

Kerry Bog Pony Breeding Programme



**Approved at a Special General Meeting of the
Kerry Bog Pony Co-operative Society**

**Held at
Athlone Springs Hotel
On
27th November 2021**

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Name of Breed	2
3.	Aims of the Breeding Programme	2
4.	Kerry Bog Pony Population	2
5.	Geographical Territory	2
6.	Breed Description	3
7.	Division of the Studbook	4
8.	Inspection for Classification in the Studbook	5
9.	System of identification of Ponies.....	6
10.	Procedure for Entry in the Kerry Bog Pony Studbook	7
11.	Procedure for Registration in the Kerry Bog Pony Studbook.....	8
12.	Duplicate Passport	10
13.	Transfer of Ownership	11
14.	Information on System for recording Pedigree	11
15.	Zootechnical Certificate	12
16.	Breeding Objectives	12
17.	Selection Objectives.....	13
18.	Performance Testing	13
19.	Genetic Evaluation	13
20.	Outsourcing Specific Technical Activities	13

1 INTRODUCTION

The Kerry Bog Pony (KBP) is classified as a mountain and moorland pony. It was originally used as a working pony in the small farms in county Kerry.

Efforts to preserve this rare pony began in the 1990s. Pedigree records, backed up by Blood typing and DNA testing, were maintained from 1992 – 2002. Based on this data and the accumulated

genetic information, it was possible to prove scientifically that the ponies were a distinct breed. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine recognised the Kerry Bog Pony Co-Operative Society as a breed society maintaining the studbook of origin for the Kerry Bog Pony breed in line with European Union animal breeding legislation in 2005. The first passports were issued in 2006 and from then on, all ponies were microchipped.

The breed has been recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as a native rare breed.

The Society has requested a derogation to allow the offspring of uninspected ponies, ie Class 4 ponies, to be inspected for classification within the Kerry Bog Pony Studbook. This is intended to encourage owners to bring their breeding ponies out for inspection which will ensure that approved ponies meet the Breed Standard. This derogation will run from 1st January 2021 – 31st December 2021.

2 NAME OF BREED

Kerry Bog Pony

3 AIMS OF THE BREEDING PROGRAMME

The Kerry Bog Pony (KBP) Breeding Programme includes the following aims:

- To preserve the Kerry Bog Pony breed
- To ensure that breeders know the type and characteristics of the KBP
- To foster the breeding of a sound and healthy pony, with a good temperament, suitable to its environment
- To encourage breeders to select their stallion and mare carefully when breeding
- To discourage inbreeding in the KBP
- To encourage breeders and owners to bring their ponies to Studbook inspections and shows

4 KERRY BOG PONY POPULATION

As of April 2020, there are approximately 924 ponies listed on the KBP Studbook database, comprising 684 mares and fillies, 90 stallions and 150 colts. Currently there are approximately 250 actively breeding females, with an average of 40 foals born each year.

5 GEOGRAPHICAL TERRITORY

Republic of Ireland, United Kingdom and Austria.

The Kerry Bog Pony Studbook is the studbook of Origin. There are currently no recognised Daughter Societies for the breed.

6 BREED DESCRIPTION OF THE KERRY BOG PONY

The characteristics of the KBP are as originally defined in 1994, and reaffirmed unanimously as the Breed Standard at the first AGM of the Kerry Bog Pony Co-operative Society, 25th February, 2005. (Metric measurements were inserted in 2005). The characteristics are as follows:

