

PBSA Newsletter April 2011

Shetland Gets its Own Branch of the National Foaling Bank

Thordale Shetland Pony Stud in Walls is very proud to announce its association with the National Foaling Bank – a small branch on a very large tree. Their aim is to supply any equine breeder with an emergency supply of mare's milk replacer or colostrum - any time – 24 hours a day.

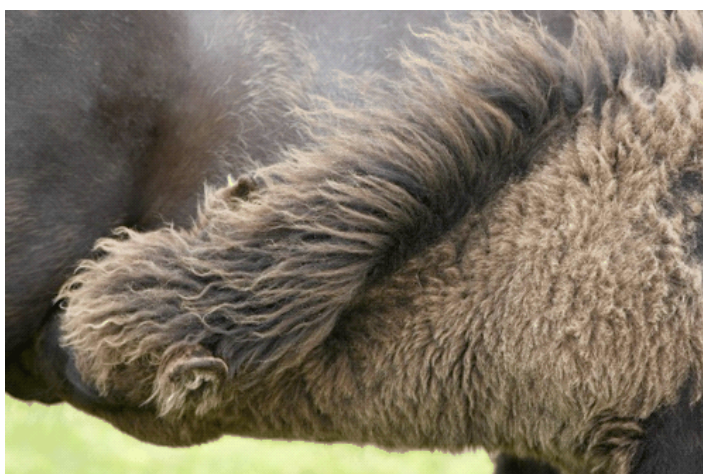
From January 2011 Thordale Shetland Stud will keep an Emergency Kit with a supply of mare's milk replacer tested and recommended by the National Foaling Bank. It will be available to purchase, anytime, day or night. The kit contains all you need to get your foal back on its feet if, for whatever reason, your mare has no milk. The approximate cost of the kit is £10. Included in the kit along with the mare's milk replacer milk powder are a rubber foal teat, sterilising tablets and **full emergency feeding instructions**. Feed bottles, Foal replacement colostrum and pro-biotic are also be available to purchase separately. There is enough in the pack to cover you for 2 to 3 days and then you can purchase more from the suppliers. Contact details are in the Emergency Pack.

Johanna Vardon started the National Foaling Bank in 1965 and she enthusiastically supports this venture, as does Her Majesty The Queen who said she was "very interested to learn that you are currently setting up a scheme to supply mare's replacement milk and colostrum for orphaned foals in Orkney and Shetland".

Thordale Shetland Stud is running this scheme purely for the benefit of all equine breeders in the Northern Isles – it is not financially profiting. This service does not aim to replace the skills of a qualified vet.

Please help promote this Scheme. It is for every equine breeder anytime. Just phone Thordale Stud on 01595 809 432 and ask for Frances. Or contact Jo on 01595 870 759 or 243 for more details or advice and assistance.

Also Available from Thordale :- Foal-Stim (probiotic with colostrum) £18, Col-Late (foal colostrum) £40.67 and Multi Milk 5kg bag £19.18.



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SPSBS Council Members

Following the 2010 AGM the SPSBS council has reduced in numbers to 14. This is split up as follows - 3 for Shetland, 3 for Scotland and Northern Ireland, 5 for England and Wales, the Vice President, President and Past President. The current Shetland members are Steve Rendall from Nesting, Lauraine Manson from Skeld and Roselyn Fraser from Whalsay.

Viking Shetland Pony Show 2010 report by



'Watzo of Berry' taking the title of supreme champion at the 2010 Viking Show

Apparently preparation is the key to organising anything, as we discovered the Viking Show is no exception to that rule! With all the rosettes sorted, trophies collected, weather booked and catalogues printed we were able to enjoy our first year in the driving seat of the Viking Show. A combination of a dry day, a good turnout of ponies and a super team of stewards, helpers, runners etc made it a really enjoyable experience and certainly one we would hope to repeat!

