

How to register a Miniature Horse with the Society

Only the proven offspring of two BMHS registered parents are automatically eligible for BMHS Stud Book registration. This is a DEFRA instruction for all recognised Stud Books.

Application for Registration Form

This form should be used for the first-time registration of a Miniature Horse - usually when it is a foal. A blank form can be found in this section which should be completed and signed by the Owner requesting registration. Additional forms are obtainable from the BMHS Office.

Please note the following points whilst completing the form:

Please complete the form clearly using **CAPITAL LETTERS** wherever possible.

Foals – must by law have a passport within six months of their birth, or sooner if they are to be moved from their place of birth. They can be registered at the same time (or separately but the cost is greater – see Current Fees List, 1.7).

Foals and Youngstock – will be issued with **Youngstock** Registration and Passport documentation which should be transferred to **Mature** Registration once the horse attains the age of four years.

If your horse already has a passport from another Passport Issuing Authority, you must send it (or a colour photocopy of all relevant pages) with your registration application.

PLEASE NOTE : WE ARE LEGALLY OBLIGED TO ENSURE THAT ALL HORSES APPLYING FOR REGISTRATION HAVE A CURRENTLY ACCEPTABLE PASSPORT.

Name of Horse – Can include the Breeder's prefix which must have already been registered with the BMHS. The complete name is limited to 30 letters. Should the name choice already be used by another BMHS registered horse, you will be notified and asked to provide an alternative name. Where a prefix is used this will be taken into account, i.e. Downlands Puck and Uplands Puck would both be allowed. The use of a prefix is recommended. (See page 2.4.2 for more detailed information.)

Height – should be measured by standing the horse naturally square on solid, even ground and by placing a measure or stick from the ground to the withers. Please state in both inches and centimetres if possible.

Sex – please state **M** – Male **F** – Female **G** – Gelding

Date of Foaling – should be as accurate as possible. If day and/or month are not known the standard 1st July default date will be used. Please specify as Day / Month / Year.

Sires of foals to be registered must be registered with the BMHS and the stallion's owner must have correctly filed a Stallion Breeding Report with the British Miniature Horse Society. Failure to do so will result in DNA testing being required to confirm the identity of the sire (at the owner's expense).

Dams of foals to be registered must be registered with the British Miniature Horse Society themselves. * **See Silhouette** *

Name of Owner – the owner is the current owner of the horse being registered. If current owner was not the owner at the time of foaling please give the name, address and telephone number of that person on a separate piece of paper and attach to the form.

Name of Breeder – the Breeder is the person who owned the dam at the time of **service**. If the owner is also the breeder just enter OWNER on the first line, otherwise this section must be completed and signed by the breeder.

Silhouette – You or your Veterinary Surgeon must complete the silhouette with ALL distinguishing markings.

* If the foal is at foot, the vet should fill in the full name of the dam (having been identified from the dam's passport) and sign under the heading "Description taken with dam by". Failure to do so will result in DNA testing being required to confirm the identity of the dam (at the owner's expense).

+++ Please see page 2.6 for DEFRA regulations regarding passports +++

Microchip – All horses must be microchipped by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon, and the position of the microchip must be marked on the silhouette. The microchip number must be entered in the space provided. If you have been supplied with a barcode sticker, apply this in the adjacent space.

Photographs – two photos, one from each side of the horse, should be enclosed with your application. Please ensure that the photos are between 6x8cm – 8x10cm and that the horse fills 80% of the frame with its head facing towards the camera. One photo will then be attached to the Registration Document which will be returned to you for your safe-keeping and the other will be kept at the BMHS office with the registration details.

For current registration prices,
please see the *latest* Price List
(1.7 in this handbook)
or contact the BMHS Office.
Members will be advised of any
changes through the newsletter.

CENTRAL PREFIX REGISTER

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RULES

The Central Prefix Register strives to keep its own rules to a minimum, as all breed societies differ in their regulations, and these are as outlined below.