- **Size** - This is a small pony evolved as such because of its use as a draught animal in the bogs of Kerry over the centuries. Thus, the height of the KBP is 10 to 11.2hh for stallions and gelding and 10 to 11hh for mares (i.e. 102 to 117cm for stallions and gelding and 102 to 112cm for mares).
- **Colour** - Any strong whole colour is to be found, but colour is generally brown or brownish black and bay. Some chestnut, grey and dun colours are also to be found.
- **Coat** - The coat of the KBP is long and dense and easily capable of withstanding harsh winter conditions without shelter.
- **Head** - The head is pleasant, plain and of average size and rather dish faced. Ears are small and pointed. Nostrils allow large air intake relative to body size. The jaw is strong and well formed with excellent dentition to facilitate grazing on heath, gorse and heather.
- **Body** - Neck is strong and medium length. The shoulder is rounded and muscular. The body is strong and compact. The chest is deep with well sprung ribs and good girth. Loins are powerful and the hind quarters are strong and well formed. The tail is full, abundant, and well set and well carried.
- **Legs** - Forelegs are strong and muscular with a strong forearm. Hind legs are muscular and powerful. The cannon bone is short with flat hard bone of good size. Pasterns are short and the hooves upright and wide open and well-formed of hard horn requiring very little trimming.
- **Action** - The KBP is a powerful pony with good bone and great weight and strength relative to its size. This together with its excellent confirmation gives the pony a lovely straight and level action with good balance. This intelligent pony is sure footed and well capable of thinking for itself in the soft underfoot conditions of the Kerrybogs.
- **Temperament and Character** - This pony, while kind, sensible, confident and well-mannered also possesses great courage and endurance. Soundness is a feature of the Kerry Bog Pony. Hereditary unsoundness is extremely rare and because of the pony's innate strength and toughness it scarcely ever develops unsoundness. The animal's constitution is also first class, being possessed of a large heart and lung room which in turn enables it to thrive well in spite of harsh weather or other difficulties. The excellent temperament of the pony allows it to be easily trained to harness or saddle and it can be easily worked as a children's riding pony.

(Source: Original signed by Timothy G Clifford, MB, MRCVS)

The Breed description (characteristics) of the Kerry Bog Pony can only be amended by means of a Special General Meeting of the Kerry Bog Pony Co-operative Society convened specifically for that purpose alone and by a two third ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of in-benefit members present at the meeting.

7 Division of the Studbook

The KBP studbook consists of a main section only and is deemed a closed breeding book.

7.1 Qualification for entry into Studbook

To qualify for entry into the main section of the stud book an animal must:

- Be descended from parents who have been entered in the main section of the stud book of the breed or any other EU approved studbook for the breed
- Have a pedigree established according to the rules of the breed
- Be identified in accordance with equine identification rules and the rules as set out in this breeding programme
- Where an animal is traded in or into the European Union and is intended to be entered in the breeding book, that animal shall be accompanied by a Zootechnical Certificate
- Where an animal is produced from a germinal product which is traded or which entered the European Union and where the animal is intended to be entered into the breeding book, that germinal product shall be accompanied by a Zootechnical Certificate

7.2 Studbook Classification

The Main Studbook is divided into four classes, as follows:

- Class 1 is for ponies that pass inspection for classification
- Class 2 is for ponies that fail to be included in class 1 when inspected for classification because they do not conform to the height requirements of the Breed standard
- Class 3 is for animals (other than those placed in class 2) that fail inspection on grounds of unsoundness, conformation or noncompliance with the remainder of the breed standard. Any pony showing visible signs of broken colour (e.g. white body flashes), one or two wall eyes, pink pigment around the eyes will be placed in class 3.
- Class 4 (uninspected ponies) is for uninspected foals and all other animals that have a legal right of entry into the stud book but have not been inspected.

The society reserves the right to reclassify animals following any further inspection that may be arranged by the Management Committee. Animals may be reclassified in a higher or lower class following such inspection.

On entry into the studbook all ponies will be entered in class 4 of the main stud book. Animals entered in class 4 of the main studbook can be inspected from age 2 onwards for placement in class

1, 2, or 3 as appropriate. If they are presented for inspection they will be reclassified in the appropriate class.

8 INSPECTION WITHIN THE KERRY BOG PONY STUDBOOK FOR CLASSIFICATION IN THE MAIN SECTION

Inspections for classification within the KBP Studbook are held annually. The number and location of such inspections are dependent on requirement.

8.1 Objectives of the Inspection Procedure

The objective of the Inspection is to meet the aims of the Breeding Programme; to maintain and preserve the type and conformation of the Kerry Bog Pony as defined in the original Breed Description. To foster recognition of the best of the breed and encourage breeding practices cognisant of KBP phenotype and genotype.