Every year there is a St. Patricks Day fundraiser held in Scalloway and the proceeds go towards a group. This year the Viking Show was very kindly chosen as the group for the 2011 event, this was a fantastic opportunity both to promote the show and bring in some funds to help us improve the show in years to come. Thanks to the people who donated raffle prizes and sandwiches as you helped to make the day a fantastic success. A huge thank you must also go to Mary Isbister for providing all the soup and Carina Isbister and her team for holding such a fantastic event. We raised a total of £840 for the Viking Show!

Although summer 2010 was meant to be the last year that Seafield was to be available, there has been a hold up in the planning of the new developments so the park is likely to be available again this year until the end of the summer. Therefore the Viking Show will be held at Seafield for one last year. Any suggestions as to where the show could be held in the future are gratefully received.

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Berry stud on their miniature stallion 'Watzo of Berry' taking the title of supreme champion at the 2010 Viking Show.

The 2011 Viking Show will be held at Seafield on Sunday 21st August. Rings 1 & 2 will begin at 9.30am with Ring 3 starting at the earlier time of 9.00am. Schedules and entry forms will be available from the beginning of June.

The lucky £20 winner of the Viking Shetland Pony Show's Anagram Competition was Kate Niven from Levenwick. Thank you to all who sold entry forms & entered the competition. There is still some entry fees outstanding so please forward this to Mari Williamson, Garthsvale, Voe, ZE2 9PT ASAP.



The Pony Breeders of Shetland Association would also like to take this opportunity to say congratulations and a huge thank you to Mari Williamson, Charlotte Cree-Hay & Catriona Cree-Hay for doing such a fantastic job running the Viking Show. Long may it continue!

Viking Show Lassies - L to R Charlotte Cree-Hay, Mari Williamson & Catriona Cree-Hay.

Society Pony Sales 2011

Thursday 6 & Friday 7 October – Lerwick Show & Sale

The sale in Shetland this year will not be run under the auspices of the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society as the PBSA felt that this did not benefit Shetland breeders or encourage vendors to buy ponies from Shetland. This decision was made all the easier by the decision that the society took to add another £5 plus VAT to the cost of each entry. The sale will run as usual with PBSA members on duty to check passports and microchips. This does however mean that transfers will not be able to be processed on the day.

Sales under the auspices for 2011 will be:-

Aberdeen - Sunday 9 & Monday 10 October

Reading - Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 October

Thanks From Down Under

Seasons greetings and thanks were received from Sue Jackson of Gleneagles Stud, Auckland, New Zealand, following their trip to Shetland last summer.



December 2010

To the committee and members of the
Pony Breeders of Shetland Association,

A note to say thank you so much to you all
for your welcome and hospitality when we
attended your 2010 stallion assessment day.
You are to be congratulated in the way you
are leading this programme to promote
breeding excellence.

I also want to thank you for the rosettes
you donated for prizes at our first North
Island Championship Show. They are very
special and will be greatly appreciated by the
exhibitors. All the best for 2011. Regards Sue.

Membership

The membership subscriptions for 2010 are now due and the fees remain the same as in 2010 - £15.00 for adults, £7.50 for juniors, £10.00 for adult associate membership and £5.00 for junior associate membership.

A joining form is enclosed with this newsletter, please complete it and return it with the correct fee to Sonja Flaws, The Treasurer, PBSA, 5 Dale Park, Dunrossness, Shetland, ZE2 9JH.

We hope that you will join again this year and support the Shetland pony in Shetland and please remember to make use of the free stud advertising facilities available to you on the PBSA website.

Important Dates

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 July – Shetland Pony Performance Show, Malvern, Worcestershire

Sunday 24 July – National Shetland Pony Breed Show, Kingsbarn Equestrian Centre, Falkirk

Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 July – Stallion & Mare Evaluations & Performance Testing, Gott Farm

Saturday 6 August – Voe Show

Wednesday 10 August – Cunningsburgh Show

Saturday 13 August – Walls Show

Sunday 21 August – Viking Show

Saturday 27 August – Unst Show

Saturday 3 September – Yell Show

New Judge

Shetland now has another SPS-BS approved judge. Irvine Burgess from Robin's Brae, Dunrossness recently completed his probationer judging term and has been welcomed onto the Society's Intermediate Panel. He has already accepted an invitation to judge at the Keith Show later this summer, so well done and good luck.