1. Prefixes and suffixes are for use by breeders on their own home bred stock, not for use on bought in animals.
2. New prefixes should be between 3 and 25 characters long with no spaces, hyphens, numerals or apostrophes.
3. New prefixes should be registered in the name of a principal owner and other owners if necessary so that the principal owner shall retain the prefix in the event of a dispute.
4. Prefixes registered on the CPR are for the sole use of the named breeder(s) with the designated breed societies.
5. The naming of heirs is encouraged.
6. International country codes may be used in brackets after a prefix / suffix where a duplicate has been requested and the breeder is based outside the UK or is registering a prefix via a foreign breed society.
7. A request to transfer or extend a duplicate prefix may be declined.

These rules are subject to ongoing revision
15.5.2001

British Miniature Horse Society

Stretcholt Farm, Stretcholt, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4SR

Rules and Guidelines for the Naming of Horses

In addition to the Rules of the Central Prefix Register, which must be followed, our society has it's own rules governing the naming of horses.

Principally, we define the breeder as the owner of the mare at the time of service (conception). The consensus of the debate which led to this definition was that, at this early stage in our breed's evolution, the selection of the best suited stallion to cover the mare was the most important factor in the breeding process.

If the mare remains in the same ownership until the birth of the foal, then clearly the foal may carry the prefix of the breeder. The society allows only prefixes to be used, not suffixes. It should be noted however that the use of the prefix is at the discretion of it's owner and not mandatory. The society also requires the normal proof of identity of the stallion, i.e. either in the form of a stallion breeding report, certificate of covering or DNA testing.

For example: Your prefix is 'Broke'. You own the mare 'KFC Josie' when she is covered by 'Winsome Billy', and when her foal is born. You may name the foal 'Broke Again'.

If a mare changes ownership whilst in foal, the new owner should ensure that they have the necessary proof for identifying the stallion, and the signature of the previous owner confirming that they were the owner of the mare at the time of service. This being the case, the breeder will be identified on the passport and registration certificate. In such cases the breeder's prefix cannot be used unless by agreement of both parties, the foal remains the property of the previous owner until registered, or permission is given for the new owner to use the breeder's prefix. Such permission must be reported to the Central Prefix Registry.

So, using the same example: If you sell 'KFC Josie' in foal, your prefix cannot be used on the foal unless the above conditions are met. Had you bought 'KFC Josie' in foal, you could not under any circumstances use your prefix.

If the mare is sold without proof of covering, only the dam can be identified, and unless the sire can be proven by DNA testing, 'sire unknown' will appear on the registration papers. At the discretion of the registrar it may be possible to name the sire as 'believed by' or 'assumed by' (for example if only one stallion is kept).

We do however allow the use of a place name (not a registered prefix) to be given to a foal to identify it's place of birth, e.g. Anne of Greengables, or Sugarplum of Hill Farm, to make the registration more personal and unique.

When registering a horse that was not owned by you at the time of service or birth, no prefix can be used, but the breeder should be identified on the registration papers if the correct proofs are available. On no account can the name of a registered horse be changed, unless it is later found that a prefix has been incorrectly used.

If in doubt, please contact us before sending your registration.

Eligibility for inclusion in BMHS Stud Book

- 1) **Only horses with two BMHS registered parents may automatically be registered in the BMHS Stud Book.**
- 2) **All applications must comply with our registration procedures in full.**
- 3) **Three year and over mares of any breeding can be registered on the **Breeding only register**. Vetting for soundness is required.**
- 4) **Other horses may be eligible to be hardshipped onto the Stud Book, after assessment. Full requirements can be obtained from the office.**

Main Stud Book Sections

Youngstock (Y) For all youngstock aged less than four years old with both parents registered only.

Breeding Only (B) For three years and over mares of any breeding and not eligible for showing.

Gelding (G) For geldings of any age (proof of gelding must be sent with application) with two BMHS registered parents.

Male (M) For all licenced stallions four years and over with two BMHS registered parents or eligible through assessment.

Female (F) For all mares four years and over with two BMHS registered parents or eligible through assessment.

Unlicensed (U) For all stallions four years and over who either fail or are not submitted for licencing but have two BMHS registered parents and their offspring.

Over Height (L) For mares, stallions and geldings over 87cms at maturity and with two BMHS registered parents.

