

Connemara Connection



Spring is in the Air

Shedding, Mud & Flies!

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Region 2 Chair/Governor

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Newsletter Editor:
 Heather Magnan

Hello Region 2 members! I hope you and your ponies wintered well. It was a crazy winter in upstate NY, with February temperatures reaching 70 degrees and a blizzard dropping more than 3 feet of snow in March! Now we have mud, mud and more mud! But, shedding has started, so surely that means it's really spring- right?!

As we start 2016 we have some exciting events ahead of us in our region. We will have our first Region Tea in years (April 29th!), and there are a few shows for us as well. I hope to see a lot of members out and about this year! Please send me your photos, news, foal photos, classified ads or a written story about your pony at anytime, your friends across the region would love to see them!

For more information on dates and news around the region, take a look inside!

-Heather Magnan
 Catskill Connemaras



Brynn (QH), Wildwych Belladonna, *Grey Pearl and Wildwych Giselle enjoying Winter Storm Stella at Catskill Connemaras. (March 2017)

Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD)

Educate yourself, Test your ponies

(From U.C. Davis website) “Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) is a genetic defect characterized by a hoof wall that easily breaks and cracks, and a normal appearing coronary band. The breaks and cracks begin to occur in young ponies. In severe cases the pony bears weight entirely on the sole of the foot which can lead to severe lameness. HWSD is inherited as an autosomal recessive trait. This means that carriers are completely normal and only animals with two copies of the mutation will show clinical signs of the disease. HWSD appears to occur only in the Connemara pony and the carrier frequency has been estimated to be about 14.8%. A DNA test for this specific mutation can determine if ponies are normal or if they carry one or two copies of the mutation. Ponies that carry two copies of the mutation are highly likely to be affected with the disease. Some cases are milder while others are more severe. We have identified at least one case where the pony does not appear to have clinical signs associated with having two copies of the mutation. This indicates that the mutation is not fully penetrant; however it has very high penetrance of 96.8%.

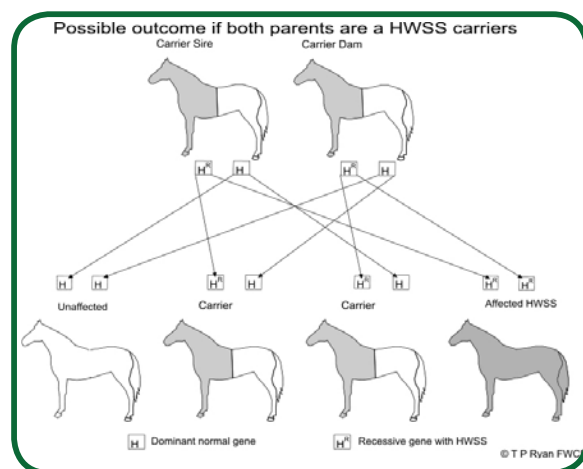
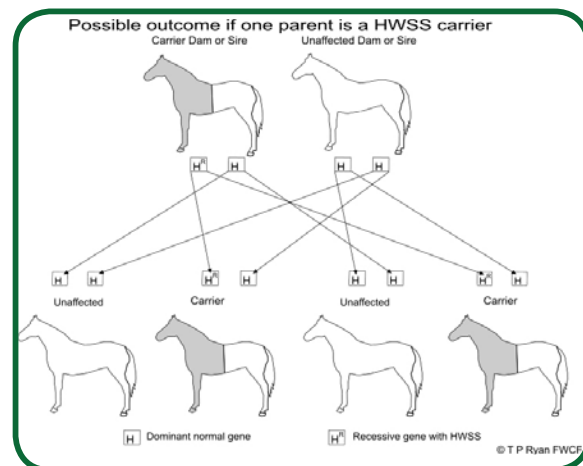
The VGL offers a DNA test for HWSD to assist owners and breeders in identifying affected and carrier ponies. The test uses DNA collected from mane hair thus avoiding invasive blood collection. Breeders can use results from the test as a tool for selection of mating pairs to avoid producing affected foals.”