The SPSBS council has suspended the current probationary judges scheme in order for a review to take place but we hope to encourage more Shetlanders to put their names forward once the review has been completed.

PBSA Website

PBSA members are invited to use, free of charge, the facilities on the website which was developed to provide our members with a platform to showcase their ponies and promote their studs globally.

The Shetland Stud Directory has proved very popular, especially with visitors, as a means of contacting studs of interest in particular areas. It enables them to plan trips in advance and maximise their time spent in the Islands. These Stud-cards contain a colour photograph (which can be changed at any time), a short description of your stud, map location, all necessary contact information and a link to your own website, if you have one. Anyone who has not yet created a Stud-card can contact the PBSA for more information.

Advertising on the 'for sale' and 'wanted' pages is also free of charge to PBSA Members. Adverts can stay on the site for as long as necessary and will only be removed when we are requested to do so. Each advert can contain detailed text (within reason) and up to six photographs. Please try to give an accurate description of the pony for sale and include information such as sire & dam, breeding history and any successes in the show ring. Pictures will also help to sell your pony, so please try to submit photographs which will do it justice - a far away, out of focus picture will not reproduce well on the website and will do your pony no favours!



As always, we would welcome any news items or articles/old pictures for the Archive Page, currently we have some excellent pieces by Margaret Hunter and Jim Smith but we need more of you to share your experiences and memories with the outside world. Good quality photographs are always needed to refresh our Homepage; any seasonal pictures of Shetland ponies in their natural environment would be very much appreciated. Anything to do with the website contact June at: admin@shetlandponybreeders.com

Foal Registrations

The deadline for submitting foal registration forms has changed to 31st October.

All registrations received up until this deadline will appear in the stud book for that year, those received after 31st October will go in to the following years stud book.

When registering your new foals please remember that there has been a price increase effective from January 2011 and the new style registration form **MUST** be used, as the Society Office will not now accept the older type. A selection of the most widely used forms and an up-to-date price list are available to download from our website www.shetlandponybreeders.com/news or can be obtained directly from Society.

Many breeders seem to be under the impression that microchips must be ordered through the Society and forwarded to a nominated vet; this is not the case, microchips can be obtained from your own vet at the time of implantation.

Foal names must not exceed the maximum of 35 digits long including any prefix, spaces or apostrophes.

Anyone who intends selling foals at a Society Sale must remember to submit their foal registrations no later than 4 weeks prior to the sale closing date.

Shetland Pony Evaluation Scheme

The annual PBSA Shetland Pony Evaluations will take place at Gott Farm on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 July. In addition to the Stallions there will also be an opportunity for Mares to be brought forward for evaluation. Judges this year are Mrs Roweena Provan, Mr David Gibson and Mr Peter Tindale. Anyone interested in entering a stallion or mare for evaluation should contact Leona Smith, Area Organiser, on 01950 460531 or spesareaorganiser@hotmail.co.uk for more information. This year there will also be the opportunity for stallions and mares who have already been through the evaluation scheme to undergo a performance test. There are ridden, driven and long reining tests to choose from. For more information regarding the performance test please contact Leona Smith, Area Organiser, or see enclosed information. Please note that ponies must be parentage verified by DNA (both parents) prior to evaluation. Should these results not be available on the day of evaluation, the pony will not be accepted and must wait until next evaluation. If both or either parent is not available for DNA testing then contact should be made with the Area Organiser.



International Breed Show 2010

In 2010 the SPS-BS International Breed show was held on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of August at Hickstead Showground, West Sussex. Roselyn Fraser and 5 lasses and their ponies travelled down with the Clothie Stud to compete in ridden and driven classes.

