

The Studbook Breeds of Ireland



Irish Cob



Shire



Piebald



Welsh Pony



Irish Draught Horse



Clydesdale



Irish Sport Horse



Kerry Bog Pony



Irish Sport Pony



Irish Standard Bred Pacer



Irish Warmblood Horse



Connemera Pony



Irish Standard Bred Trotter



Irish Horse Board





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CUMANN LUCHT CAPAILLÍNÍ CHONAMARA

**CONNEMARA
PONY BREEDERS
SOCIETY**



Connemara Pony



The Breed

The Connemara pony, an Irish native breed, originated in the part of County Galway known as Connemara, west of Lough Corrib and bordering the Atlantic Ocean in the Republic of Ireland. The Connemara pony is considered an endangered breed under EU law.

The Connemara pony is a sturdy, self-reliant, agile, careful, compact, well-balanced, versatile pony with good conformation with a willingness to work. It is nimble and sure-footed. It is known for its natural jumping ability and for its excellent bone and hard hooves. Originally a utility pony to work the land, carry turf and transport the family, its size made the Connemara easy to harness and the pony's natural strength enabled it to pull a carriage with several adults.

The less able were weeded out until with each succeeding generation the Connemara pony stabilised as a willing, even-tempered animal able

to respond to a wide range of work requirements under a variety of conditions.



This pony breed has proven beyond doubt its willingness to work with human partners, today excelling in many sporting activities, being an eager confident jumper, known for its relatively big stride and even bigger heart. Such is its versatility the Connemara pony is suitable for youngsters and adults in all areas of modern horsemanship.



The interests of the Connemara pony breed are protected by the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society (CPBS) which is recognised by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under EU Animal Breeding Regulations.

Breeding Population of the Society



In 2018, 4,330 breeding mares and 415 stallions were recorded in the Republic of Ireland, and 58 breeding mares and 15 stallions in Northern Ireland.



Characteristics of the Connemara Pony and the Breed Standard

The Connemara pony's unique set of nine characteristics establishing a breed standard are:

- 1. Type:** compact, well-balanced pony with good depth and substance and good heart room, standing on short legs, covering a lot of ground, good temperament, hardiness, staying power, intelligence, soundness, surefootedness, with athletic ability;
- 2. Height:** 128cm to 148cm inclusive;
- 3. Colour:** grey, black, bay, brown, dun (may also be known as buckskin), palomino;
- 4.** dark-eyed cream, blue-eyed cream, and occasional roan or chestnut;
- 5. Head:** well-balanced head of medium length with good width between large kindly eyes, pony ears, well-defined cheekbone, jaw relatively deep but not coarse;
- 6. Front:** well set onto neck, crest should not be over developed, neck not set on too low, good length of rein, well-defined withers, good sloping shoulders;
- 7. Body:** body should be deep, with strong back, some length permissible, but should be well ribbed up with strong loins;
- 8. Limbs:** Good length and strength in forearm, well-defined knees and short cannon with flat bone measuring 18cm to 21cm, elbows should be free, pasterns of medium length, feet well-shaped, of medium size, hard and level;
- 9. Hind:** strong, muscular with some length, well-developed second thigh (gaskin) and strong low-set hocks.

Movement should be free, easy and true, without undue knee action, but active and covering the ground.

History of the Studbook of Origin

The Connemara Pony Breeders' Society maintains the herd book recording the origins and subsequent lineages of the Connemara pony. The Studbook of Origin was closed in 1964 and since then no further outside blood has been introduced. Only ponies registered in the Studbook are permitted to take part in the breeding programme.

The registered offices of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society are at The Showgrounds, Clifden, Co. Galway H71 YA09



CUMANN LUCHT CAPAILLÍNÍ CHONAMARA

**CONNEMARA
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Connemara Pony



In 1923 the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society and Studbook was founded with the declared intention for the preservation and improvement of the Connemara pony. The first studbook was published in 1926, with details of 93 breeding mares and 9 stallions. The list of stallions included three ponies who became founders of two of the five main lines which survive today.

For ease of reference these five recognised lines are each distinguished by a colour. Amongst the first ponies recorded in the Studbook are Cannon Ball (1) and his son Rebel (7) founders of the Blue Line, and Connemara Boy (9) founder of the Red Line.

The Green Line was founded when Mountain Lad was registered in 1938. These three male lines are the only ones which can be traced to the foundation sires from today's ponies.

To increase the gene pool, the CPBS introduced outside blood, and during the 1940's used three Irish

Draught stallions, May Boy being the most effective. Three thoroughbred stallions were also used. Of these Little Heaven was the most influential of the introduced sires and his half-bred son, Carna Dun founded the Purple Line.

In 1954 the CPBS bought a dun colt by the Arab stallion Naseel, out of a Connemara mare. This half-bred colt was registered in 1958 as Clonkeehan Auratum and was the founder of the Orange Line.