8.2 Inspection Regulations

- a) Animals will be inspected for classification in the main studbook. The inspections for classification will be to assess conformity to the breed standard
- b) The management committee shall appoint annually an Inspection Committee who shall be responsible for the implementation of Breed Standards and control of the accuracy of all pedigree and performance records. The animals and breed records of breeders are subject to examination by the Inspection Committee
- c) The Inspection Committee is empowered to obtain DNA samples in accordance with an established best practice. The samples are for the purpose of checking pedigree information using appropriate procedures. The Inspection Committee is to report to the Management Committee, which has powers to act if any irregularities arise.
- d) The Management Committee shall arrange inspections. There must be two approved inspectors and a veterinarian present at each official inspection event
- e) At official Inspections no Inspector may inspect ponies owned or bred by him or her or by close relatives, or a pony in which he/she may have a vested interest
- f) Training sessions for Inspectors will be organised by the Management Committee at intervals. The purpose of such training is to endeavour to have similar standards applied by each inspector in the assessment of a pony brought before a panel of Inspectors. Efforts will be made to have experienced horse people from other Breed Societies available to give their expert advice
- g) The minimum and maximum heights acceptable to the Management Committee are those specified in the Breed Standard. The current maximum heights may have to be modified as knowledge accumulates about the growth records of Kerry Bog Ponies reared on lowland grassland as opposed to mountain, moorland and bog
- h) Ponies that fail Inspection shall be permitted to attend an appeal inspection, which shall be conducted in the same manner as the standard inspection. However, a

different panel of inspectors shall be used for the appeal inspection. The cost of the reinspection shall be borne by the Applicant

- i) Notwithstanding the above, as the KBP is a Breed at Risk, the Offspring of Class 3 ponies are eligible for inspection and classification in the Studbook as the Inspectors see fit

8.3 Inspection Procedure

The Inspection process consists of 2 stages: a Veterinary Examination and a Conformation and Movement assessment.

a) Stage 1: Veterinary Examination

- a) Vet will check pony identity, read microchip and verify the accuracy of the passport
- b) Vet will carry out basic health examination, to include checking eyes, mouth, heart, soundness and in the case of male ponies, the presence of testes
- c) Vet will carry out height measurement. This measurement shall be regarded as the official measurements for the purpose of pony classification. (This determines whether the pony will be Class 1 or Class 2 if it passes the second stage of inspection)

b) Stage 2: Conformation and Movement Assessment

- a) Two Inspectors will assess both the conformation and movement of the pony
- b) Marks are allocated separately for each section. If one Inspector finds that the pony does not achieve the minimum amount in either conformation or movement, that merits an overall fail, irrespective of the total combined marks

Animals that do not meet the requirements, excluding height, will be placed in Class 3. The Kerry Bog Pony Co Operative Society reserves the right to terminate any inspection for health and safety reasons. If any owner wishes to appeal the results of an inspection the conditions are outlined above in Inspection Regulations.

9 SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION OF PONIES

Kerry Bog Ponies must be both microchipped and DNA typed to enter the Breeding Programme.

On entry into the breeding programme all Kerry Bog Ponies are individually identified by a unique number which is the UELN (Unique Equine Life Number). This is a 15 digit number; the first three digits of UELN - 372, indicate Ireland as the country of origin of the Studbook. The next three digits – 414, are the code for Horse Sport Ireland (administrators of the KBP studbook). The remaining nine digits may link to those last nine used in the transponder

Ponies in the breeding book are also identified by name at first registration. It has become a tradition to assign names having bog associations to Kerry Bog Pony foals. That tradition is encouraged by the Kerry Bog Pony Co Operative Society. Duplication of names will not be permitted. The name given to any particular animal must be entered as part of the registration details.

Breeders/owners may also register a prefix name for a once off payment of the appropriate fee to Horse Sport Ireland where the following conditions apply:

- An animal can be named with a registered prefix at the time of registration; fees apply in accordance with Kerry Bog Pony Cooperative Society rules
- A registered prefix cannot be used by another breeder/owner unless written consent is given by the prefix owner
- An animal that has been named with a prefix cannot have its name changed without the written consent of the prefix owner

The maximum number of characters including spaces that can be used for a prefix and name is 30.

10 PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY IN THE KERRY BOG PONY STUDBOOK

Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) administrates the KBP stud book on behalf of the KBP Co Operative Society Ltd. and are deemed the passport issuing organisation (PIO). On entry into the studbook applicants are issued with a KBPS passport and zootechnical certificate.

KBPS passports are issued in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 'Equine Passport Regulations' and S.I. No. 62 of 2016 'EU (Identification of Equidae) Regulations 2016 as amended. Animals identified outside the legislative timeframe and all applications for duplicate identification documents will be marked as unfit for the human food chain.

