



DHPA re-brands

The Dartmoor Hill Pony Association has re-branded, adopting a new logo, launching a new website and Facebook Group for Dartmoor Commoners keeping pony herds on the Commons. The new logo uses the Blue and Green livery colours and its design demonstrates that the Association is for all commoners keeping either type of pony linked to Dartmoor – the semi-wild Dartmoor Hill Pony and the Dartmoor Pony breed. The DHPA website has also been re-launched, using the new branding: please take a look: www.dartmoorhillpony.com

The new DHPA Facebook Group is a speedy way to keep members up to date with news, distribute minutes of committee meetings and tell you about upcoming events: please do join the Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/409984689615383>.

Test for Rare Genetics and Parentage



The DHPA partnered the Institute of Biology, Environmental and Rural Sciences at Aberystwyth University and Neogen Euromics to pilot a new pony genetic test at Drift 2020. The newly-developed test confirms which stallion and mare are the parents of a foal – a key step in semi-wild ponies being included alongside breeds in potential Defra Native payment schemes. The test uses new genetic technologies which not only confirm parentage but also confirm the presence of rare equine genetics found in Dartmoor' semi-wild pony herds. The test requires pulling tail hair, whereas blood samples had to be gathered for earlier genetic analysis which needed Home Office permission and a vet. In 2017, genetic analysis of blood samples were compared with other UK Native breeds – it was discovered that the semi-wild ponies on Dartmoor hold genetics known only in one other pony-type (the semi-wild Carneddau pony in Wales): analysis of the genetics indicate that they give the ponies in Dartmoor's semi-wild herds the ability to survive and thrive in the harsh environment of Dartmoor where others fail.

Drift Sale

The DHPA's annual Drift Sale will be held on Thursday 14th October at Chagford Market, courtesy of Rendells Auctioneers. As ever, the DHPA is grateful to the volunteers of the Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony charity for administering the passporting documentation on the day and to Moorgate Vets' for their continued support to microchip sold ponies. Marketing for the event has already begun. If you would like A4 posters to display, please contact: Association@dartmoorhillpony.com. Membership of the DHPA allows you to sell your ponies at the Drift Sale: further admin guidance will be sent out nearer the time.

Medicines Records

Did you know it is a legal requirement to keep a Medicines Records for your ponies? It is also a legal requirement for your domesticated horses. The Medicines Record is a separate document to the passport and in it any medicines, e.g. wormer, should be logged. Defra's Vet Medicines Directorate have supplied a suggested template for your Medicines Record: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952874/MB_V2_572283-v3-Horse_Medicines_Record_Keeping_Template.pdf

AGM

The DHPA Annual General Meeting was held in February as usual. Because of Covid19 restrictions, it was held virtually. The new committee was voted in. The Association constitution dictates that members must represent all quarters of the moor and both pony types:

President: John Shears
Chair: Charlotte Faulkner
Vice-Chair: Philip Coaker
Treasurer: Phil Abel
Neil Cole / Peter Mann / Mary Alford
Vicky Pearse / Nick Abel /
Angus Mortimore / Richard Mortimore
Co-opted Secretary: Joss Hibbs