Each pony can be also traced back through its dam and her dam line to a founding mare; however since more mares than stallions breed, the descendants from any mare over several generations tend to be more branched and so instead of 'line', 'mare family' is the term used. The earliest born Connemara pony to have her dam identified in the Studbook was Grey Lass in 1932.

Aims/Breeding Goals

The breeding programme aims to preserve and improve the breed as per the characteristics and traits of the breed.



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**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**

Irish Cob & Part Bred Cob



IRISH COB STUDBOOK

The Irish Cob is a native Irish breed and although it has a long history the Studbook was only officially founded in 1998. Prior to this lineages were passed down verbally from generation to generation. The breed is referred to worldwide by many different names such as Gypsy Cob, Gypsy Horse, Gypsy Vanner and Irish Tinker.

The Irish Cob breed was developed by the Travelling Community in Ireland. For hundreds of years these sturdy, hardworking horses pulled wagons and carts throughout Ireland, Britain and Europe. The breed adapted to be strong and versatile. They needed to be gentle enough to be handled by children but sturdy enough to pull a wagon all day.

Breeding Objective

The breeding objectives of the Irish Cob Studbook are to preserve and protect the Irish Cob breed in its traditional form and type, as a compact, powerful, yet agile working horse (a cold blood). The Irish Cob is classified as a working draught horse (as opposed to the carriage horse, which may be clean legged – warm blood type). The Irish Cob breed is classified as a working draught horse, so as to ensure that the breed is never allowed to become light of bone, which would also have the effect of losing one of the breeds' renowned characteristics, the leg feathering. Although described as a 'draught' type animal, breeding organizations shall ensure that the Irish Cob breed also remains a dual purpose animal, by retaining the docile

character attributed to the cold blood breeds, while retaining the breed's agile and versatile capabilities, which are ideally suited to a number of leisure riding pursuits.

The Irish Cob Studbook Breed Standard

General Appearance - The Irish Cob is compact and powerful, ample both in muscle and bone, yet, with an ability to perform as a good all-purpose animal. Some Irish Cobs tend to be more "stocky" than others. The Irish Cob is well balanced and proportioned, standing straight and square and offering an imposing appearance.

The head, which should be held proudly should be carried on a powerful and arched, well "set on", neck. The neck should appear to "carry on" through good withers and to finish at the start of the back (this feature should be particularly evident in stallions). The back which should be short and straight should slope gently upwards to a well muscled croup (the back bone/spine or the hip bones should not be apparent). The croup, which is quite high and generous should have both croup muscles well defined, the top of the quarters being exceptionally well muscled, broad and ample. The angle of the spine from the croup to the tail should slope gently downwards and should not be exaggerated, this allows for a high, well "set on", tail and contributes to good well rounded quarters. Irish Cobs are from medium weight to heavy weight, (Some allowance in bone measurement can be made for mares and geldings only).



**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**

Irish Cob & Part Bred Cob



Irish Cobs with their unique action, luxuriant hair and feathering and the large range of colours available, combine to present a beautiful and varied sight to see when turned out at their best, particularly when in motion.

The Irish Cob should possess a docile and willing nature, with a friendly disposition towards humans and other animal species. Displays of aggressive and threatening behaviour such as ears back, kicking, biting, rearing and not being under control of the handler, will result in expulsion from Approval Inspection and the Show Ring.

Their height should be under 170cms. Irish Cobs can be any solid colours including black, bay, brown, chestnut, palomino, grey and roan. In addition they can be any solid colours and white body markings i.e. coloured. Irish Cobs which have white markings on the underbelly are described as Splashed or Blagdon.

- Head - should be straight, handsome and in proportion to the rest of the horse. The forehead should be broad and the muzzle, jaw and cheek should be generous.
- Mouth - should have a level bite.
- Eyes - should be quite bold, open and set well apart.
- Ears - should be neat and well set on.
- Neck - should be compact, but not too short and should be generously muscled including the crest.
- Shoulders - should be ample, powerful and sloping.
- Withers - should be of average protrusion or height and should be encased in plenty of muscle and flesh.
- Chest - should be powerful, well muscled and not too broad or narrow.
- Back - should be short, straight, well covered in muscle and flesh and slope gently upwards towards the croup.
- Hindquarters And Hind Legs - The hindquarters should be very generous, well rounded, broad and powerful with a well muscled high croup. The second thigh should also be very generous, quite long and well coupled to good straight powerful hocks. The hind legs should be well boned and muscled.
- Body - should be short and compact with ribs well sprung to barrel shape.
- Forelegs - should be powerful and not too short. There should be a good length of well-muscled