Kerry Bog Ponies must be both microchipped and DNA typed to enter the Breeding Programme. Only microchips issued by a Department of Agriculture licensed PIO (Passport Issuing Organisation) can be accepted for registration purposes for Irish bred animals.

- A Kerry Bog Pony Foal Kit is obtained from Horse Sport Ireland
- A set of markings taken by a vet on a current Kerry Bog Pony Studbook marking chart must be submitted to HSI for registration. These must contain the microchip number.
- A DNA sample, identified with the microchip number on the marking chart, must be submitted for analysis by Weatherbys. This is used to create a DNA profile to identify the pony, as well as prove its parentage

The resulting passport, containing both written and diagrammatical descriptions, the UELN and the microchip number of the pony will be its single lifetime identification document. All of this information will be retained on the database maintained by Horse Sport Ireland.

Any alterations to a passport, subsequent to issue, will be considered tampering and will invalidate the document. Kerry Bog Pony passports remain the property of the PIO (Horse Sport Ireland) at all times. Upon the death of a pony the passport should be returned to HSI within 30 days. The passport is a document of identity; it is NOT a deed of ownership.

HSI issue the passports for ponies that meet the entry requirements into the KBPS breeding programme and carry out any necessary updates. All registration fees are set by the KBP Co Operative Society and notified to HSI. Registration process will not proceed until a fully complete application is received. The rate of fee charged will be that applicable on the date the fully complete application is received.

Where funding is received the KBPS will cover 70% of the cost of DNA analysis where animals are registered within the legislative timeframe (within the first year of birth as required by the Equine Passport Regulations). The receipt of funding is reviewed on an annual basis. If the information provided by the breeder is found to be incorrect any further DNA analysis costs must be borne by the foal owner.

See KBPS website for applicable fees.

11 PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION IN THE KERRY BOG PONY STUDBOOK

There are now two methods of registering a Kerry Bog Pony

- a) Standard method by submitting a Covering Certificate
- b) Without a Covering Certificate, based on DNA results only – this method is only available online.

(The KBPS has been granted a derogation by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine from the requirement for a KBP to be identified as ‘foal at foot’ and to be identified by a Covering Certificate for entry into the breeding book, where parentage is proven by DNA analysis).

11.1 A Kerry Bog Pony foal Registration Kit can be obtained by submission of a COVERING CERTIFICATE from the stallion owner to Horse Sport Ireland.

- a) A covering certificate is sent by the stallion owner to HSI.
- b) HSI sends a marking chart and a DNA kit to the mare owner.
- c) The owner’s vet inserts a microchip, records the chip number on the marking chart, records the marking of the foal, and takes hair samples for DNA parentage testing.
- d) The marking chart is returned to HSI with the appropriate fee and the hair samples are sent to Weatherbys for DNA testing.
- e) When the parentage results are confirmed by Weatherbys to HSI, and all other control checks are met, the KBPS identification document with a zootechnical certificate will be issued by HSI to the owner.

11.2 A Kerry Bog Pony Registration Kit and subsequent Registration can be processed by DNA ONLY, by applying online through the IHR website

- a) The Breeder must first be registered with HSI’s online database ‘IHR online’.
- b) Log into personal account, then in Online Services tab, select Mare Declarations and follow the instructions provided to provide the covering details.
- c) Based on the information provided HSI will send out a Foal Registration Kit. A vet must take the foal’s markings and DNA samples, and insert a microchip.

- d) The DNA material is returned to Weatherbys for analysis.
- e) The KBPS marking chart including the number of the microchip is returned to HSI.
- f) When the parentage results are confirmed by Weatherbys to HSI and all other control checks are met, the KBPS identification document will be issued by HSI to the keeper.

11.3 Registration of an Adult Animals

To register an adult pony eligible for entry into the stud book.

- a) Pony owner must either:
 - 1) submit a completed Kerry Bog Pony Adult Registration Application Form (available to download from www.horsesportireland.ie or www.kerrybogpony.ie) to Horse Sport Ireland, in order to receive a Registration Kit. A Covering Certificate will be required before the resulting passport will be released or
 - 2) make an online application, as detailed above
- b) Then HSI sends a marking chart and a DNA kit to the pony owner based on the information supplied
- c) The owner's vet inserts a microchip – if an approved chip is not already present, records the chip number on the marking chart, records the markings of the pony, and takes hair samples for DNA parentage testing
- d) The marking chart is returned to the HSI with the appropriate fee and the hair samples are sent to Weatherbys for DNA testing
- e) When the parentage results are confirmed by Weatherbys to HSI and all other control checks are met, the KBPS identification document will be issued by HSI to the owner

11.4 Where an animal holds a pre-2005 Identity document

To register an animal with an original BLACK COVER pedigree information document (original foundation stock and their descendants) the original documentation which was enclosed in a black cover must be returned to HSI or to the KBPS in order for the registration process to proceed for this category of animal.