Our new registration certificates include as much information about the breeding of an animal as we know up to six generations, but in some cases we will have more generations on record and the registration office can supply you with this information upon request. We trust that this will aid in the selection of breeding stock and the general improvement of our breed.

DEFRA Regulations for the issue of Equine Passports

Every equine born in or entering the UK must have a passport issued by an approved Passport Issuing Authority. Foals should have a passport by the age of six months, or by the 31st December in the year of their birth, whichever is the later. In effect, all foals born up to the 30th June must have a passport by the 31st December in the same year. Foals born on or after the 1st July must have a passport within six months of their birth. Only a horse's owner can apply for a Passport and it is the owner's responsibility to do so even if he is not the keeper of the animal. **FAILURE TO COMPLY IS AN OFFENCE.**

Additionally, no foal can leave its place of birth (unless travelling with its dam) without a passport. It follows that no foal can be sold or moved on by a breeder without a passport, even if it is not yet six months old.

SELLING A HORSE WITHOUT A PASSPORT IS AN OFFENCE. It is the duty of the new owner to report the change of ownership to the passport issuing authority within thirty days of the sale.

Any Passport Issuing Authority (PIA) can issue a passport for any horse, but by agreement, PIA's should ensure that, if a horse is eligible for inclusion in a Stud Book then the application is directed to the relevant PIA. For example, if we receive an application for a horse that has two Shetland registered parents then it is our duty to direct this application to the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society. Only they can verify the breeding, and so put sire and dam details onto the passport. We cannot include breeding details unless they have been proven to us to DEFRA minimum standards, which are:

SIRE'S BREEDING REPORT NAMES THE DAM AND IS SUBMITTED TO THE SOCIETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS REGULATIONS – OTHERWISE BY DNA TESTING

DAM IS IDENTIFIED WITH THE FOAL AT FOOT BY A VET OR COMPETENT PERSON WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF BIRTH – OTHERWISE BY DNA TESTING

SUBMITTING FALSE INFORMATION TO A PASSPORT ISSUING AUTHORITY IS AN OFFENCE, ALSO ANY P.I.A. THAT KNOWINGLY INCLUDES FALSE INFORMATION ON A PASSPORT IS ALSO COMMITTING AN OFFENCE

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DEFRA regulations for Registration onto a Stud Book

If both the sire and dam of a horse are registered on a Stud Book, then it is automatically eligible for registration onto that Stud Book. The requirements for proof of breeding are the same as for a passport, as above.

N.B. A horse with a BMHS passport is not necessarily registered or eligible for registration onto our Stud Book. We issue separate registration documents to horses that are registered on our Stud Book and only this document is proof of registration.

Hardshipping onto the BMHS Stud Book

Any foal born with two BMHS registered parents is automatically eligible for inclusion onto our Stud Book. For horses with either only one or no BMHS registered parents, entry onto our Stud Book is through our system known as hardshipping

Until 2006 we allowed any miniature horse, provided it was of the correct height for its age, to be hardshipped onto our Stud Book for the payment of the relevant fee. Stallions and mares four years and over had to pass a veterinary inspection to ensure that they were not carrying any hereditary disease or were otherwise unsuitable for breeding, and if they had been given temporary registration as young stock, they could be refused entry onto the adult register. This also applied to any stallion on our young stock register on reaching four years of age (or younger if being used for breeding). If the veterinary examination highlighted a problem which may or may not be considered hereditary (for instance if it could also be caused by a previous injury) then a restricted license could be offered to the stallion, allowing it to cover up to six mares owned by the stallion owner. The offspring could then be inspected and if no sign of the fault carrying through was found then the stallion could be given a full license.