- forearm and generously boned shins.
- Knees and Hocks - should be well developed and of generous dimensions but should be in balance with the proportions of the horse.
- Fetlock Joints - should match the other joints in power, size and build.
- Pasterns - should also be of sufficient bone and not too long (straight or over angled pasterns are a fault).
- Hooves - should be well shaped, neat and of a size capable of carrying the frame of the horse without stress.
- Leg Hair/Feathering - Leg hair/feathering is a characteristic and decorative feature of the Irish Cob breed. This is especially prominent in the heavier Irish Cobs. However, the amount of leg hair/feathering present may vary considerably, particularly in the case of medium weight Irish Cobs. Leg hair/feathering, should at the very least, fall from the back of the knees and hocks, down to a thick covering of hair/feathers on the heels. Leg hair/feathering should also fall over the front of the hoof, from at least the coronet.
- Mane and Tail - The mane and tail should be luxuriant and capable of growing to a substantial length.
- Movement - Movement should appear sound and free from obvious hereditary defects.

Horse Sport Ireland also hold the studbook for the Irish Part-Bred Cob; the part bred can be a cross of any horse/pony breed and a studbook registered Irish Cob. The ICPB is a leisure horse capable of participating in all equestrian disciplines.

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Leisure Horse Ireland

Irish Clydesdale



Photo: Real Time Imaging

THE IRISH CLYDESDALE HORSE STUDBOOK (I.C.H.S.)

This studbook is approved in Ireland, Sweden, France, Belgium, Denmark, Poland and Norway.

The studbook operates a breeding programme for the improvement of the breed in Ireland and is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The aims of the breeding programme are:

- To promote the preservation and improvement of the breeding of purebred Clydesdale Horses.
- To assist, encourage and record all information in respect of the breeding of Clydesdale Horses.
- To encourage breeders to breed for the characteristics of the breed standard by way of improved breeding practice and classification.



Photo: Real Time Imaging



Leisure Horse Ireland

Irish Clydesdale



Photo: Real Time Imaging

Clydesdale horses are another magnificent draught horse breed known for their strength, size, and striking appearance.

They originate from the Clydesdale region in Scotland and have become famous worldwide, especially due to their use in promotional events and parades.

Clydesdales are among the largest horse breeds, standing between 16 and 18 hands. Clydesdales are known for their gentle and friendly nature.

Despite their size, they are typically calm and docile, making them well-suited for working closely with humans. Historically, Clydesdales were used as heavy working horses in agriculture and industry, similar to other draught horse breeds.

They were used to plough fields, pull wagons and carts, and transport goods in urban areas. While their role in agriculture has diminished due to modern machinery, Clydesdales are still used in various capacities.

They are popular in draught horse shows and competitions, where their impressive appearance and grace are showcased. Additionally, they are often used

for carriage rides and in promotional events, particularly by companies for marketing purposes.

These iconic horses have become symbols of strength and tradition. Like other draught horse breeds, Clydesdales faced a decline in population during the 20th century due to mechanization in agriculture.

However, efforts have been made to conserve and preserve the breed, and they remain popular among horse enthusiasts and breeders. Clydesdale horses continue to capture the hearts of people worldwide with their majestic presence and gentle disposition. Whether seen in parades, shows, or working with handlers, these horses are a testament to the history of draught horse breeds and their enduring appeal.

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**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**

Irish Draught Horse



THE IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE

The Irish Draught Horse developed as a working horse on Irish farms with references to the breed dating as far back as the 18th century. Due to the small size of farm holdings in Ireland at the time most farmers could not afford to keep more than one horse and as a result Irish breeders developed an adaptable draught horse capable of carrying out all of the work on the farm as well as being used for riding, hunting and driving. Consequently the breed developed to be extremely versatile and intelligent with an excellent temperament and willing nature.

The characteristics of the breed make them an ideal leisure and riding horses and their wonderful temperament makes them easy to work with in any discipline. Irish Draughts are often used for crossing with other breeds to produce all types of leisure and performance horses.

The Garda Síochána rely on Irish Draught Horses for their Garda Mounted Unit. Their mounts need to be brave, obedient and able to cope with confrontational situations and they consider the Irish Draught breed to be ideally suited for this role.

Characteristics of the Breed/ Breed Standard

The Irish Draught Horse is a versatile, powerful and athletic animal with substance and quality. It has a pleasant head, good bone and a short shin, good spring of rib, strong loins and hindquarters and an active powerful stride. Known for its good temperament, docility and willing nature, it has a robust constitution and is inherently sound. The Irish Draught horse is a foundation breed that, when crossed with other breeds, will produce all types of leisure and performance horses.

The Irish Draught breed objective is to breed Irish Draught Horses with conformation, movement and temperament that conform to the breed standard, which will make good quality, sound and versatile horses.

Ideally Irish Draughts should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity, with approximately 23 centimeters (9 inches) of strong, clean bone.