All of the girls did very well taking home several red and blue rosettes and were commended on their immaculate turnout and impeccable manners by coloured ring judge Peter Robinson from Lancashire, so well done girls, a credit to Shetland.

Overall supreme champion went to the 13 year old piebald stallion HRE Bigton who was bred by Helen Thomson of Virkie.



Rebecca Fraser & Ulverscroft Midnight Red winners of the Working Hunter Cradle Stakes Class at Hickstead.

SPSBS Breed Show 2011

The 2011 Shetland Breed Show is being held on Sunday 24 July at the Kingsbarn Equestrian Centre in Falkirk. Schedules and entry forms are out now and entries must be returned no later than 31 May. The breed show will be preceded by the SPSBS AGM which will take place on Saturday 23 July at 5pm. Stabling is available for anyone wishing to stay overnight at £25 per stable for 2 nights and £35 per stable for 3 nights, this includes shavings.

For more information or a schedule contact the Show Secretary Miss Janet Murray at Lochiel Farm, Monikie, Broughty Ferry, By Dundee, DD5 3QH. Tel. 07580 368312 or email lochiel.farm@virgin.net.

Prints of Breed Show Paintings Available

Prints of the 2009 Breed Show Ring Champions paintings are now available from Shetland Silvercraft. Shetland artist, Anne Barron, was commissioned to produce paintings as prizes for the 2009 Breed Show ring champions and she produced 5 beautiful paintings depicting Shetland ponies in their natural habitat. If anyone is interested in purchasing prints of any of the paintings then they should contact Shetland Silvercraft at Shetland Jewellery, Soundside, Weisdale, Shetland, ZE2 9LQ. Telephone 01595 830275. Fax. 01595 830 352 or Email info@shetlandjewellery.co.uk



Shetland Sale 2010 by Jill Radford



Outdoor Judging taking place at the 2010 Lerwick Sale

Having just arrived home at 10.45pm in the evening, I seriously wonder why I have all these ponies! I feel I must at least make a start on this article that I was kindly asked if I would write. The temperature outside is -6, I have spent all day at work and then three and a half hours feeding the Shetland ponies and sheep, it is taking a lot longer with icy conditions, taking extra care to avoid landing on my butt (cannot risk injury), and breaking ice on numerous water tanks.

My mind drifts back to early October last year and one sunny day in Shetland, with thoughts of how it all originally started back in 1990 when I decided to go ahead with setting up a Shetland Pony Stud and I really wanted my stock to come from Shetland, so in October 1990 we headed (my mother, my six year old son and myself) for Shetland and purchased twelve Shetland ponies, two being for someone else. I missed the sale the next few years, and then I had someone buy for me, but it was not the same, so in 1996 I returned, this time with my good friend Vanessa. That was the last year the sale was held in Unst (a unique experience). Prices were low that year, and the auctioneer begged for bids, "just 1gn" he would say! This latest visit in 2010 was one I nearly didn't make, with 50 ponies in the summer and still a few left from the year before, I was adamant, I would not go. Amazingly enough I managed to move 10 ponies on and I could not resist, even though I really need to have less ponies. Cost was the other issue, so sitting at the computer to find out how cheaply I could visit Shetland, Easyjet and the ferry (seat only) was my cheapest option, with for the first time, no B&B, no hire car and back on the ferry that evening. So the long journey was booked and no regrets. Travelled up without Vanessa this time, she had other commitments and we had been up earlier in June. The ferry was very calm on the way up, so calm in fact that I missed being rocked to sleep. I arrived at Shetland with the usual tingle of excitement, and to the sun shining, in fact better weather than we had in the whole week in June.

The catalogue, this time, had arrived in plenty of time for me to mull over and advertise on my website, but I had had little interest, so arrived sadly with no requests. I had already arranged to take four colts privately so numbers in total preferably eight (in the hope to reduce overall numbers by two), so could purchase four preferably fillies, as I still had lots of geldings still for sale and almost all the fillies had moved on.

