

Exmoor Pony Society
Information for first time breeders
IN-GROUND

This short guide explains the inspection procedure and how inspectors are selected. All pure bred Exmoor foals must be inspected by two EPS foal inspectors before they are eligible for entry into the Stud Book.

Inspectors

EPS inspectors must first pass a stringent assessment as to their suitability before being invited on to the Society's three-year probationers' scheme. During that time they must attend three inspections each year, one of which must be a Moorland inspection. At each one, they are assessed by a senior 'panel inspector' and a written report is made each time. This ensures that only the most knowledgeable and competent people qualify as foal inspectors.

Inspections have traditionally been a sociable time, when new acquaintances and friendships are forged and new breeders are welcomed. Most inspectors expect to put on weight in the Autumn, thanks to the generous hospitality which has so long been a feature of EPS foal inspections!

The following advice will help to ensure that your inspection runs smoothly

- Inform the EPS Secretary of the birth of your foal as soon as possible, preferably using the tear off slip on your covering certificate. This makes planning inspections easier for the Society. The Society will allocate you a herd number. You can also register a prefix and the paperwork is available from the Secretary.
- Your foal must be micro-chipped. Micro-chipping must be carried out by a qualified veterinary surgeon BEFORE inspection, unless agreed with the Secretary that it can be done on the day. The relevant paperwork is available the Secretary and must be completed including the silhouette.
- Make sure you have a secure area where the foal can be inspected. The Society recommends that you have two competent handlers as even well handled foals will sometimes object to strangers examining them closely.
- The inspectors will look at the foal to ensure that it has markings according to the breed standard and no serious conformation defects. They will check its jaw conformation closely and examine its mane and tail for groups of white hairs. Most foals have pale "foal" hairs around the outside of the tail. These are not a problem. They will also make sure it has no white markings on its head, body or legs and will look to see that the walls of the feet are uniformly dark and there are no white marks.
- If the foal passes inspection, it will be entered into the main body of the Studbook and issued with a passport. If it does not pass its inspection it will be entered into Section X of the Studbook and it is recommended that the pony is not used for breeding purposes. Any foal not meeting the breed standard is eligible for re-inspection.