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Irish Draught Horse



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Head: Should be pleasant, not coarse or hatchet like with plenty of room between the jaw bones. Wide forehead and kind eyes, set well apart, and with large quality ears.

Neck: Good length of rein with head well set on, neck should be correctly muscled and well shaped.

Front legs: Long muscular forearms, short cannon bones with plenty of strong clean, flat bone, not back at the knee or tied in below the knee. Pasterns should be in proportion with good hoof pastern axis. Hooves should be of equal size, hard and sound with plenty of room at the heel. They should not be boxy, over large or flat.

Shoulders: A sloping shoulder neither loaded, nor too heavy, nor too short, with well defined withers well set back.

Body, back and hindquarters: Deep girth with a good spring of rib, strong back, loins and quarters. The croup and buttocks should be long and gently sloping. Hips should not be too wide. Strong gaskins, well shaped clean hocks set into short shins. Should not be cow-hocked or wide apart at the hocks.

Action: Should be straight and free not heavy or ponderous. Movement should be active and strong, showing good flexion of joints and freedom of the shoulders.

Colour:

Any strong whole colour including bay, grey, chestnut, black, brown and dun. Excessive white markings are not desirable.

There are a number of Irish Draught Societies throughout the world, three of which are official daughter studbooks of the studbook of origin in Ireland, the Irish Draught Horse Society of Great Britain (IDHSGB) the Irish Draught Horse Society of Canada (IDHSC) and the Irish Draught Horse Society of North America (IDHSNA).

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Leisure Horse Ireland

Piebald & Skewbald



THE IRISH PIEBALD & SKEWBALD STUDBOOK (I.P.S.A.)

The breeding objective of the I.P.S.A. is the preservation of horses and ponies of Piebald, Skewbald and Appaloosa colour and their whole colour progeny and to promote the breeding of such horses and ponies, and to record proven pedigree lines.

Piebald, skewbald, and Appaloosa are three distinct coat patterns found in coloured horses.

Piebald horses have a coat pattern characterised by large patches of white and black. The term “piebald” originates from the word “pie,” which means “mixed” or “variegated.” In the case of piebald horses, the mixture of white and black creates a striking contrast, with the black patches standing out against the white background.

Coat Pattern: The primary colour of a piebald horse is white, and the patches of black can appear on any part of the body. The black patches can vary in



Photo: Susan Finnerty



Photo: Susan Finnerty



Photo: Susan Finnerty

size and shape, from small spots to larger areas covering a significant portion of the body.

Colours: Piebald horses have only white and black patches. They lack any non-black colours in their coat pattern.

Genetics: The piebald coat pattern is a result of specific genetic inheritance. It involves the interaction of various coat colour genes, with certain genes influencing the distribution of white and black colour on the horse’s coat.

Skewbald horses have a coat pattern characterized by large patches of white and any non-black colour. The non-black colour can be bay, chestnut, grey, palomino, or any other hue, but it cannot be black. The contrast between the white and non-black colours creates a visually appealing appearance.

Coat Pattern: Skewbald horses have white patches mixed with any non-black colour, resulting in a variety of combinations. These patches can occur anywhere on the horse’s body.



Leisure Horse Ireland

Piebald & Skewbald



Colours:

Skewbald horses can display a wide range of colours in their patches, depending on the base coat colour. They can have patches of white mixed with chestnut, bay, grey, palomino, or other colours, as long as black is absent from the patches.

Genetics: Like piebald horses, the skewbald coat pattern is determined by

specific genetic factors that influence the distribution of colours on the horse's coat.

Appaloosa horses are a distinct breed known for their unique coat pattern, which includes a combination of various patterns, spots, and mottled skin.

Coat Pattern: Appaloosa horses can have a variety of coat patterns, including leopard spots, blanket patterns, roaning, and varnish roan patterns. Leopard Appaloosas have large, distinct spots on a white background, while blanket Appaloosas have a solid-coloured area (blanket) covering their hindquarters with spots on the rest of the body. Roan Appaloosas have a mixture of white and coloured hairs throughout their coat.

Mottled Skin: Appaloosas often have mottled skin, particularly around the eyes and muzzle. This is a unique characteristic of the breed.

Genetics: The Appaloosa coat pattern is the result of complex genetic factors, including the “leopard



complex” gene, which is responsible for the various patterns and spots seen in the breed.

Coloured horses have gained popularity due to their unique and eye-catching appearance, with their striking and unique coat patterns, they are used in a variety of equestrian disciplines, just like horses of any other colour.

The colour of the horse does not determine its ability or potential use; instead, it is the horse's conformation, temperament, and training that determine its suitability for specific activities. The coloured horse will be found participating in various disciplines such as show jumping, dressage, eventing, driving, and pony club activities.

