

MEASURING AND LIFE CERTIFICATES

PONY SHOW HUNTER

As at September 2009

If you are planning to compete at registered Show Hunter pony events you will need to provide a height certificate to the ESNZ along with your annual registration application. For many the security of a Life Certificate is an excellent option as it saves the requirement to get your pony measured each year. The following is an easy guide to getting a Life Certificate.

- Background** To get a Height or Life Certificate you will need to get your pony measured. Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) Approved Measuring Stands are sited throughout the Country - see the RAS Website (www.ras.org.nz) for more information, or contact your local A&P Association Secretary or the RAS Equestrian Co-ordinator for your nearest Stand. For most areas horse and pony measuring is usually handled through your local A & P Association, although not all A & Ps have a Measuring Stand, some Pony Clubs do.
- Measuring Dates** Dates for measuring in each area are set by these organisations. For a slightly additional fee you can arrange a private measuring outside of the standard dates. You should check the RAS website, your local A & P website, or the newspaper, around August to get a schedule of dates.
- ESNZ** The ESNZ, the governing body for Show Hunter and Show Jumping, hold records of pony heights where ponies have been registered with the ESNZ. Registration with a height certificate is an absolute requirement for all ponies competing in ESNZ events for Show Hunter. Without provision of a height certificate you will not be able to complete registration. You need to provide an updated height certificate each year you register. For information about registration and official pony heights refer to www.nzequestrian.org.nz
- RAS** The RAS is an excellent source of information about both measuring and Life Certificates. A height certificate is also required for A & P events. Find out more about the RAS at equestrian@ras.org.nz or visit their website www.ras.org.nz
- Requirements** Your pony can have shoes on or can be barefoot. Upon payment of a small fee, your pony will be measured by a certified measurer and you will receive an annual height certificate card which should be updated each year to give you a historical record. Once your pony reaches the minimum age of seven you can apply for a Life Certificate.
- Identification** Along with certification your pony will need to have additional identification. Currently there are three options all of which can be organised through your vet. These are hot branding, freeze branding or micro chipping.
- Branding** Branding is the traditional method of identifying that a pony is Life Certified. With hot or freeze methods the pony is branded, often on both shoulders. On one shoulder the symbol relating to the area in which the Life Certificate has been issued e.g. 'L' for Christchurch. On the other shoulder identifying branding such as the breed prefix and/or foal number and year (say 99 over 4 which means 1999 and 4th foal). RAS advise that any brand on a horse/pony is acceptable. The vet may put one or two brands on, as long as the brand(s) is distinguishable for recording on the Certificate. A Google search on hot branding or freeze branding will give you useful information, pros and cons, as well as cautions for your consideration.

Micro Chipping

This is becoming the preferred method of identification. It continues to be discussed by RAS at national conference level; however, as advised by the RAS Equestrian Co-ordinator, it is now available.

The microchip is implanted by your vet into the pony's neck. The location of the implant will be checked by the certified measurer. While scanners are not widely owned or kept by measurers at the moment, they may be hired or loaned from your local vet. We are advised that there are a variety of scanners used by vets which read microchips. Not all scanners read all microchips and this is an area being addressed by RAS nationally. If you are opting for micro chipping it is recommended you liaise between your measurer and vet.

Follow this link for more information on all forms of pony identification (please note this is sourced from a UK website):

http://www.maccvets.co.uk/fact_sheets/fact_sheets_equine_identification.htm

Summary

How to get a Life Certificate for your pony:

- Contact your local Measurer and ask for a Life Certificate form
- Take this form to your Vet and ask them to complete the form
- Arrange with the Vet for the branding or micro chipping to be done
- For Life Certificate measurement the pony should be barefoot, please check this with your Measurer.
- Take the form (and if necessary a borrowed scanner) to the Measurer where the pony will be checked to ensure the micro chip is in place.
- The pony will then be measured.
- If the pony measures within the correct heights you will be issued with a Life Certificate
- Provide a copy of the Life Certificate to the ESNZ; they only need to view this once.