

FEDERAL COUNCIL NEWS

The AGM of Federal Council was held on October 11th and 12th at Geebung in QLD. Some important items to come from the meeting are as follows:

Re clipping and trimming of working Shetland Ponies.

As advised in recent weeks, the Resolution regarding the U.K guidelines on the clipping of working Shetlands was incorrectly recorded in the Federal Minutes of October 2009. Therefore due to the incorrect recording of the vote the Resolution as per the October 09 Minutes was withdrawn at the recent Federal Meeting. All states committees discussed this matter at great length resulting in the following decision; **the current Regulation 5.G [d] stands. *Shetland ponies must be shown in natural coat and full feather when shown as a representative of the breed in led, saddle or harness. That is coats must not be clipped or dyed.***

Open Ended Lease Agreements.

There are currently two types of lease agreements in the APSB Regulations – a set date lease and an open ended lease. The latter has caused many problems over the years with an increasing number being brought to the attention of the Registrar over the past twelve months. What starts out as a mutual agreement between friends to lease a pony without a set termination date does not always go smoothly. If things do go wrong and the lessor [registered owner] wants the pony back but the lessee will not sign a lease termination, the APSB cannot intervene or cancel the lease, providing both parties are financial members and remain so for the duration of the lease.

Council discussed the possibility of setting a five year limit on all extended lease agreements at which time both parties could review the agreement and then renew the lease for a further term if both parties agreed. No agreement has been reached to date so the open ended lease remains as is.

Council would urge any member to please give serious thought before undertaking an open ended lease agreement. If a time limit is set where both parties can step back and either renew for a further term or end the agreement, it may save of lot unnecessary aggravation.

Recording APSB Part Bred and APSB Riding Pony.

The Registrar occasionally receives an application to record a pony of APSB Riding Pony breeding as an APSB Part Bred. The reason given by the breeder is they believe the pony is more *part bred* than *riding pony* on type. The Regulations do not prevent this and although it has been discussed by states in recent years, no agreement could be reached to make it compulsory to register according to the pony's breeding.

This was once again on the agenda for the October Federal Council meeting and following discussion by state committees it was decided that....***The breeder of an APSB Riding Pony to decide which section to record the pony. The decision to be binding for life.***

Acknowledgement of Annual Breeding Returns.

The new online registration system will have the facility for breeders to lodge their annual breeding returns online and will receive an automated receipt for acknowledgement. It is strongly recommended that those breeders who lodge their Returns by post include an S.S.A.E that will be stamped by the Registrar as *Returns Received*. This procedure is not a new recommendation but unfortunately to the detriment of some breeders it hasn't been followed as it should have been.

APSB Gypsy Cob Survey.

Gypsy Cob breeders have suggested some amendments to the regulations for the Part Bred Section of the Gypsy Cobs. A survey will be taken from APSB Gypsy Cob breeders via a questionnaire that will be forwarded shortly. Based on member response, Council will be in the best position to decide if the amendments are favorably looked on by those involved. Also included in the survey, Council will be seeking the opinion of APSB Gypsy Cob breeders on the inclusion of a section for the Drum Horse within the Gypsy Cob Register. We hope APSB Gypsy Cob breeders and owners will discuss this survey between you and listen to each other's opinion before coming to any final decision.

Upgrade APSB Section 11 Australian Highland Pony Mares.

It was decided to consider applications to upgrade Section 11 Australian Highland Pony mares - that is those mares who have reached the final stage of the Section 11 AHL section-into the purebred Highland Pony Section 1 - PROVIDING they fulfill the requirements as stated in the breed regulations relating to white markings etc. The upgrade of eligible foundation mares into the purebred Highland Pony section forms part of the breed regulations of the Highland Pony Society U.K and this amendment to APSB breed regulations for the Highland Pony section is supported by Highland pony breeders. Amendment to the APSB Section 11 AHL as follows;

Female progeny by a Highland Pony Stallion Section 1 from a registered FS2 Australian Highland Pony mare registered in the Society's Register of Foundation Mares may be eligible for registration into the purebred Highland Pony Section 1 of the APSB PROVIDING it complies with the requirements as per [i], photos to be included with the filly's application to register. NOTE: All colts from FS2 AHL mares must be gelded otherwise they are ineligible for registration.

Marion Costello

APSB Federal President.