



Leisure Horse Ireland

The Shire Horse Studbook of Ireland Breeding Programme

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1.0 The Studbook and Location of the Studbook

The Shire Horse Studbook of Ireland (SHSI) is operated by the recognised breed society 'Leisure Horse Ireland' in accordance with the Animal Breeding legislation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1012).

The offices of Leisure Horse Ireland are located at Furbo Hill, Spiddal, Co. Galway, H91 VH04, Republic of Ireland. Leisure Horse Ireland is also approved as a Passport Issuing Organisation.

The Shire Horse Studbook of Ireland is the daughter studbook of the breeding book of origin. The Shire Horse Society located at Shire Farm, Rockingham Castle & Park, Uppingham Road, Rockingham, Market Harborough, LE16 8TP. <http://www.shire-horse.org.uk> and it follows the principals established by the breeding book of origin.

The rules and procedures of Leisure Horse Ireland should be read as they form part of the breeding programme, and deal with change of ownership, duplicate passports name change etc.

2.0 Mission Statement

Leisure Horse Ireland's mission statement commits to supporting the Shire Owners/Breeders in the preservation and conservation of the breed, and to endeavour to establish the breed to excel in sport and recreation, through the provision of services of the highest standards of excellence, and to act in the best interests of its owners/ breeders.

3.0 Aims of the Breeding Programme

The studbook operates a breeding programme for the improvement of the breed in Ireland and is approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The aims of the breeding programme are:

- To promote the preservation and improvement of the Shire Horse Breed.
- To assist encourage and record all information in respect of the breeding in Ireland of Shire Horses.
- To encourage breeders to breed for the characteristics of the breed standard by way of improved breeding practice and classification.

4.0 Name of breed

The name of the breed is The Irish Shire Horse.

5.0 Geographical Territory

The Irish Shire Horse Breeding Programme is focused on the 26 counties of Ireland, animals born into and / or entered into the Studbook.

6.0 Characteristics of the Breed

6.1 Overview

The Shire horses are known as Gentle Giants. They are the largest horse breed and despite their size and strength, they are one of the gentlest types of horses. Shire horses are a heavy draft breed. Generally described as being cold-blooded, which means they have a personality that is inclined to want to work. Being a docile breed, both calm and patient in most circumstances. This makes them an exceptional horse for general work purposes and for recreational riding, even though many of them stand up to 19 hands.

A **Stallion** should stand from 17 hands(173cms) upwards, and WEIGH from 18cwt (900kg) to 22cwt (1100kg) when matured, without being over done in condition. He should possess a masculine head and a good crest with sloping, not upright shoulders running well into the back, which should be short and well coupled with the loins. The tail should be well set up and not what is known as “goose rumped”. Both head and tail should be carried erect. The ribs should be well sprung, not flat sided, with good middle which generally denotes good constitution. A stallion should have good feet and joints; the feet should be wide and big around the top of the coronets with sufficient length in the pasterns. When in motion, he should go with force using both knees and hocks, of which the latter should be kept close together. He should go straight and true both in front and behind. A good stallion should have a strong character.

A **Mare** should be on the quality side, long and deep with free action, of feminine and matronly appearance, standing from 16 hands (163cms) upwards on short legs; she should have plenty of room to carry her foal.

A **Gelding** should be upstanding, thick, well balanced, very active and a gay mover; he should be full of courage and should look like and be able to do a full day's work. Geldings weight from 17cwt (850kg) to 22cwt (1100kg).

6.2 Stallions

COLOUR:

Black, brown, bay or grey. No good stallion should be splashed with large white patches over the body. He must not be roan or chestnut.

HEIGHT:

17 hands (173cms) high at maturity. Average about 17.2 hands (178cms)

HEAD:

Long and lean, neither too large or too small, with long neck in proportion to the body. Large jaw bone should be avoided.

EARS:

Long, lean, sharp and sensitive.

EYES:

Large, well set and docile in expression. Wall eyes not acceptable.