In July 2006 the European Commission introduced new rules for the operation of a Stud Book which made it necessary for us to revise our own rules. The principle change was that from this date any horse with two BMHS registered parents was automatically eligible for inclusion onto our Stud Book, regardless of any faults that it may have. We were able to continue with an optional licensing system for stallions and indeed we are able to encourage owners to do this in order to maintain and improve the quality of our breeding, but we were no longer able to refuse the offspring of unlicensed stallions from our Stud Book, although they are also placed on the unlicensed register of our Stud Book. To deal with the changes that the new ruling made to the operation of our hardship procedure it was decided that only adult horses (3 years and over) could be hardshipped onto our Stud Book and that they would need to undergo a veterinary inspection and assessment procedure. Full details of the hardshipping procedure can be obtained from the office together with dates when assessments are to take place. Further, if six or more horses are put forward for assessment in a particular area then the Society will arrange for an assessment to take place in that area in addition to its pre-arranged assessments. Briefly, any horse put forward for hardship registration is assessed by three separate judges and their combined overall scores result in a percentage from which the hardship fee is calculated on a sliding scale. Any horse scoring less than 50% is ineligible for the Stud Book. At the same time the horse must undergo a veterinary examination by a vet appointed by the Society and is also measured using our own measuring procedure.

Because we were no longer prepared to allow young stock to be hardshipped onto our Stud Book (as we would then have to accept them onto the Stud Book as adults no matter what hereditary faults they may have, which are not always apparent at a young age) from the 2007 showing season we allowed yearlings and two year olds to be shown in affiliated classes even if they were not registered with us. Whilst asking for a higher showing levy, we also offered these horses the opportunity to be placed onto our Stud Book once they reached three years of age if they either qualified for the Horse of the Year show or won their class at the Royal International Horse Show, without a further assessment or hardship fee. To be placed on the Stud Book they only have to attend an assessment day in order to be vetted and measured as described above.

Please note that the voluntary licensing of stallions already on our Stud Book may still be carried out by a vet of the owner's choice but the Society reserves the right to withdraw the license if it is later found that the horse does in fact have one or more of the faults which should preclude it from being licensed.

Procedures for Stallion Licensing

Any 3yr or over stallion used for showing must **first** be licensed.

Your stallion will be checked for the following :-

Soundness in wind and limb

Free of contagious diseases or infections

Correct jaw and teeth alignment

Having two fully descended and normal testicles.

Being free of all limb abnormalities especially patella luxation.

Free of any conformation abnormalities that would render him unsuitable for breeding, including :-

Cataracts

Laryngeal Paralysis (roaring and whistling)

Ringbone

Bone Spavin

Sidebone

Shivering

Stringhalt

Before arranging for a veterinary inspection, send your stallion's temporary registration papers to the office **with a stamped addressed envelope addressed to your Veterinary Surgeon**. We will then send the necessary forms to your vet. If your stallion is four years old, new photographs and the correct fee for a permanent registration certificate should also be included.

***** DO NOT SEND THE STALLION'S PASSPORT ***** as this will be needed by the vet to identify the stallion. If you have an older temporary registration certificate (which is a combined registration/passport containing a silhouette), keep this with the stallion for the inspection and then return it to the society to be upgraded (with the relevant fee and photos).

Your Veterinary surgeon should return his report to the Registrars office and the Registrar will inform you of the Society's decision. If your stallion passes his examination, we will amend his registration form and return it to you. If he fails and you decide to have him gelded, please notify us with veterinary proof, and we will amend his registration to the gelding register. If he fails but you wish to keep him entire we will place him on the un-licensed stallion register, and he will no longer be eligible for showing.

It is recommended that a stallion covers up to two mares in his second year and up to four mares in his third year.

Please record ALL your stallion's coverings on his Stallion Breeding Report, which must be sent to the office at the end of every year.

Visiting mares should also be given a covering certificate, a copy of which can be found in section 3.2.

British Miniature Horse Society

Stretcholt Farm, Stretcholt, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 4SR

Change of Ownership

When a registered Miniature Horse changes ownership, the BMHS must be informed promptly.

If you sell a registered horse, please take the following steps:-

1. Complete the Change of Ownership form found in the buying and selling section of this handbook.
2. Send the completed Change of Ownership form, together with the Registration/Passport document to the BMHS office.
3. Complete the Transfer of Ownership form and give this to the new owner so that they will have details of their new Miniature Horse and information on how to become a BMHS member together with the procedure to Transfer Ownership of the horse in order that they may register the horse in their name.