



the magazine for rural living

# Acreage

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# Shetland Ponies & Miniature Horses

These small equines are growing in popularity with enthusiasts of all ages

**T**hink big grow small is the tagline for advertisements touting Shetland Ponies and Miniature Horses and the truth of the matter is these small equines really do offer horse enthusiasts a lot of advantages.

have found that small equines are a way to continue to enjoy horses regardless of age. Last year champion Shetland Ponies and Miniature Horses were exhibited by children as young as three years old and adults well into their eighties!



American Shetland ponies were extremely popular from the 1920s through the 1960s and many of today's top horsemen got their start with a Shetland pony. As land resources begin dwindling, the small equine's popularity is back on the rise. These smaller horses and ponies are also easy to manage for horse lovers of all ages. Many baby boomers that previously enjoyed large horses

The American Shetland Pony Club recognizes two distinct types of Shetland Ponies, the Classic Shetland Pony and the Modern Shetland Pony. In addition, the organization has registries for two types of pony crosses, the American Show Pony and the National Show Pony. In other words, there's a Shetland Pony perfectly suited to almost everyone's needs.

Shetland Ponies and Miniature Horses are easy to house, care for, and train. Whether you are just getting started in horses, introducing your children to riding and driving, thinking about starting a breeding program or an adult looking for a fun and safe way to get involved with horses, you'll be thrilled with what these small equines have to offer.

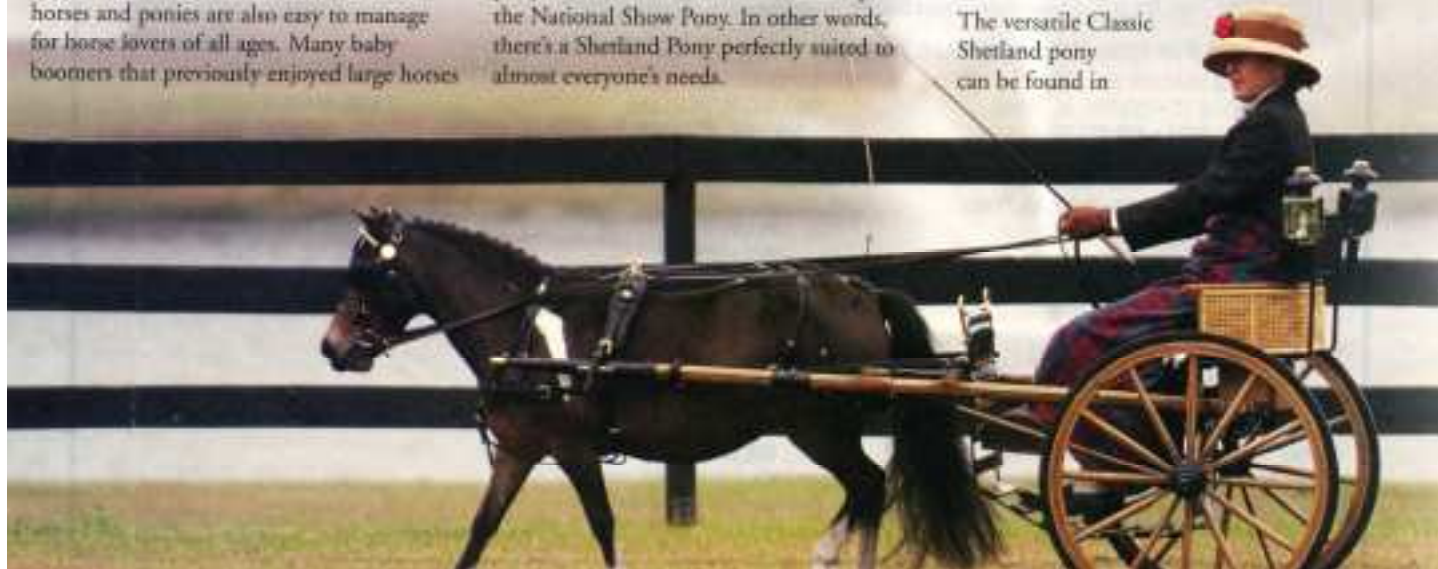


All the small equines in the American Shetland Pony Club share the best attributes of the original Shetland Ponies imported from the Shetland Isles over 120 years ago. American's fell in love with Shetland Ponies the back in 1885 and that love affair continues today. Because these ponies are very reasonably priced, they are often referred to as the best kept secret in the pony world!

In 1888, The American Shetland Pony club was formed to preserve the bloodlines of the Shetland Pony and while improving and refining the breed. The result is the versatile Shetland Pony we know in America today.

Shetland Ponies are athletic, quick learners and extremely hardy. They generally have excellent hooves and a propensity towards soundness and good health. These qualities combined with their endearing dispositions contribute to their ongoing popularity.

The versatile Classic Shetland pony can be found in





almost every equine role from children's leadline and short-stirrup competitions, to school ponies to driving teams with four or more ponies in hand.

The Modern Shetland Ponies combines the beauty and hardiness of the Classic Shetland and the excitement and animation of a Hackney pony. The result is elegance in motion. This sophisticated pony with its extreme action and spirited personality is at home in the show ring.

If you want to take your equine pursuits to smallest horses in the game, Miniature Horses are a wonderful option. The American Miniature Horse Registry recognizes two miniature size divisions. Division A miniatures are up to 34 inches in height and Division B miniatures are between 34 and 38 inches tall. Like their Shetland cousins, Miniature Horses have become increasingly popular with both children and adults. These tiny, versatile little horses can do just about everything a full-sized horse can do, and because of their small size and sweet nature, they aren't intimidating to even the most novice horseman.

Miniature Horse shows are hosted around the country and attract large numbers of Miniature Horse owners of all ages. These

shows offer a variety of classes from halter and showmanship to obstacle driving and the speedy roadster driving...and everything in between. Last year the American Miniature Horse Registry National Championships competitors took home over \$50,000 in prize money! But the rewards these little horses provide go well beyond any money they win. Miniatures bring enjoyment to everyone from the beginner horse person to the consummate show professional.

Miniatures are extremely versatile. Their roles vary from backyard pet, to gorgeous show horses to therapy horses for handicapped and companions to the elderly.

So if you had been thinking about adding a horse or two to your life...think big and go small with an American Shetland Pony or Miniature Horse!

The best way to learn more about Miniature Horses and Shetland Ponies is to visit a show in your area and contact a breeder in your area. You can find show dates and breeders in your area on the club's website at [www.ShetlandMiniature.com](http://www.ShetlandMiniature.com) or contact the American Shetland Pony Club and the American Miniature Horse Registry, via mail 81-B East Queenwood Road, Morton, IL 61550 or phone (309) 263-4044.

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