NOSE:

Slightly Roman. Nostrils thin and wide. Lips together.

THROAT:

Clean cut and lean.

NECK:

Long, slightly arched, well set on to give the horse a commanding appearance

SHOULDER:

Deep and oblique, wide enough to support the collar.

FOREHAND:

Wide across the chest, with legs well under the body and well enveloped in muscle or action is impeded

FORELEGS:

Should be as straight as possible down to pastern.

GIRTH:

The girth varies from 6ft(183cms) to 8ft(244cms) in stallions standing from 16.2 hands (168cms) to 18hands (168cms).

BACK:

Short, strong and muscular. Should not be dipped or roached

RIBS:

Round, deep and well sprung, not flat.

LOINS:

Standing well up, denoting good constitution (must not be flat)

HIND QUARTERS:

Long and sweeping, wide and full of muscle. Well let down towards the thighs.

BONE MEASUREMENT:

Of flat bone 11 inches (28cms) is ample, although occasionally 12 1/2 inches (32cms) is recorded. Flat bone is heavier and stronger than spongy bone. Hock must be broad, deep and flat and set at the correct angle for leverage.

FEET:

Deep, solid and wide with thick open walls. Coronets should be hard and sinewy with substance.

HAIR:

Not too much, fine, straight and silky.

6.3 Mares

COLOUR:

Black, brown, bay. Grey or Roan.

HEIGHT:

16 hands(163cms) upwards

HEAD:

Long and lean, neither too large nor too small and of feminine appearance.

EYES:

Large, well set and docile in expression. Wall eyes are acceptable in the supplementary section

NECK:

Long, slightly arched and not of masculine appearance.

GIRTH:

5ft (152cms) to 7ft (214cms) according to the size and age of the animal.

BACK:

Strong and in some instances longer than a male.

LEGS:

Short, with short cannons.

BONE MEASUREMENT:

9inches (23cms) to 11inches (28cms) of flat bone, with clean cut sinews.

6.4 Geldings

MODIFICATION OR VARIATION OF STALLION STANDARDS OF POINTS FOR GELDINGS

COLOUR:

Black, brown, bay. Grey or Roan.

HEIGHT:

16.2 hands(168cms) upward

GIRTH:

6ft (183cms) to 7ft 6 ins (229cms)

BONE MEASUREMENT:

10inches (23cms) to 11 inches (28cms) under knee, slightly more under hock and broadside on, of flat hard quality.

7.0 Breeding book

The Studbook consists of two sections, a main section and supplementary section, for the breed as follows:

7.1 Main section

To qualify for entry into the Irish Shire Horse Studbook an animal must:

- Be descended from parents that are entered in the main section of a breeding book for the same breed.
- have a pedigree established according to the rules of the breeding programme.
- Be identified in accordance with Union animal health law for equines and in accordance to the rules of the breeding programme.
- In the case of trade in or entry into the Union of an animal and that animal is intended to be entered in the breeding book that animal shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate
- Where the animal is produced from a germinal product which is traded or which entered into the Union and the animal is intended for entry in the breeding book, that germinal product shall be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate.

7.2 Division of Main Section

The main section of the Shire Studbook is divided into three classes. The criteria for entry into each class is as follows:

Class 1

- Both Sire and Dam are entered in Class 1 of the main section.
- Have been presented for and passed inspection.

Class 2

- Both Sire and Dam are entered in Class 1 of the main section
- Have been presented for inspection but failed the inspection.

Class 3 (Entry level)

- All animals, are entered in this class on entry into the breeding book. Where officially inspected the animal will be reclassified into the appropriate class. The status on the passport will be amended accordingly.

7.3 Supplementary Section

Animals that are not eligible for classification in the main section of the Shire studbook may be recorded into the supplementary section providing they meet the following criteria:

- Are identified in accordance with Union animal health law for equines and the rules set out in the breeding programme.
- Are judged by the breed society to conform to the characteristics of the breed. Breeders should contact the breed society for details of this procedure.
- the animal shall fulfil at least the minimum performance requirements as identified in the classification of the supplementary section as described below.

