

THE EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

COLT INSPECTION GUIDELINES FOR OWNERS

All Exmoor stallions are inspected and licensed by the Society in order to ensure that the breed standard is maintained.

The Society's inspectors understand that this can be a daunting occasion for the owner and they do have the discretion to defer the inspection should they feel it appropriate in order to give your colt the best chance of passing first time around.

A registered Exmoor colt is eligible to be put forward for its stallion inspection from the age of 2 years. You should consider your colt's temperament - keeping a stallion is very different to keeping a gelding - has your colt a temperament you would like to see in other ponies?

A colt age 3 or over must be fully licensed if you wish to take the pony to shows or take visiting mares. Do remember, this is a guide and should be read in conjunction with the rule book.

To obtain an Exmoor stallion licence, the colt must be inspected by the Society's judge/inspectors and also pass a Veterinary Inspection.

The Veterinary Inspection can take place either before or after the Society's inspection but must take place within six months of the Society passing the colt for his stallion licence.

Two Exmoor Society members who are both judges and inspectors will be appointed to inspect your colt. Colt inspections can take place at one of the stallion parades, an area show, at an inspection centre or at home.

During the inspection, an in-ground colt will be required to be handled by the inspectors and trotted up. So do make sure that your colt is used to being handled and to going in the head-collar or bit you will be using. It is worthwhile getting your colt used to going in a bit as all stallions must be shown bitted and if he is unfamiliar with the bit in his mouth, he might not move as freely as you would like. Finally do make sure that you provide a suitable individual to handle the colt during the inspection.

What are the inspectors looking for?

1. Your colt is in good health and sound.
2. Your colt is a good example of the breed and capable of doing his job.

The inspectors are looking to see if your colt has good conformation, wide chest, clean legs, evidence of a crest forming and demonstrates the attributes of a stallion.

3. Your colt moves straight with no restriction of movement.

The inspectors are aware that an Exmoor stallion may not fully mature until it is six or seven years of age so they are looking to see that the building blocks are there - they are not expecting to see a fully mature animal.

The Society's inspectors and judges are always willing to offer advice to owners so do feel free to ask their opinion before putting your colt forward for inspection. Some colts mature quicker than others which is why a colt can be inspected from two years.

If your colt does not pass, the inspectors will explain why and you can ask for a re-inspection not less than six months and not more than eighteen months from the date of the first inspection.

In the event of a colt failing its inspection, the Committee do ask that if the colt is kept entire that it is not shown at affiliated shows and, furthermore, they would prefer that a colt is not shown at all until it has been re-inspected. Do remember the Society's inspectors are willing to give advice and you can opt to defer your colt inspection if you feel that it would be better to allow more time for it to mature.