- a) Owner submits completed Kerry Bog Pony Registration Application Form to Horse Sport Ireland in order to receive a Registration Kit
- b) HSI sends a marking chart and a DNA kit to the mare owner based on the information supplied
- c) Pony is marked by the owner's vet to ensure that there is a current marking chart (taken within previous 6 months). The vet must also insert a microchip if there is not one already present. The vet must take a hair sample for DNA analysis in order to verify the identity of the pony
- d) Original Identity Document, the new Marking Chart and the appropriate fee is returned to HSI. The hair sample is sent to Weatherbys for DNA testing
- e) When the parentage results are confirmed to HSI by Weatherbys and all other control checks are met, the KBPS identification document will be issued by HSI to the owner

11.5 To register an animal which was part of the original foundation stock or is a descendant of two original foundation stock

- a) Owner submits completed Kerry Bog Pony Registration Application Form to Horse Sport Ireland in order to receive a Registration Kit
- b) Pony owner must either:
 - 1) submit a completed Kerry Bog Pony Adult Registration Application Form (available to download from www.horsesportireland.ie or www.kerrybogpony.ie) to Horse Sport Ireland, in order to receive a Registration Kit. A Covering Certificate will be required before the resulting passport will be released or
 - 2) make an online application, as detailed above
- c) HSI sends a marking chart and a DNA kit to the mare owner based on the information supplied
- d) Pony is marked by the owner's vet to ensure that there is a current marking chart (taken within previous 6 months). The vet will take a DNA sample and insert a HSI microchip (if there is not already one inserted)
- e) Applicant sends the DNA sample with the marking chart (with microchip number recorded) to HSI. HSI checks the DNA result with Weatherbys to ensure that the recent DNA sample matches the original DNA of the foundation animal on file with Weatherbys
- f) When the parentage results are confirmed to HSI by Weatherbys and all other control checks are met, the KBPS identification document will be issued by HSI to the owner

Where DNA matches the original DNA of the foundation pony and/or sire or dam on Weatherbys records but pony was not subsequently entered in the studbook, the progeny will be eligible for entry into the studbook but the unregistered animals will not be recorded in the pedigree.

The use of germinal products and reproductive techniques is not a common current practice within breed. However, if and when the practice becomes feasible, the breeding programme will be amended to cover all requirements that will be necessary to cover these processes.

On entry into the studbook all ponies will be entered in class 4 of the main stud book. If they are presented for inspection they will be reclassified in the appropriate class.

12 DUPLICATE PASSPORT

Duplicate passports are issued in accordance with EU Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/262 and S.I. No. 62 of 2016, applicable from 1st January 2016. The procedure is as follows:

- a) Owner submits completed Kerry Bog Pony Duplicate Application Form to Horse Sport Ireland in order to receive a Registration Kit
- b) HSI sends a marking chart and a DNA kit to the mare owner based on the information supplied

- c) Owner's vet takes a current set of markings of the pony. (This must be submitted within 6 months). The vet takes a DNA sample and inserts a HSI microchip, if there is not already one inserted. (The vet must insert a microchip if none is present).
- d) Applicant sends the DNA sample and the marking chart (with microchip number recorded) to HSI. HSI checks the DNA result with Weatherbys to ensure that the recent DNA sample matches the original DNA on file with Weatherbys
- e) When the DNA results are confirmed to HSI by Weatherbys and all other control checks are met, the duplicate KBPS passport will be issued by HSI to the owner

All Duplicate passports will be marked '*Not intended for Human Consumption*', as required by legislation.