If your pony has been DNA tested and the results are on file at UC Davis you may have your pony tested for HWSD using these samples. Please send the \$40 fee to Marynell Eyles and she will request the hair be used for HWSD.

All foals must be HWSD tested for registration with the ACPS. Their HWSD status does not effect their registration status or eligibility for Inspections, but is rather documented to encourage responsible breeding and to eliminate the chance of an affected foal in the future. Carrier ponies can be safely bred to non carrier ponies. See charts below for reference.



Above photos are of an HWSD/HWSD affected pony.



Important Dates

Region I Show

Woodstock, VT. Region I's annual show has many classes from in-hand, hunter, dressage, jumpers, driving & more! There is something for every Connemara and halfbred at this show. This year its is **July 22-23**. Hope to see you there!!

Region II Awarded Show

NY Breed Show, Syracuse NY. **May 18-21**. In-Hand Classes, Flat classes (hunter), jumping and hack. These classes will have a Welsh Judge and will be USEF pointed towards HOTY awards! Please support it if you can! This will be our "Region Show" this year!
Visit: nyshba.com for more information.

Region III Show

Virginia Horse Park. This year its is **July 29-30**. This show is a good option for our PA members and has many wonderful classes, there is something for everyone!

ACPS Annual Meeting

Sept 14-17, 2017 Ascutney, VT
Visit ACPS.org for more info.

National Dressage Pony Cup

July 7-9 at the Kentucky Horse Park. We would love to get a preliminary head count of who is coming and who is planning on doing the in-hand division. Katherine Short will put together an email list of all who are going to be at the show so they can coordinate. Please send an email to connemarajumper@gmail.com if you plan on attending!

ACPS Region 2



April 29th, Region 2 Tea

Triple Creek Farm in West Winfield, NY has been kind enough to offer their farm for our Region Tea on April 29th at 1pm! They have 5 Purebred Connemaras (including their stallion Tricreek Greystone Riley) and 8 Half-breds on site.

We will have a meet & greet, farm tour, ridden demo, refreshments, a "show and tell" of members ponies (bring photos of your ponies!). All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Charlene at the email/phone number below by April 26th!



Farm Information

Address: 10533 Davis Rd, West Winfield, NY 13491

Contact Information:

Owner: Mary Lou Thall
Head Trainer: Charlene Bennett
Email: cbequestrian90@gmail.com
Phone: 315-750-6785 (Charlene)



Connemara Sporthorse Registry

From Eventing Nation, written by Beth Davidson

There have been some recent changes at the American Connemara Pony Society. In addition to registering purebred Connemara ponies and half-bred Connemaras, the society has created a Connemara Sporthorse Registry (2015).

For breeders concentrating on eventing and using Connemaras, half-bred Connemaras and part-bred Connemaras in their breeding programs, this development is fantastic news! Two years in the making, this registry was developed by the ACPS as a means to recognize the importance of the part bred or ¼ Connemara horses.

The number of both purebred and half-bred Connemaras registered in the U.S. has seen a steady decline in recent years. The economy impacted the breeders, as has the retirement of many of the U.S.' early breeders. There are several Connemara breeders in the states that started to focus on purpose bred half-breds and ¼ bred Connemaras for the upper levels of eventing, dressage and show jumping. Unfortunately, these Connemara Sport Horses weren't able to be registered, and were often off the record as 'Connemaras'.

The new registry will allow for the registration of half-bred stallions, the offspring of a half-bred bred to a half-bred, and the offspring of a half-bred to a non-Connemara. One of the Half-bred parents must be registered with the ACPS. Any ¼ Connemaras that are already on the ground may be registered with proof of parentage.

Recently, European breeder William Micklem wrote an article for EN highlighting the importance of Connemara blood in eventing prospects. From William's EN article: "The quality Connemara blood available in the U.S. can also play a big part in creating the winning recipe for an upper-level event horse. "The brain and 'fifth leg' of ponies should not be underestimated. What puts people off is that it requires taking a longer term view, as it is the second or third cross that produces the performance horse."

