

2008 AGM

NPS Registrar's Report

I have been the NFS Registrar since late 2003. During that time, I have registered 148 Newfoundland Ponies. The last Newfoundland Pony that I registered was #680. I am currently waiting for 12 DNA case files to be tested by the Maxxam laboratory.

This report includes the attached Population and Distribution Chart, which reflects the year over year changes in the registered Newfoundland Pony population and distribution since June 2005. 2005 was the first year the Newfoundland Pony was exhibited again at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. It has now been shown at the Royal for four consecutive years. Since 2005, the stallion population has increased by 25% and the mares by 14%. The overall population is up by 18% and the breedable age population by 19%. This is a good news story but the increases are not necessarily due to an increase in the birth rate of registered stock. The birth rate is down and averages less than a dozen per year. These are very small numbers and it is no wonder that the Newfoundland Pony is still in peril and classified as critically endangered. It would seem that the larger, outside Newfoundland, market place has encouraged owners to register their ponies. Registered ponies sell for more money because the buyers have confidence in the stock being acquired. Once many breeders did not register their young stock and expected the new owners to do the necessary. This did not happen in many cases but now breeders are registering their ponies before they are sold. This is also a good news story because we will not lose track of these ponies.

Please note that the Population and Distribution Chart reflects that the Newfoundland Pony population in Newfoundland is declining and is aged. Populations in Ontario and the U.S. reflect the most significant increases. Newfoundland needs to take a more proactive approach. People breeding Newfoundland Ponies in Newfoundland require assistance. Newfoundland should maintain a resource herd. Newfoundland should maintain access to all stallion lines. Today, there are stallion lines that are no longer available in Newfoundland. In the past, some stallions were overused and some little used. All the available stallion lines should be spread across the population to ensure good diversity and the genetic health of the population. There are 39 registered ponies of unknown whereabouts. The majority of these are in Newfoundland. Fortunately, only 6 are of breeding age. Losses like these are because people do not submit transfer information when ponies are sold or given away. -

We had great hopes for what could be accomplished for the Registry in 2007 and 2008. We do have a newly developed Registry computer program and all the Registry records have been scanned and digitalized for safe keeping. However, there is still much to do.

These are items on the current Registrar's agenda that need to be addressed. All are pressing and important.

- 1) Processing of DNA'd but not Processed Ponies (initial DNA project 1998-2000)
- 2) Locating Progeny of these DNA'd but not Processed Ponies
- 3) Formalization of Registration for Appendix and Purebred Cross Ponies – Issue Certificates.

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- 4) Agreement to Allow Maxxam DMA Access by Dr.Yves Plante/ Dr.Gus Cothran for Further Study of the Newfoundland Pony
- 5) Herd Book - Publication of Photographs and Pedigrees - Hardcopy and CD's Available to Breeders, etc.
- 6) Foundation Stallion Ascendants Chart
- 7) Foundation Mare Ascendants Chart
- 8) Breeding Plan for the Future Survival of the Newfoundland Pony (Part of APA Process]
- 9) Formal and Continuous Contact with NP Owners and Breeders
- 10) Update of Registry Info on All Ponies - Many Have Only Foal Info Listed
- 11) Study re Measurement and Photograph/Video Record of 36 + Good to Excellent Ponies re Distinct Breed Option for APA.
- 12) Help for Pony Breeders Requiring Government Assistance
- 13) Help for Pony Breeders Keeping Stallions and Rare Stallion Lines e.g. Black Brandy
- 14) AI in Newfoundland - How and When
- 15) Breeding Recommendations to Breeders Based on Pedigrees
- 16) General Breeding Recommendation - e.g. No Line or Inbreeding
- 17) Registration Rules in Constitution - Publish Current Rules
- 18) Summary of Possible Genetic Problems and Associated Lines
- 19) Resolution re DNA Info Blocked by Sally Nielsen's NPBA
- 20) Map Points of Origin for Foundation Ponies.
- 21) Improved Blood Sample Study with Additional Important Line Samples
- 22) DNA Map Newfoundland Pony within the Mountain Moorland Family - Confirm History
- 23) Inclusion of Pony's Photo on Export Permit

Debbie Bray - Registrar