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**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**

**Irish Sport
Horse**



Photo: Melina Massias



Photo: Irish Eventing Times

THE IRISH SPORT HORSE

Ireland is well known as a country with a long equestrian tradition, it is therefore not surprising that the Irish Sport Horse breed developed with an innate ability for the equestrian sports of showjumping and eventing.

The Irish Sport Horse is the largest Sport Horse studbook in Ireland with approximately 5,000 foals registered each year.

The Irish Sport Horse Studbook Breeding Objective is to produce a performance horse that is sound, athletic with good paces and suitable temperament and capable of winning at the highest international level in FEI disciplines.

The main composite breeds of the Irish Sport Horse are the Irish Draught Horse and the Thoroughbred. In recent generations there has been an infusion of continental Warmblood (WB) breeds and there is now a considerable amount of crossbreeding with these breeds in the Irish Sport Horse studbook.

The Traditional Irish Sport Horses (TIH) are very important to ensure the uniqueness of the Irish Horse is maintained. To this end from 2017 all TIH foals registered in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook will have 'Traditional Irish Horse Category ISH(TIH)'

referenced on their passports. This is to help customers identify indigenous Irish bred horses.

In order to be eligible for this TIH category, Irish Horses must meet the following definition of a Traditional Irish Horse (TIH):

Have only the following breeds recorded in their pedigree: Irish Sport Horse, Irish Draught, Thoroughbred, Connemara Pony and do not have any foreign ancestors recorded in their back pedigree And have no unknown ancestors in the first two generations and all Irish Sport Horse ancestors from the second generation back with unknown/partial pedigree must have been born before 1982.





**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**

Irish Sport Horse



Photo: Irish Eventing Times



The unique composition of the breed gives the Irish Sport Horse its much sought after characteristics of athleticism, temperament, courage, intelligence and soundness and longevity.

Irish Sport Horses compete successfully at the highest level of every equestrian discipline. For generations Irish horses have dominated the sport of Eventing and the Studbook has been the leading eventing Studbook

in the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH) Studbook rankings every year since the conception of the rankings in 1994 with the exception of 2010, 2018 when they finished in 2nd and in 2011 and 2021 when they took 3rd place and 2020 when they were 4th. The ISH Studbook won 23 years out of 28 years of the rankings.

In the current WBFSH showjumping rankings the following Irish Sport Horses are the top ranked: James Kann Cruz, Pacino Amiro, Rincoola Milsean, BP Wakita, Up Too Jacco Blue, HHS Calais.

Apart from its success at international level the Irish Sport Horse is an ideal leisure horse. Its ability to look after and help its rider in any situation makes the breed a safe and popular choice for the amateur rider.



Photo: Irish Eventing Times

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**HORSE SPORT
IRELAND**

Irish Sport Pony



IRISH SPORT PONY

The Irish Sport Pony Studbook was approved by Department of Agriculture and Marine (DAFM) in 2016 and the Irish Sport Pony Studbook is the studbook of origin for this breed.

Prior to this date, there were many high class performance ponies being bred in Ireland and winning at Championship level showjumping and eventing. Due to the fact that there wasn't a performance pony studbook in Ireland at the time, the ancestry and recognition for the breeders was lost. The Irish Pony society provided its records to assist in the development of this fledgling studbook. This allowed for cross bred IPS and Connemara ponies to have full pedigree records for the new studbook.



The overall aim of the breeding programme for the Irish Sport Pony is to breed a pony with similar traits to the Irish Sport Horse in a smaller size. The main objective is breed improvement and to produce a performance pony that is sound, athletic with good paces and suitable temperament and capable of winning at the highest international level in FEI disciplines.

The Irish Sport Pony should be a functionally correct model of balanced proportions that is conducive to successful performance at international level in FEI disciplines. The pony should move correctly, be light-footed, balanced and supple with good self-carriage and impulsion from the hindquarters. Irish Sport Ponies should have a good temperament, be rideable, sound, intelligent and willing to perform. They should have courage, be careful when jumping with good technique and scope.

The numbers registered in the studbook are small but growing.

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Leisure Horse Ireland

Irish Shire Horse



Irish Horse Board



Photo: Real Time Imaging

THE SHIRE HORSE STUDBOOK OF IRELAND (S.H.S.I.)

Leisure Horse Ireland received approval for this studbook in 2023. This studbook is approved in Ireland, Spain & Poland (Currently a number of other EU countries are pending approval). It is a daughter studbook of The Shire Horse Studbook in the U.K.

The studbook operates a breeding programme for the improvement of the breed in Ireland and is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The aims of the breeding programme are:

- To promote the preservation and improvement of the Shire Horse Breed.
- To assist, encourage and record all information in respect of the breeding of Shire Horses.

- To encourage breeders to breed for the characteristics of the breed standard by way of improved breeding practice and classification.