13 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Under national legislation S.I. 201/2016, the purchaser of a pony is required to register the Transfer of Ownership with the PIO that issued the passport i.e. Horse Sport Ireland, within 30 days of purchase. The procedure is as follows:

- a) The Kerry Bog Pony Co Operative Society requires the seller to sign the Kerry Bog Pony Transfer of Ownership form
- b) The purchaser co-signs the KBP Transfer of Ownership form
- c) The purchaser returns this completed form along with the pony's passport and the appropriate fee to HSI
- d) HSI carries out the Transfer of Ownership in the Kerry Bog Pony Studbook and the Irish Horse Register and informs the KBP Society
- e) When the passport is updated and all other control checks are met, the KBPS identification document with an updated zootechnical certificate will be issued by HSI to the new owner

The seller is strongly advised to keep a copy of this signed Transfer of Ownership form for their records.

14 INFORMATION ON SYSTEM FOR RECORDING PEDIGREE

Records of pedigree are held electronically on the 'Irish Horse Register' database which is maintained by HSI. Information held includes;

- UELN
- Microchip
- Animal Name
- Date of Birth
- Country of Origin
- Breed
- Sex
- Colour
- Sire Name

- Dam Name
- Dam Sire Name
- Grand Sire Name
- Breeder Name
- Keeper Name

14.1 Breeders can access an on-line database through the Kerry Bog Pony Website:

<http://www.kerrybogpony.ie> or through the HSI website:

<http://www.breeding.horsesportireland.ie> ,

15 ZOOTECHNICAL CERTIFICATE

The KBP Zootechnical certificate is issued with all KBP identification documents in line with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1940.

- The zootechnical certificate will state the class the animal is entered into in the main section of the studbook
- In the context of the zootechnical certificate the breeder is defined as the person who is the official recorded owner at the time of foaling. That is unless there is a formal lease agreement submitted to HSI in advance. The owner is defined as the person whose name the pony is registered in at time of application
- On receipt of the zootechnical certificate the breeder should check that there is no misrepresentation of records. Any omissions should be notified to the HSI immediately

16 BREEDING OBJECTIVES

The Kerry Bog Pony Co-operative Society oversees the promotion and preservation of the KBP. The guidelines within the breeding programme promotes high standards of breeding, with the emphasis on preserving the tradition type and conformation of this working pony, to produce characteristically recognisable Kerry Bog Ponies.

The KBP are hardy and comfortable in harsh conditions. They grow a dense winter coat to insulate against winter conditions. They are sure footed and thrive on rough terrain. As with all Native ponies keeping of Kerry Bog ponies, in areas of richer grazing requires management to prevent obesity and it's attending problems.

These ponies like to be busy. Their heritage as a working pony has ensured that they are of calm temperament and they make good children's ponies, being sure footed cross country and with great jumping ability. Their physique, stamina, willingness, and ability to learn also make them ideal for carriage driving, where they can be used by adults as well as children. Their strong muscle and bone underpin their weight carrying ability.

17 SELECTION OBJECTIVES

As the breed is a recognised endangered breed the KBPS do not operate a selection process. However, breeders should be cognisant of inbreeding, use of Class 1 animals for breeding and genetic diversity.

18 PERFORMANCE TESTING

Data on conformation and movement is collected at inspections.

19 GENETIC EVALUATION

Genetic evaluations of the breed have taken place to determine the purity of the breed however it is currently not done on an ongoing basis. In 2020, P. Flynn, Weatherbys Scientific, conducted an in depth comparative genetic characterisation study of the KBP. A selection of 192 representative samples of breeding age (26 Males and 166 Females) were studied, using SNP analysis. The genomic inbreeding analysis, demonstrated that the majority of KBP animals have a genomic inbreeding percentage of $\leq 5\%$ and at comparative breed level, the KBP breed average of 3.4% proved to be at the lower end of the scale in comparison to other Equine breeds. Small closed populations may suffer from increased inbreeding and with DAD-IS categorising - the KBP breed is at "At Risk".

It is to be hoped that comparative studies of genetic and pedigree analysis could be carried out at future intervals to monitor the ongoing health of the Kerry Bog Pony breeding population.

20 OUTSOURCING OF SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

The Kerry Bog Pony Cooperative Society has a signed service level agreement (SLA) with HSI to administer the Kerry bog pony breeding book.

They carry out the following activities on behalf of the Society:

- Maintenance of the studbook
- Issuing identification documents
- Issuing of Zootechnical certificates
- Maintenance of an electronic database

Contact details:

Horse Sport Ireland, 1st Floor, Beech House, Millennium Park, Osberstown, Naas, Co. Kildare W91 TK7N

Tel: +353 45 850800 | Fax: +353 45 850850

Email: info@horsesportireland.ie