It was great when I arrived, most knew that I had changed my mind and was coming, but the few that didn't were genuinely pleased to see me there. To me there is no place I would rather be. In between catching up with everyone, I looked at the foals that might interest me, briefly looking at confirmation and friendliness. I tend to look for the foals that are chilled out and not stressed.

Most people that visit me to buy a pony will usually have the pony that comes up to them and then proceeds to follow them everywhere and they say that the pony has chosen them and they could be correct. At least I know the pony seems comfortable with them. So a nervous pony takes more work to win them around and usually takes a lot longer to find a home. Also well-handled ponies cope with the journey so much better, it is a very long journey with several stop off points and the tame ones appear to feel more secure and take it all in their stride.

The sale begins..... The prices are very low and the first, a colt, 10gns and not sold and then a filly 32gns and then more colts with not even a bid. This was not looking good. With the plan for only four fillies, it meant that I had to be very careful and only bid for the ones I really wanted or I was in great risk of purchasing the first four fillies I bid for and then not having a chance to bid later for fillies I was more interested in, so I had to sit on my hands and wait, at least until my favoured foals had been under the hammer. I purchased my first filly about a third of the way through, quickly followed by another couple, paid low prices for what they were, but not the lowest, better to pay a little more for ones that are going to be easier to home. The saddest of all to me seemed to be the Foula foals, as the costs for them is obviously higher and they had a number of colts with no bids, what can they do with them and what future will there be for next year's colts? Having purchased a pair of colts the year before from Foula and they were both great characters, well-handled and a joy to know, it made it particularly sad. Another gap for me sitting on my hands for most of the time, then a little chestnut filly came in the ring, from a stud I had not purchased from before, and she was sent out to show herself off and she came back to the breeder for reassurance, or for whatever reason, but it showed to me that she looked upon people as friends, someone she could rely on. That was it, up the hand went and she was mine.

That was my four, but I could take another two couldn't I? In view of the situation, I would just have the same number I had last winter and this winter will be milder, won't it – cannot have three hard winters in a row! So little Maggie was the next. I had allowed myself one more, and having acquired a few chestnuts and minis I thought I should try for a different colour and standard. Standard was more of a problem, there does seem to be a big increase in the mini's at the Lerwick sale, and there is now very few standards of a good size. I ended with a midi skewbald filly in the late entries. So, ten altogether. I usually like to see them before they go down to the harbour, but this year they had gone, very fast, so that was it, it would be quite a few days before I saw them again and some I had seen so briefly. A quick phone call to Eric Gillie was next on the cards to confirm numbers and that they would definitely sail today and will need collecting tomorrow morning from Aberdeen. Everybody was dispersing so quickly and that was it – all over for another year. And a sad feeling as to what next year would hold for everyone.

Sun was still shining as I made my way back to the ferry terminal. Had rather a rough crossing back to Aberdeen, gale force 8, certainly rocked to sleep (or not) that night! Flight back home was not till the afternoon so had time to see the ponies arrive, or as I thought. But they said the boat was delayed, turned out the engine had broken down in the North Sea, gale force 8, and the ship was brought into Aberdeen Harbour by tugs at 3.30pm in the afternoon. Nearly had ship wrecked ponies! Not worth thinking about. This resulted in Eric Gillie hanging around all day and the poor foals reached Kelso (just north of the English border) very late that night, regardless to say they were tired, hungry and thirsty, but in good hands. They had two full days rest where they are all allowed outside in their own paddock to chill and relax before their last leg of the journey to me in Bedfordshire. They arrived looking well and relaxed, they always seem to travel well and I think it helps if there is a little group of them, as long as they have each other and have been well handled they cope well in unfamiliar surroundings.