The Shire horse is a magnificent and powerful draught horse breed that originates from England. It is one of the largest horse breeds in the world and has a long history dating back to medieval times. Shire horses were originally bred for agricultural work, particularly for pulling heavy loads and ploughing fields. Some key characteristics of the Shire horse are, their impressive size and strength.



Photo: Real Time Imaging



Leisure Horse Ireland

Irish Shire Horse



Irish Horse Board



Photo: Real Time Imaging

They typically stand between 16 and 19 hands. Despite their size, Shire horses are generally known for their calm and gentle temperament. They are intelligent and willing workers, making them easy to handle and train. Shire horses were essential in the agricultural industry, where they performed various tasks on farms, such as pulling ploughs, wagons, and heavy carts.

They were also used for transportation and pulling large loads in cities during the industrial revolution. With the decline of traditional agricultural practices, the role of the Shire horse has evolved.

Today, they are primarily used for showing, especially in draught horse classes, and for promotional and exhibition purposes due to their impressive appearance and gentle nature. At one point, the Shire horse population faced a significant decline due to

changes in agricultural practices and the increasing use of machinery. However, in recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in the breed, and conservation efforts are in place to protect and preserve the Shire horse's genetic diversity.

The Shire horse's grand appearance and gentle disposition have made it a beloved breed among horse enthusiasts worldwide. While their use in traditional agriculture has diminished, they continue to be admired and appreciated for their historical significance, strength, and beauty.

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Leisure Horse Ireland

Welsh Pony & Cob



THE WELSH PONY & COB STUDBOOK (W.P.C.S.I.)

Leisure Horse Ireland received approval for this studbook in October 2021. This is a daughter studbook of The Welsh Pony and Cob Studbook in Wales, thus giving the Studbook access to all the vital historical pedigree lines.

The studbook operates a breeding programme for the improvement of the breed in Ireland which is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The aims of the breeding programme are:

- To promote the preservation and improvement of the breeding of Purebred Welsh Ponies and Cobs.
- To assist, encourage and record all information in respect of the breeding in Ireland of Welsh Pony and Cobs
- To produce a purebred Pony or Cob that is sound, athletic with good paces, good temperament and capable of performing at the highest international level in its given discipline.
- To encourage breeders to breed for the characteristics of the breed standard by way of improved breeding practice and classification.

Photo: Susan Finnerty



Photo: Susan Finnerty





Leisure Horse Ireland

Welsh Pony & Cob



Photo: Susan Finnerty



Photo: John O'Carroll

The studbook divides into 5 Categories. Section A – The Welsh Mountain Pony. Section B – The Welsh Pony. Section C – The Welsh Pony of cob type. Section D – The Welsh Cob. Supplementary Section - the Part Bred Welsh pony.

Welsh ponies are a breed of pony native to Wales. They are known for their hardiness, intelligence, and versatility, making them popular as riding, driving, and show ponies. Welsh ponies have a fascinating history that dates back to ancient times.



Photo: Real Time Imaging

Welsh ponies have a long history in Wales, where they were used for various agricultural tasks, transportation, and even in the mining industry. Over time, they gained popularity as children's ponies and developed into the versatile and much-loved breed we see today.

Key characteristics of Welsh ponies include a refined head, expressive eyes, well-set ears, a strong neck, and a sturdy build with good bone structure. They are known for their friendly and intelligent nature, making them suitable for riders of all ages and levels of experience.

Welsh ponies have made a significant impact on the equestrian world, participating in various disciplines such as show jumping, dressage, eventing, driving, and pony club activities. They are also popular choices for children's riding lessons and therapeutic riding programs due to their gentle and reliable temperament.

As versatile and charming equines, Welsh ponies continue to be cherished by horse enthusiasts for their adaptability, intelligence, and beauty, ensuring that they remain a beloved and prominent presence in the equestrian community.

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The Kerry Bog Pony
Co-Operative Society Ireland



Kerry Bog Pony

COMHARCHUMANN CAPAILLINI
PORTAIGH CHIARRAI TEORANTA



KERRY BOG PONY STUDBOOK

The Kerry Bog is a breed of ponies that evolved in the Irish heathland, formerly living a feral life in the peat bogs. Over the centuries, these small animals have been used as draught animals in the peat bogs of County Kerry. The Irish Government along with breeders and horse enthusiasts saved the breed from extinction and recognised it as the Heritage Pony breed of Ireland.

The Kerry Bog Pony is a small sturdy Native Breed standing approximately 102-117cms for stallions and 102-112cms for mares. The Kerry Bog Pony has a fine, intelligent head with large kind eyes. It has a strong and well set on neck, with a rounded shoulder and compact body.



The Kerry Bog Pony is extremely hardy, resistant to many equine diseases, with great powers of endurance. It has ample bone, and can

carry heavy burdens in relation to its build.

