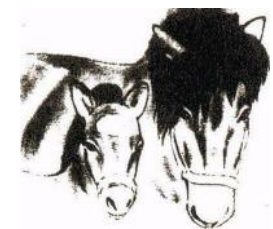
The Newfoundland Pony is typically pony in character and appearance. It is a true all rounder and is comfortable under saddle and in harness. It makes an excellent mount for both adults and children. It is hard working and tireless. Many have been used in work with the disabled with excellent results.

Decline

In the 1930 census, there were 9,025 ponies in the province. Over the next 30 to 40 years came advanced machinery and communities with modern ways. Animals were no longer needed to haul seaweed and firewood. Where once vegetables gardens had to be fenced to keep animals out, new laws decreed that animals must be fenced in. This meant the scarce hay land resources had to be used for pasture.

The animals had lost their role and seemingly had no place in the modern communities. Their numbers dwindled until in the late 70s there were fewer than 100 breeding animals. Most had been shipped to slaughter houses and then to European dinner tables.

The Newfoundland Pony



The Newfoundland Pony Society

For the Protection & Preservation of the Newfoundland Pony