



Joint letter to all Newfoundland Pony breeders and owners from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Re: A proposed process for the recognition of the Newfoundland Pony under the *Animal Pedigree Act* and incorporation of a national breed association.

For many years, Newfoundland Pony breeders, owners and other supporters have worked hard to promote the animal and strengthen the population. There have been some successes but also a number of challenges which continue to hinder progress. While several requests had been made to have the Newfoundland Pony recognized under the federal *Animal Pedigree Act* (APA), the conditions haven't been right to proceed. More recently, however, it has been suggested that if the federal government and provincial government of Newfoundland & Labrador were to agree on an approach, breeders and owners would be very encouraged to come together to resolve a number of the outstanding challenges.

The purpose of this letter is to invite breeders and other owners of Newfoundland Ponies in Canada to engage in a process which is described below. We are proceeding on the basis of an agreement regarding several fundamental issues (see attached document). Our proposal is not set in stone, but it is essential that the process is agreeable to our respective governments. If it does not look possible to achieve a reasonable consensus at the early stages, we may consider that the conditions no longer exist to continue the process and will advise you accordingly. Meanwhile, we are pleased to initiate the first stage of the process, which we hope to gradually pass on to a core group of breeders to continue.

Process - Next Steps:

1. The basis for proceeding is set out in #1 of the Proposal in the attached Common Understanding and in particular, addresses how to reconcile the *Animal Pedigree Act* and the *Heritage Animals Act*. It also addresses the principle of who should participate in the process and in a breed association under the APA. These are critical starting points. If you wish to raise any points, please provide your comments directly to David Trus prior to April 30, 2010.

2. A breed description as described in #2 of the Proposal is an essential starting point. There have been several breed descriptions put forward. As well, individuals have expressed concern regarding certain breed characteristics. We would like to get an appreciation of the range of breed descriptions and concerns or preferences people have, which we will compile as the basis for discussions. You are invited to send proposed breed descriptions to David Trus prior to April 30, 2010, indicating the source of the proposal and other information you feel relevant. Alternatively, you may wish to submit your concerns or preferences regarding specific breed characteristics.
3. If after the comment period we are satisfied there is a reasonable willingness to proceed with the proposal, we will host two meetings. One meeting would be in Ontario (coordinated with John Scanlan) and one in Newfoundland (coordinated with Harry Hutchings) in order to allow a broad participation of interested people. We tentatively propose for meetings to be held the last week of May 2010. The major agenda items will be (i) understanding the requirements of the APA, (ii) breed description, and (iii) identifying a small core group of breeders to provide leadership as the process goes forward.
4. If all goes well to this stage, David Trus will work with the core group in the drafting of articles of incorporation. Nothing will proceed further until such time as breeders/owners have been given an opportunity to review and comment on the draft document.
5. After incorporation, associations have one year in which to develop by-laws to set out the legal basis on which they shall operate.

Broad participation in the initial stages is encouraged, including by individuals who are not currently members of NPS, NPBA or other groups. It is our desire not to exclude any voices in this process. We are asking NPS and NPBA initially to make this letter and the attachment available to all members. In addition, if you are aware of other people who should receive this letter but may not have, please feel free to ensure they receive a copy.

In order to provide comments as per the above, please send them directly to David Trus, WITHOUT copying or distributing them to others.

David Trus
Animal Industry Division
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
1341 Baseline Rd, Tower 5, 2nd floor
Ottawa, Ont.
K1A 0C5

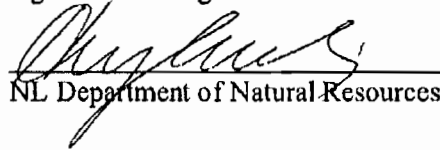
E-mail: David.Trus@agr.gc.ca
Fax: 613-773-0300

We look forward to your participation and to working with all those interested in supporting the Newfoundland Pony.



Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Date: 10/03/16


NL Department of Natural Resources

Date: 10/03/16