What of the future for the Shetland pony in Shetland? There have been low prices before and prices have come back up, so maybe a reduction in foals bred, concentrating on quality. I personally would like to see more of the standards back, but whether there will be the bids for them is difficult to say, (although the biggest standard did go for the second highest price). The problem this time appeared to be a lack of bidders and the filly prices were so low it made no sense to purchase a colt unless you particularly wanted one for breeding. I fear for the future of the colts, what is the point in applying for a passport for each colt with the added expense of the microchip, entry fees and all the work that goes into preparing for the sale, handling, etc, to get no bid? The alternative does not bear thinking about, but maybe it has to be, to avoid an uncertain future for the colts, and for the sake of your pockets (with all the other costs involved with the care of the ponies), and when the prices return to something a little bit more acceptable for the fillies, maybe people may show more interest in the colts, but with the added costs of gelding the colts, it just makes financial sense to buy fillies only at this moment in time.

We also need fewer ponies to be bred down south – hopefully this will happen as the demand for Shetland ponies reduces throughout the country.

The foals have all settled in well down here. The four privately bought colts have been gelded (now I have a large vet bill again!). Reached February and still have all ten foals, but hopefully some will find homes soon, and still have some of last year's too. Someone phoned me the other evening, lost her grazing and I will have two more, I sold them both about 10 years ago and they are coming back next weekend! It will be lovely to meet them again but two more mouths to feed and I'm going up in numbers not down.

I have seven foals due this year (too many), only bred two last year in an effort to reduce, and I shall only cover a very few mares this year, so some mares will not have foals for several years. This causes problems with grazing; too many on restricted grazing to keep the weight down is not at all easy to manage. I refuse to sell my mares from the main herd as I have spent 20 years to get to this point – I shall wait – things will turn around – just going to take longer than I originally thought though.

I hope to see you all again in October 2011!

Jill Radford



Champion Colt Foal 2010 Sale, Lerwick

Champion Filly Foal 2010 Sale, Lerwick



Pony Breeders of Shetland Association

Sonja Flaws, Secretary
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Shetland
ZE2 9JH

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Email: pbsa@btinternet.com

The aim of the Pony Breeders of Shetland Association is to improve communications amongst island breeders in Shetland, encourage projects which can improve the quality of Shetland's ponies, to promote them within the Islands and world-wide and to look after the interests of Island breeders.

We are on the web!
www.shetlandponybreeders.com

Just For Fun!



Sheena Anderson and Julie Ramsay horsing around at the 2010 Voe Show with Champion Shetland Pony, Yeld Mare, Mill of Towie Catrina.

Not even a torrential downpour or landslide could keep the victorious owner and steed from grabbing a celebratory tippie!



Shetland Pony Stub Book Society Performance Schemes



The aim of the SPSBS Performance Schemes is to promote the use of the registered pedigree Shetland Pony as a performance pony. To this end there are a series of Annual Performance Awards for various different classes focussing on ponies and handlers in ridden, driven and in-hand

disciplines. The organisers would like to encourage anyone who is interested to get involved. If you would like any further information please contact the following people. Ridden & In Hand Scheme - Mrs S Bearcroft, Ropers Farm, Longdon Hill, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 7RP, Tel. 01386 446097.

Driven Scheme - Mrs Willowe Keeley, 51 High Street, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3JF, Tel. 01902 372238.



We are always looking for photos and articles for the PBSA newsletter and website so would like to encourage everyone to send in their news/stories/articles/items of interest etc.

Email: admin@shetlandponybreeders.com

Limited Stock of 2009 Breed Show Merchandise Still Available

There is still a limited stock of Breed Show merchandise available at reduce prices.

Badges -	Blue & White Plastic (not pictured)	£0.50
-	Silver & Blue Enamel	£1.50
Shetland Pony Census 2009		£5.00
Commemorative Rosettes		£1.00
Show Catalogues		£0.50
Car Window Stickers (not pictured)		£1.00

If anyone is interested in purchasing any of these items then please contact Roselyn Fraser on 01806 566479 or email roselyn.fraser@btinternet.com.