For breeders willing to wait for that second or third cross, we can now utilize this new registry within ACPS. The Connemara Sporthorse Registry provides an excellent way to track the breeding and success of these part-breds in eventing. Many fellow breeders have discussed the importance of not losing the bloodlines of these ¼ bred sport horses to other registries (like Irish Sport Horse, RPSI, AWS or the like) and recognizing the Connemara breeding of these successful athletes.

Many of these ¼ bred are purpose bred from a Thoroughbred or Warmblood stallion of high blood percentage to a Connemara/TB half-bred mare. Megan is an example of a breeder who has been breeding purebreds, half-breds and lately part-breds, with upper level eventing in mind.

Some famous half-bred horses that are out competing at the very top levels of eventing include the halfbreds Sparrows Nio (Half Connemara by *Grange Finn Sparrow, entered at Rolex 2015 4*) and the half-bred Porter Size Just a Jiff, who competed at the WEG in Normandy in 2014 for Ireland.

Porter Size Just a Jiff (15.1 hands) is most often listed as an Irish Sporthorse, but his sire is the little known Connemara stallion Crosskeys Rebel. There are many other part-bred Connemara sport horses listed as Irish or "other". It is the desire of the ACPS not to discourage breeding quality purebred Connemaras or half-breds, but rather to recognize the successes of the many ¼ bred Connemaras out there competing (and often very well!).

I am super excited that these part-breds will be able to remain under the umbrella of the ACPS. While I periodically breed purebred ponies, I have great demand from buyers for half-breds and ¼ bred from eventers looking for quality gaits, jump and gallop coupled with pony bravery, soundness and their excellent minds.

Ride a purebred, part-bred or half-bred Connemara across the cross country course and you will be pleasantly surprised at the quality of these horses and ponies.

For questions on this registry, contact Megan Buchanan Harris at fadetogreyfarm@gmail.com.



Catskill's Lady Liberty- 2011 grey purebred mare by Greystone Adirondack A'Herne X Foothills Freedom by Balmullos Beacon. Libby is a 13.2 HH medium heterozygous (dapple) grey filly, born black. Her sire was ACPS Horse of the Year in 2012 and is a champion driving pony. Her dam, Foothills Freedom, is a big athletic mare who is a delight to ride and is a fabulously talented jumper. Libby is eager to please, a beautiful mover, great feet, loads and trailers quietly and has 60 days professional training. Started in dressage but would excel in jumping or driving as well. Finish your way! \$6500.

Located in NY. Price to increase with training. Call Pat 607-643-1476 or Email: patnortonwhite@yahoo.com

Windy Isles Belle Starr- 2011 purebred Connemara mare Grey from bay, Approximately 14.1 HH. Windy Isles Island Prince X Windy Isles Quiet Lady by *The Quietman. Belle has excellent bone and substance. She is eager to work and is a willing partner. She is good for the farrier, for the vet, and for kids who just want to brush a pony. She has been backed, walks, trots, and canters under saddle including over cross rails and small verticals (up to 2'3"). She's also being ridden on and off of property and been exposed to dogs, cats, chickens, galloping ponies, the neighboring cows, bikes, loud trucks, etc. \$10,000. Located in LA. Email Raelin: lukicloehotmail.com or visit: blackwingponies.com



Blackwing Holden's Thunder- 2013 purebred buckskin Connemara gelding. Wildwych Thundersnow X Wildwych Dreamtime by Aran Milano. Expected to mature to 14.2. Holden is a fabulous athlete with a 100% can-do attitude. He's not frightened of much and is very eager to face new things and new experiences. He has three excellent gaits with plenty of suspension and reach. He is currently being ridden 3X per week including trail rides off of the property. He has been exposed to dogs, cats, chickens, cows, traffic including bicycle races, and all manner of farm equipment. He has been off of the farm and trailered without issue. He spent a month at a hunter/jumper barn where he learned to be led around the arena including over poles and small x's, to be bathed in a wash rack, to be crosstied, to stand tied for the farrier and to live in a barn before returning home. \$10,000. Located in LA. Email Raelin: lukicloehotmail.com or visit: blackwingponies.com

Post your **free** Connemara
Purebred & Halfbred
Classifieds here!

email: hrmagnan@gmail.com