The supplementary section of the Shire Studbook is divided into classes: Supplementary Class 1, Supplementary Class 2, Supplementary Class 3.

Supplementary Class 1

- Be required to have a Sire or Dam entered in the main section class 1 of the breeding book for the breed and the other Sire or Dam recorded in the supplementary class 2 of this breeding book.

Supplementary Class 2

- Be required to have the Sire or Dam entered in the main section class I of the breeding book and the other Sire or Dam entered in the main section of the Clydesdale horse breeding book.

Or

- Be required to have a Sire or Dam in the main section class 1 of the breeding book and the other Sire or Dam entered in the main section of one of those breeds listed in the cross-breeding programme (see Section 7.6).

Or

- Be required to have a Sire entered in the main section class 1 of the breeding book for the breed or the main section of one of those breeds listed in the cross-breeding programme (see Section 7.6). and the Dam recorded in supplementary class 3 of the breeding book.

Supplementary Class 3

- A mare that belongs to the breed although it has no known origin.

Or

Be required to have a Dam in the supplementary class 3 of the breeding book and the other Sire entered in the main section of one of those breeds listed in the cross-breeding programme (see Section 7.6).

7.4 Upgrading of Progeny from the Supplementary Section

The progeny descended from a Sire or Dam recorded in the supplementary Class 1 and the Sire or Dam entered in the main section class 1 of a breeding book for this breed shall be eligible for entry into the main section of the breeding book.

7.5 Inspection Process.

The purpose of the inspections is to ensure that the horse meets with the breed standard. A visual inspection for type and confirmation is used in the inspection evaluation and comparison with the breed standard. A true type of shire horses will incorporate all the defined characteristics of the breed standard. An Inspection panel is approved annually. Owners/ breeder must contact the studbook to apply and obtain guidelines regarding inspection for their animal.

Stallion Inspections

- The inspection is carried out by an independent panel of judges and a vet.
- The veterinary surgeon is present to scan the horse and confirm the microchip present matches with that recorded in the passport. The veterinary surgeon will also take any DNA sample if such is required on the day.
- Stallions are scored on a points system (for most accurate and up to date information contact the breed society)
- Linear profiling is a descriptive method used to assess the horse. It is used to assess conformation and movement in accordance with the breed standard. The linear profile for each horse outlines the strengths and weaknesses: essential information for any breeder choosing how to identify a complementary stallion to their mare's attributes.
- **Colts and stallions** must achieve a minimum of 70 marks out of a possible 140 for conformation, movement and breed standard to be approved.
- Stallion owners must contact the studbook to arrange an inspection.

Mare Inspections

- Mares are inspected by an independent panel of judges coordinated by the studbook of origin by either the owner submitting a video or photographs.
- **Mares and fillies** are visually inspected by Video or photographs and must achieve a minimum mark of 70 out of a possible 140 marks for conformation, movement and breed standard to be approved.

7.6 Cross Breeding Programme

The Shire studbook facilitates a crossbreeding programme in order to introduce desirable genetics into the breed which may be lacking and to assist the breed meet the breeding objectives for the breed. Animals of the following breeds that are entered in the main section of their respective studbooks that are approved by the Ministry of their country of operation are eligible to be considered in the cross-breeding programme in accordance with the criteria they meet.

List of breeds acceptable to cross with the Shire Horse:

Percheron - athleticism and temperament

Irish draught - athleticism and temperament.

Clydesdales - stamina and temperament.

North Swedish draft - stamina and temperament

Irish cob - temperament

8.0 Identification Verification and Reproductive Techniques

- Where purebred breeding animals are used for the collection of semen (Germinal Products) the donor stallion is identified and his parentage is verified, by DNA analysis.
- Where purebred breeding animals are used for the collection of oocytes and embryos, the donor stallion and donor mare are identified and their parentage is verified, by DNA analysis.
- Clone animals are not currently accepted; however, this may be subject to review in the future.

