



Exmoor Ponies and Conservation Grazing – a Win-Win Affair

Exmoor is a treasured landscape that draws visitors back time and time again. Its wide open spaces speak of wildness but are of course the product of thousands of years of grazing and browsing by red deer, Exmoor ponies and, comparatively recently, by hill farmers' domestic livestock.

In the mid 1980's, Geoff Hann, then a warden with the National Trust, faced the problem of inadequate grazing of the Seacombe Valley nature reserve in Dorset. Farmers were less willing to provide cattle and sheep for such duties. It was Geoff who had the idea of introducing Exmoor Ponies to see if they might be the answer. The success of that experiment led to the idea spreading and opening up a new role for the free-living Exmoor Ponies. Small groups now undertake "conservation grazing" in many counties of Britain.



Members of the Exmoor Committee of Herd Owners (ECHO), who work closely with the Moorland Mousie Trust who place ponies in conservation sites throughout the UK, are in a position to be able to put ponies out on loan for short term projects or sell ponies for long term grazing projects. Exmoor ponies currently attract HLS payments and it is not necessary to run a breeding herd – mares and geldings can form part of a conservation grazing herd. For more information contact Rob Taylor on 01643 831099 or email exmoorterrier@yahoo.co.uk



The Exmoor Pony Society
Guardians of the Breed since 1921
Conserving and Preserving Exmoor's Heritage
by promoting and encouraging the Breeding of Registered Exmoor Ponies.

Registered Office: Little Ash farm Cottage, Ash Lane, Withypool, TA24 7RR
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