

Hungarian Riding Ponies

Revised 2/28/07

Background: A number of Warmblood registries have developed a pony type and established a registry section called “riding ponies” and/or “sport ponies” over the past several decades or so. With Germany leading the way in this “Riding Pony” movement, a number of countries (USA, Germany, England, Austria and Belgium & more) too now have their own riding pony registries. These “ponies” typically begin as a cross between their smaller warmbloods, Arabs, Anglo-Arabs and pony breeds. The goal was to fulfill a need for a large pony with the athleticism and temperament for younger riders to compete with at a national and international level (see exhibit 1- German Riding Ponies)

HHAA Goals:

Develop pony sized (14.2 hands and under) animals from Hungarian horses and acceptable pony breed crosses and start a new section/book in the HHAA named Hungarian Riding Ponies.

Purpose:

To provide Hungarian Breeders with the opportunity to participate in & profit from the growing popularity of riding ponies.

Guidelines:

*To establish the pony foundation stock, it is recommended that HHAA Felver mares, HHAA Felver and Felver breeding approved stallions be utilized and approved for Hungarian Pony development. These mares and stallions can be crossed with HHAA acceptable pony breeds to produce Hungarian Riding Ponies.

*Riding Ponies are a type that is like a small warmblood. They have longer strides, smoother gaits, are more elastic and rhythmical than the typical “old style” ponies that often look like little draft horses with short strides and choppy gaits. Since the goal is to produce this type, the following ponies are recommended to be acceptable breeding stock for purposes of developing the Hungarian Riding Pony. Thoroughbred/Arab crosses with the following Pony types/breeds will also be acceptable. All ponies used for breeding from the list below, including those with Thoroughbred or Arabian blood as referenced in the prior sentence, must be registered with an applicable pony association. Draft or cob style ponies are not acceptable.

Welsh Ponies - Section A or B only

Connemara Ponies

British Riding Ponies

German Riding Ponies

(Weser-Ems-Oldenburg Region)

(Hanover Ponies-Hanover region)

(Westphalian Ponies- Westphalia region)

Other European Riding Ponies (as approved by HHAA Breeders Board)

New Forest Ponies

Hungarian Riding Ponies (When available as a result of this program)

*USEF rules define a pony as 14.2 hands and under. It should be noted however that animals over 14.2 hands do not qualify as ponies under USEF rules and may not be shown in pony classes (see Exhibit 2). Breeders should select breeding stock with this height range in mind for competitive and marketing reasons. However, if the pony should grow beyond 14.2 hands, he will not be denied or lose his HHAA Hungarian Riding Pony Registration. Additionally, the FEI is beginning to look seriously at pony height's as some animals showing, described as, and registered as ponies are taller and are actually small horses. This issue is beginning to get media play and promises to be controversial (See Exhibit 3).