The Irish Kerry Bog Pony Co-Operative Society maintains the studbook for the breed and has been hosting yearly breed shows in Glenbeigh since 2007.

History and Development

Although the ancestral lineage of Kerry Bog Ponies is largely unknown, some horse enthusiasts believe that these equines evolved from the now-extinct Irish Hobby. Horses pictured in a 17th-century book showed morphological features similar to both the Irish Hobby and the Kerry Bog Pony. Since they have the unique ability to travel through the bogs, over rocks and around soft spots in harsh weather conditions, they were mainly used for transporting heavy loads, pulling carts, and working in harness. When not in use, the ponies were released in the heathlands.

The population of Kerry Bogs declined at the beginning of the 19th



The Kerry Bog Pony
Co-Operative Society Ireland



Kerry Bog Pony

COMHARCHUMANN CAPAILLINI
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century since the British cavalry used these ponies as pack animals in the Peninsular War. Their numbers further reduced during the mid-1800s, as the Great Famine ravaged Ireland. Subsequently, Spanish donkeys replaced the ponies as pack animals. In the 1850s, the ponies were no longer needed, as the farms became mechanised. Consequently, the Kerry Bogs were left to roam in their feral environment.

In 1994, the Kerry Bogs almost became extinct, as 20 ponies only remained in Ireland. The breed was saved

from extinction mainly due to the tireless efforts of John Mulvihill of Glenbeigh, County Kerry. He started producing and promoting the breed. Only one of the 20 ponies was a stallion, called Flashy Fox who is credited for siring over 140 foals, and thus played a significant role in reviving the breed.

After the foundation of the Kerry Bog Pony Society in 2002, the popularity of these ponies captured the attention of the Americans. The ponies were first exported to the United States in 2003. The American Kerry Bog Pony Society was set up in 2005, with 11 ponies being initially registered. The number of Kerry Bog ponies registered each year, remains small, however, the enthusiastic committed breed society members ensure the breed and its genetic are preserved for future generations.

This rare breed is an ideal family pony, full of character and fun. Generations of use on small farms has produced a pony of calm temperament, willing and able to perform in a wide range of disciplines.

Images: Rynes Walker Photography



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HISTORY OF THE WARBLOOD STUDBOOK OF IRELAND

Warmblood Studbook of Ireland (WSI) was approved by the Irish Minister of Agriculture in 2009, and is a Full Member of the WBFSH. The Studbook was founded by three breeders who shared the goal of defining, stewarding, and promoting a new breed of horse based on continental warmblood genetics, the Irish Warmblood. At WSI our sights are set on breeding athletes that can compete at top levels in Showjumping, Eventing, and Dressage while having the sound mind and rideability required by amateur riders.

Breed Characteristics of an Irish Warmblood

WSI's breed standard is a highly athletic performance horse that:

(a) is sired by a stallion approved by a WBFSH member studbook or by a Thoroughbred, Anglo Arab, or Shagya Arab. All Irish Warmbloods are born out of mares that are sired by stallions approved by a WBFSH member studbook or by a Thoroughbred, Anglo Arab, or Shagya Arab.

(b) is based primarily on continental European warmblood genetics with strict restrictions on the percentage of Irish Draught blood permitted in Approved Stallions, Recognized Stallions, Approved Mares, and Studbook Mares.

(c) has functional conformation and a constitution that is strong and healthy, and enables and facilitates a long competition career.



(d) has a horizontal build and stands in a rectangular frame; and has legs with clean bones that are strong but not excessive in size and soft tissue with dry texture; and a correct and hard foundation with hooves in proportion to the size and weight of the horse.

(e) has a character that exudes a willingness to work as well as being good-natured toward people.

(e) has an attractive exterior that is refined, noble, and pleasing to the eye.

WSI is Committed to Our Breeders and Members

Irish Warmblood breeders are our lifeblood and we are committed to treating them as valued members of the Irish Warmblood community. WSI has a democratically-elected Breeding Advisory Council that serves as the Studbook's breeding policy advisory body. Any Member can nominate him- or herself, or another Member, to stand for election to the Breeding Council. Any significant changes to the breeding programme are required to be voted on by Members during the Annual General Meeting, making WSI the only sport horse studbook in Ireland with member participation and democracy as core values.





Riders and Owners of Irish Warmbloods

Another central value is that Irish Warmbloods be bred for soundness, health, and the potential for a long competition career. We use selection and scientific advancements to monitor our progress toward that goal.

WSI has a rigorous, fair, and objective Stallion Approval System. Irish Warmblood Approved Stallions must pass a three-day performance test. For a look inside the WSI Stallion Approval System, a video* is available at: <https://bit.ly/WSI-SAS-Video>

WSI has a comprehensive inspection system for evaluating mares, young stock, and foals. Every inspected horse receives a written report after the inspection and follow-up discussions with our Breeding Director.

