



"Protecting and promoting Scotland's ancient Hebridean ponies"

Guidelines for Application for Eriskay Pony Society Breeding Grant

The Eriskay Pony Society (EPS) is very aware that breeding an Eriskay pony can be costly therefore, to encourage responsible breeding and to help increase breed numbers, the Society can offer the possibility of a breeding grant. The availability of this grant is due to the support of several generous benefactors and is aimed at helping members breed registered Eriskay ponies.

To qualify for an Eriskay Pony Society Breeding Grant, you must be a current member of the Society and your pony must be registered with EPS. A pony registered in another stud book is welcomed but it must meet the requirements of entry to the EPS stud book and its passport must be over-stamped by EPS. Any resulting foal must be registered in the EPS studbook.

To protect the long-term viability of the breed and to minimise inbreeding, the mare and stallion should be an appropriate match as identified by SPARKS which gives a recommended breeding profile for every pony within the breeding population of the EPS studbook. Copies of the SPARKS sheet for each pony are freely available to the owner and advice and support is available from the Registrar or Breeding Advisor.

In common with most breed societies, we are required to prove ancestry in our stud book, and we do this by the DNA sampling of all breeding stock. For this reason, before you send your mare to a stallion, it is **vitaly important** that you check that the stallion you are intending to use to has been DNA tested. If you use a stallion whose DNA has not been recorded by the Society, it will be impossible to register any subsequent foal in the main register of the Eriskay Pony Society studbook.

Please check with the Registrar before arranging to have your mare covered.

The rules regarding registration in the EPS stud book, including which category of the stud book a foal would be registered in, are available on the EPS website or from the Registrar.

The grants can cover a wide range of situations such as those listed below: -

1. Contribution towards travel cost for mare or stallion
2. Contribution towards the required pre-covering tests
3. Livery costs

The grant is flexible and can cater for the costs of natural service, AI, or embryo transfer.

The following guidelines cover the application process.

1. Applications **MUST** be agreed in advance and submitted to the Society in writing before the end of July each year.
2. The grant is only available to fully paid-up members of EPS and any resulting foal must be registered with EPS.

3. The grant available is for up to 50% of costs incurred up to a maximum of £500.
4. Receipts for services purchased must be provided if requested.
5. An estimation of costs due to be incurred but not yet paid will be accepted.
6. The amount available for any individual grant will be dependent on the number of applications in any given year and may be less than the amount stated in 3 above.
7. There may be the possibility of a one-off grant being made available for situations not normally covered in these guidelines, but this must be discussed fully with the Registrar or Breeding Advisor prior to any costs being incurred. This one-off grant may not be subject to the financial restrictions covered in 3 above.
8. The Eriskay Pony Society is under no obligation to offer a grant, and each application will be considered on its own merits.

Arrangements between the owner of the mare/stallion and the stud are private and any pre-mating health tests required by the owner should be carried out before travelling to the stud.

It is vitally important that all stud book requirements regarding proving parentage and DNA sampling are complied with otherwise applications for a breeding grant will not be accepted.