

Help Newfoundland Pony Society Reach Target of 1000 Ponies in the Registry

St. John's, NL, March 22, 2021 – Calling all Newfoundland Ponies! The Newfoundland Pony Society (NPS) is announcing free registration for all eligible Newfoundland Ponies to be added to the registry for its members. There are currently 930 ponies (living and deceased) in the official breed registry and the charity has its sight set on registering **1000** ponies by the end of the year. The free registration is a special offer as part of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the charity.

By offering free registrations, the NPS is hoping it will encourage pony owners to get in touch with them. In addition to providing an official record of the pony and its lineage, it creates a profile of each of these ponies that may of interest to other owners and breeders. The registry also helps track ponies when they are sold or transferred. The first pony entered in the registry was named “Queenie”, back in 1967. In fact, Queen or Queenie are the most common names in the registry.

“We know there are Newfoundland Ponies in the province and scattered across North America, and it is important for us to find them,” said Kelly Power-Kean, Registrar (volunteer) with the Newfoundland Pony Society. “Applying for DNA testing is the first step. The DNA, which is a hair sample, allows us to ‘fill in the blanks’ of previously tested ponies so we can find ancestral links. Every mystery solved can help identify a pony and add numbers to this critically endangered breed. Registration provides every eligible pony their place in the NPS registry,” she added.

Fees for Transfer-of-Ownership are also being waived for members. Owners of known Newfoundland Ponies, or ponies believed to be of Newfoundland origin are encouraged to contact the NPS. DNA grant applications and registration forms are available on the NPS website at <https://www.newfoundlandpony.com/dna-test-form>.

About the Newfoundland Pony

The Newfoundland Pony evolved from ponies that settlers brought with them from the British Isles. They have unique physical survival traits; they have hard hooves, thick hairy winter coats, and long manes and tails. Their height ranges between 11 to 14 hands high and they weigh between 400 and 800 pounds. Known for its hardworking temperament, the Newfoundland Pony was replaced by modern equipment and all-terrain vehicles. When “no roaming animals” by-laws were introduced, making it difficult to keep ponies without available land for grazing, the number of ponies dropped to just a few hundred. The Newfoundland Pony Society was incorporated in 1981 to preserve, protect and promote the Newfoundland Pony.