9.0 System for Identifying Breeding Animal in the Studbook

All animals entered in the Irish Shire Horse Studbook are identified by a Unique Equine Life Number (UELN). This UELN identifies the country and Studbook where the horse was first registered and the registration number within the studbook. All UELN numbers contain 15 digits.

The first three digits of animals registered in the Irish Shire Studbook are 372 which is the code for Ireland; the next three digits are 003 which is the code for Leisure Horse Ireland the next two digits 00 are gap numbers and the remaining 7 digits form the registration number used to identify the animal in the ISHS Studbook and also correspond to the last 7 digits on the microchip number where possible.

An animal entered in another studbook retains its original identification number as issued by the approved studbook keeping authority when classified in the Irish Shire Horse Studbook.

In addition, all animals are named in the Irish Shire Horse Studbook when first entered in the breeding book. Prefixes in addition to the animal's name may be used by breeders as follows:

- **Prefix Registration**

Breeders may have a prefix name registered with Leisure Horse Ireland. Any horse named with a registered prefix cannot have its name changed without the permission of the person who owns the prefix. Prefix forms are available to download or upon request from Leisure Horse Ireland and the following rules apply:

- i. The current fee payable will apply.
- ii. Prefix may have a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 25 characters.
- iii. Prefix may be one word only.
- iv. Breed names are not permitted.
- v. The prefix name will be registered with Leisure Horse Ireland only.

The maximum number of characters included spaces for animal's name and any assigned prefix is 60.

10.0 Procedures for entering animals in the Studbook

- Owner / custodian notify Leisure Horse Ireland of their intention to enter the horse in the studbook by ordering a registration kit i.e., registration form, LHI identification marking chart and DNA envelope. Alternatively, an owner / custodian may utilise a vet supplied marking chart.
- All animals entering the studbook must be parentage verified by DNA analysis.
- Owner / custodian appoints a registered veterinary surgeon at their own expense who confirms the animal details by taking the markings and scans for any pre-existing transponder.
- Where no transponder exists in the animal, the registered veterinary surgeon must implant a compliant transponder. (a compliant transponder is a transponder approved by DAFM and obtained from one of the approved PIO's)

Where a pre-existing transponder is found the owner / custodian must check with the issuing authorities in Ireland to ensure the animal was not identified previously. If the animal was identified previously the only course of action is to apply for a duplicate passport from that issuing authority which can be provided to LHI for an application of an upgrade to the studbook where it has not already been identified as a breed.

- Where a pre-existing transponder is found and it is established that the animal was not identified previously,
 - a) If the existing transponder is of a compliant type, this number must be detailed on the markings by the vet and may be used for registration.
 - b) If the existing transponder is not of a compliant type, a compliant transponder must also be implanted by the vet and both (or all) numbers detailed on the markings.

- The vet takes a DNA sample, places it in the envelope provided and completes all sections thereof.
The owner should send all completed paperwork and the DNA sample to LHI.
- Where an animal has received a breeding and production identification document and is eligible for entry/recording into the breeding book as an 'upgrade', the breeder may submit an application accompanied by the animal's breeding and production identification document as follows.
 - Owner / custodian notify Leisure Horse Ireland of their intention to enter the horse in the studbook by ordering a registration kit i.e., registration form, LHI identification marking chart and DNA envelope. Alternatively, an owner / custodian may utilise a vet supplied marking chart.
 - All animals entering the studbook must be parentage verified by DNA analysis

Once pedigree have been proven by DNA typing the animal will be upgraded into the studbook.

The breeding and production passport will be rescinded, and the original issuing body will be notified of the upgrade.

LHI will issue a new lifetime identification document (passport) with a zootechnical or supplementary certificate as appropriate (see section 13) where all criteria of the breeding programme are met.