WSI has administered a genomic testing programme for the genes associated with osteochondrosis since 2016. In 2020, 95% of Irish Warmblood foals passed the DNA test** and were awarded the D-OC predicate.

WSI has the most comprehensive testing and surveillance programme for the WFFS1 mutation of any studbook in the world. Every WSI Approved Stallion, Approved Mare, Studbook Mare, and registered filly/mare has their Fragile Foal status determined. In the autumn of 2022, WSI's Breeding Director conducted an evaluation of the WFFS1 policy and complementary surveillance programme. The carrier rate in the Irish Warmblood population was

calculated as being less than 8/10s of one percent.

Our Environment and Future Generations

WSI has committed to be a Climate Positive and Carbon Negative organisation. Every horse we register has 10 trees planted in its name paid for by WSI and receives the E+ predicate in its passport, signifying "Environment Positive". WSI buys carbon offsets equal to two times our annual estimated carbon production. Through Stripe Climate, WSI donates 1% of all debit/credit card payments to help fund innovative carbon capture technologies. We also help breeders manage their own carbon footprint with a voluntary "Climate Positive" payment that offsets two tonnes of carbon dioxide and plants 35 trees on behalf of the foal or older horse. For these equines, a CL+ predicate appears in their passport signifying the equine was climate positive at registration.

* Funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Equine Technical Support Scheme

** Partially funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Equine Technical Support Scheme

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Irish Standard Bred Pacer



IRISH STANDARD BRED PACER

Characteristics/Breed Standard

The Standardbred Pacer Horse should be a functionally correct model of balanced proportions that is conducive to successful performance at international level in harness racing disciplines.

The distinguishing characteristic of a Standardbred Pacer is the two beat “lateral gait” where the foreleg moves in unison with the hind leg on the same side. This ability is linked to single point mutation in gene DMRT3.

The horse should move correctly, be light-footed, balanced, and supple with good self-carriage and impulsion from the hindquarters. The horse should have a good temperament, be driveable/rideable, intelligent and willing to perform.

Height: Ideally a Standardbred Pacer horse should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity.

Bone: Good, strong, clean bone

Colour: Generally solid colours in the main, bay, brown, chestnut, black and grey.

Irish Standardbred Pacer Breeding objectives

- The breeding objective is to produce a performance horse that is sound, athletic with good paces, good temperament and capable of performing at the highest international level.
- To produce a horse that can qualify for racing as a 2-year-old or a 3-year-old in the standard qualifying times in force by the IHRA or other such international racing organization at the specific time of qualifying.
- To produce potential future broodmares that can enter the breeding program following their racing career.
- To produce potential future Stallions that can enter the breeding program following their racing career

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Irish Standard Bred Trotter



- The dam must be registered in the Trotteur Français studbook, and must be confirmed, approved for breeding in the Trotteur Français breed and not be suspended from such breeding for the year of covering in question.
 - Having received a name attributed by the Société d'Encouragement à l'Élevage du Cheval Français (SECF) with a maximum of 18 characters including spaces, chosen from among those suggested by the breeder or the owner of the foal.
- Equines entered in this

IRISH STANDARD BRED TROTTER

The distinguishing characteristic of a Trotter is its ability to maintain a trotting gait where the diagonally opposite legs move in unison at full flight without breaking into a gallop. The Trotter Horse should be a functionally correct model of balanced proportions that is conducive to successful performance at international level in harness racing disciplines.

The horse should move correctly, be light-footed, balanced, and supple with good self-carriage and impulsion from the hindquarters. The horse should have a good temperament, be driveable/ride able, intelligent, and willing to perform. Ideally a Trotter horse should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity. Trotters are generally solid colours in the main, bay, brown, chestnut, black and grey.

There are two sections in the Trotter Studbook:

To be eligible to be registered in the Trotteur Français Class a horse must:

- Be descended from parents registered in the Trotteur Français Stud Book and approved for breeding purposes.
- The sire must be approved for Trotteur Français production subject to the terms and conditions established for that stud book.

section will be denoted with TF IRE

Horses not eligible to be registered in the Trotteur Français Class will be registered in the Irish Trotter Class.

The breeding objective is to produce a performance horse that is sound, athletic with good paces, good temperament and capable of performing at the highest international level.

To produce a horse that can qualify for racing as a 2-year-old or a 3-year-old in the standard qualifying times in force by the IHRA or other such international trotting racing organisation at the specific time of qualifying.

The studbook also aims to potential future broodmares and stallions that can enter the breeding program following their racing career. The selection process will include in the short term the purchase of broodmares and leasing arrangements for stallions through the Le Trot program from France from known and proven bloodlines until such time as sufficient stocks of broodmares are built up endogenously in Ireland.

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Become a Member



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