



AMERICAN SHETLAND PONY CLUB, INC.

American Shetland Pony Registry • American Miniature Horse Registry • American Show Pony Registry

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Greetings:

I hope that all of you, and your families, have been able to avoid being infected by the Covid-19 virus, are doing well and able to cope with these circumstances.

The Coronavirus pandemic has created havoc in our nation and requires a totally different style of life than any of us have ever experienced. It has permeated every aspect of our lives including our employment. In Illinois, workplaces were reduced to essential services and the only employee working was our Director of Operations. Jill has made every effort to keep our business operating including the completion of registrations and Foundation certifications requested by our membership. Not having personally conducted some of the operations required in this role, she has consistently relied on the ASPC Rulebook and Board of Directors for guidance. I want to inform you regarding the certification of Foundation Shetlands and issuance of Foundation seals.

A Shetland foal was denied Foundation certification after a review of the animal's pedigree. This issue occurred as the result of **the mandated pedigree certification** which is included in the Foundation Rule Section IV. 1.6 C. found on page 92 of the ASPC Rulebook, 2018. It states that: "*Foundation Shetlands shall be the result of mating of Division A to a Division A for four generations. All Foundation **will be required to acquire pedigree verification** from the American Shetland Pony Club, those accepted shall be issued a "seal on their Registration paperwork."* Jill did the **stipulated pedigree check** and determined that the foal was ineligible for a Foundation seal.

The owner asked for a reason why this animal was denied as siblings of this foal had received certification. Jill reviewed her work and consulted with me and other club officers. I personally reviewed the situation, consulted with the Co-chairperson of the Shetland/Foundation Committee, other ASPC members and one member of the committee that developed the Foundation Seal Program in 2001. It was determined that Jill had accurately determined the foal's lack of eligibility. The situation was included as an "information item" on the agenda of our June 28, 2020 Board of Directors conference call and discussed but no action was taken.

During the following week, further deliberation occurred and additional comments from members received. Certification of Foundation Animals was placed on the agenda for the July 5th Conference Call Agenda as an "action item." After discussion, the following motion was made and approved by the Board of Directors during the July 6th conference call meeting: ***Immediately suspend the "pedigree search" for 2020 foals seeking Foundation Certification and only use the 4-generation parentage "A Paper" status to determine eligibility. This suspension is in effect from March***



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20, 2020 until the current rules for the certification of Foundation Ponies have been reviewed by the Classic/Foundation Committee and a subsequent recommendation made to the ASPC Board of Directors. This action will allow the foals in question, as well as other 2020 foals in this situation, to be Foundation certified during this year.

The rationale and justification for this motion is: ***After reviewing past Foundation certifications, it appears that the general practice has been to base "A" status solely on the 4 generations of the parents' s registration paper indicating they are "A" regardless of what the full actual pedigree indicates. Although this has likely resulted in some animals being improperly certified as "Foundation," no changes in the designation for any animal so approved will be made.***

Since this error has been identified however, it is essential that **the rules governing the awarding of Foundation status be examined and, if necessary, changed to meet guidelines established by the current ASPC Board of Directors.** It is anticipated that this action will occur during this year and findings presented at the annual Board of Directors meeting in the fall. If, following the review by the Shetland/Foundation Committee, no change in the current rule is recommended for approval by the Board of Directors, the process of checking the parents' pedigree for four generations, currently included in the Foundation rule, will be reinstated and continue.

During the time this suspension is in effect, it should not be assumed that ***siblings of animals now Foundation certified*** will automatically receive a Foundation Seal. All breeders who wish to receive Foundation Certification for foals are encouraged to conduct a pedigree review using the ASPC Studbook to determine any animal's full eligibility.

Please know that the Board has made every effort to scrutinize this issue and fairly resolve it. We appreciate all of the input received from our membership and those persons directly involved.

Sincerely,

Stephen Henderson, President
July 6, 2020