- Where an animal is the offspring of a germinal product and the sire and/or dam are entered in another breeding book the application for entry must be accompanied by the appropriate zootechnical certificate
- Where a purebred animal is entering the breeding book from another breeding book of the same breed it shall be entered into the same section or equivalent section as that of the breeding book.

11.0 Lifetime Identification Document (Passport)

All Animals are issued with a lifetime identification document issued by the L.H.I on entry of the animal into the ISHS studbook. This document contains the date of registration, the unique 15-digit identification number (UEN) applicable to that animal only, the registered name, details of microchip inserted by the veterinary authority, an authorized record of all individual markings as recorded on the marking chart, DNA verified pedigree, date of birth, breeder, owner, of the animal and a copy of the Zootechnical Certificate as issued by the L.H.I. This documentation must accompany the animal on all occasions.

The Passports shall state the category, i.e., "Leisure Horse Ireland – The Irish Shire Horse Studbook ". Any errors identified in the document the owner/breeder should return the document to LHI for immediate amendment

12.0 Certificates

12.1 Zootechnical Certificate

To comply with current EU legislation all purebred breeding animals are issued with a zootechnical certificate. The zootechnical certificate is issued in accordance with Chapter I of Part 2 of Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2016/1012.

The Zootechnical Certificate will be attached to the Lifetime Identification Document and be issued at the same time as the passport to the owner/breeder when the equine is entered into the studbook. Once the animals are entered in the studbook it will be issued within 2 weeks. The zootechnical certificates shall be available on-line and will be updated where the classification of the animal in the main section changes.

12.2 Supplementary Certificate

A supplementary certificate will issue for an equine recorded in the supplementary section and include the parentage and DNA results details. This certificate will be recorded on a non-statutory page at the back of the Lifetime Identification Document. Once the animals are recorded in the studbook it will be issued within 2 weeks.

In the context of these certificates the breeder is the person who applies to enter/ record the animal in the breeding book

13.0 Database – System for Recording Pedigree

In conjunction with Streamline Data Ltd, LHI have designed and on a continuous basis maintain and improve the Microsoft Access Database Software for LHI's Equine Registrations. The software has the capability to record the necessary information including pedigrees as required by relevant legislation and has the capability to report to the DAFM AIM Interface (the Central Equine Database of Ireland) all data as required in the format and detail specified.

The following fields (where applicable) are recorded for each individual animal in the breeding book:

13.1 Database Fields

Microchip Number, 2nd microchip Number 3rd Microchip Number

Owner / Keeper/ Breeder

Vet practice and Actual Vet Name

Date and place of markings

Equine premises Number

Horse Name

Country of Origin / Country of Holding / County

Date of Birth

Species

Sex

Colour

Breed
Replacement passport
Food chain status
Written description of vet markings
Passport over stamp
Duplicate Passport
DNA on file
Lab DNA reference number
Parentage test
Passport security tag number
Vets' registration details
Sire pedigree
Dam pedigree
Registration class
Registration Category i.e. Main stud book Class
Registration Status
Passport status
Date registered
Completed registration history

14.0 Breeding and Selection Objectives

The breeding objective for the breed is to breed an animal that represent the breed characteristics of the breed.

In selecting breeding animals to meet the objectives of the breed, breeders should select from animals entered in the main section class 1 of the breeding book. Animals entered in this class have passed inspection and are in accordance with the bred objectives of the breed. Breeders should also pay particular attention to the heritable traits.

The studbook does not have a specific selection objective due to the low number of the breeding population. and is designated as a rare breed in the studbook of origin. It is recommended that breeders breed from class one animal which have been inspected and are deemed to be in line with the breeding objectives of the breeding programme.

14.1 Performance Testing and Genetic Evaluation

Currently the breeding programme does not provide these activities.

15.0 Derogation concerning Semen Collection Centres

No Derogation has been requested.

16.0 Outsourcing of Technical Activities

No activities are outsourced.