

# The Clydesdale Horse Society

## Breeding programme

### **Stud Book of the Clydesdale Horse Society**

The Stud Book of the Clydesdale Horse Society shall: collect, verify, preserve and publish the pedigrees of the Clydesdale Horse and other useful information in the mother Stud Book as compiled and published by the Society or otherwise. All stud books dating back to the origins of the Society in 1877 are stored at the Society office, 7 Turretbank Place, Crieff, PH7 4LS.

### **Breed Characteristics**

A Clydesdale should have a nice open forehead, broad between the eyes, a flat profile, wide muzzle, large nostrils, a bright clear intelligent eye, big ears and a well arched long neck springing out of an oblique shoulder with high withers.

A Clydesdale will normally stand between 16 hh and 18 hh with some mares being at the lower end of this range with stallions and geldings typically at the higher end.

The back should be strong, and the horse should have good spring and depth of rib. The quarters should not only be long, but well-muscled.

The most common colours are bay and brown with white markings, but blacks, roans and chestnuts are occasionally seen. Colours out-with those listed here will generally not be recognised for registration purposes. The white markings are characteristic, and it is the exception to see a Clydesdale without a white blaze and considerable amount white on its feet and legs.

The feather on the Clydesdale should be plentiful and silky to touch. It should be attached to limbs of strong, quality flat bone with the legs set close together. The distance from the hock to the pastern should be lengthy, with an absence of a second thigh above the hock.

### **Essential Traits**

The Clydesdale Horse is a draught horse, typically of 16 to 18 hands high and weighing on average 1,600 – 1,800 pounds. Clydesdale horses are very docile, gentle, intelligent and have a 'majestic' outlook, with an average lifespan of 20-25 years. They are built for power and their large feet area have spring like capabilities which act like shock absorbers under the pressure of heavy loads. These feet, together with sound, well-built limbs and a powerful trunk, provide the power of the horse which was bred principally for moving large loads quickly and efficiently.

Proper feeding practices are essential, as with all herbivores, and as creatures of habit, they expect food at scheduled times. Their typical food is a mixture of beet pulp, bran, oats, minerals, salt, molasses and water.

Clydesdales should receive regular grooming to keep their skin healthy. As with many animals currently categorised as being rare breeds, the Clydesdale has a number of issues surrounding conception, the aborting of foetus and an incidence of early death of new-born foals. Research is currently being undertaken into each of these issues with the support of the Breed Societies and the strong belief is that it is for these reasons that the breed remains a rare Breed.

### **Breeding Objectives**

The aims of the Society are the preservation and improvement of breeding of the Clydesdale Horse. The Clydesdale Horse is classed by the UK Government as being a [Native Breed at Risk](#) and this breed is critically endangered under the FAO endangerment criteria.

### **Geographical territory and breeding population**

The Clydesdale Horse breeding programme is carried out throughout the United Kingdom with breeders in Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The breeding programme extends to the Republic of Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Russia and Norway. There is no equivalent EU Stud Book and all Clydesdales bred in these countries form part of this one UK based breeding programme.

### **Population of breeding animals and breeders participating in Breeding Programme**

Following a survey carried out as of the end of May 2020 the Society had just under 3,000 Clydesdale Horses on our records.

Of these 876 horses were noted as being breeding animals of which 740 were dams and 163 were stallions.

Our Society has 947 registered stud prefixes. Of these it is estimated that 450 – 500 owners currently participate in our breeding programme.

### **System for Identifying Breeding Animals**

Animals are listed in the Clydesdale Horse Society's Stud Book by breeder in alphabetical order.

Animals will be identified in compliance of animal health law and will be identified by the following:

- Universal Equine Life Number
- Microchip;
- Prefix/suffix of the breeder;
- The name of animal; and
- Date of Birth, colour and markings of the animal.

### Stud Prefix

- Every breeder and persons registering stallions must register a Stud Prefix which shall be for their own use in their lifetime.
- Stud Prefixes and names already appropriated in the Stud Book should not be made use of. The Council reserve the right to reject Stud Prefixes and names already in the Stud Book.

### Filly and Colt Foal and Stallion names

- Filly foals are to be named by the breeder **only** and the given name to be preceded by the breeder's registered stud prefix.
- Colt foals may be named by other than the breeder when registered as stallions and the owners must also use his own registered stud prefix.
- Filly and stallion names once published in the Stud Book cannot be changed.

### Covering Certificate/DNA Typing

In addition to the above identification requirements, purebred breeding Clydesdales will only be admitted to the Stud Book if the following identification requirements are met, by derogation of a covering certificate (as approved by the Scottish Government, as the competent authority for Scotland):

### Filly Foals

- Are compulsorily DNA tested for parentage at birth, before registration.
- Registration will only proceed once positive written confirmation of parentage is determined.
- Mares and fillies which have been DNA tested, entered and accepted for entry in our Stud Book will be given a registration number. Any female exported before allocation of a normal registration number will be separately numbered, provided they are fully eligible for registration with the Society.

### Stallions

- Stallions are DNA tested at the point, at minimum 2 years after birth, when application is made to register the horse as a Stallion.
- Registration as a Stallion will only proceed once positive written confirmation of parentage is determined.

- iii. In order for a stallion to be registered, a veterinary certificate of soundness and suitability for breeding purposes must be submitted to the Society together with the Registration Form.

#### Colt Foals and Geldings

- i. Are not DNA tested. Colt foal are recorded in the Stud book only as produce and they are formally recognised and numbered only when registered as stallions.
- ii. Colt foal entered and accepted for entry will not be given a registration number until such time as they are registered as Stallions or are sold for exportation, when they will be numbered on a separate list, provided that they are eligible for full registration.

#### **Registration of Animals and Recording pedigrees.**

The following details are required in order to record the pedigree of a horse in the studbook:

- i. All horses must have their parentage information verified by DNA typing. Samples of DNA must be taken by and verified by a veterinary surgeon, who shall be responsible for sending the DNA test sample to the testing company being used.
- ii. Animals are identified in line with the rules of the Stud Book. These rules can be found in each printed version of the Clydesdale Horse Society Stud Book or on the Clydesdale Horse Society website – [www.clydesdalehorsesociety.com](http://www.clydesdalehorsesociety.com) at the section 'Passports and Registrations – Pedigree Rules'.

#### General Comments about registration

- i. All foals must be registered in the volume of our Stud Book, first published after their birth. When that rule is neglected extra fees will be charged and a stud book entry is accepted only at the discretion of Council.
- ii. A Clydesdale is deemed to be one year old on 1 January following foaling date and one year older on each succeeding 1 January.

#### Equine Passports

Passports are issued on receipt of a correctly and suitably completed application, bearing in mind all of the above. The deadline for receipt of foal applications is 30 September in the year of birth. Passports are issued promptly, subject to receipt of necessary DNA information, and always within 30 days of receipt of receipt of application form. Applications received after 30 September each year are subject to extra charges for late receipt.

Passports are only issued when all necessary information is received – missing information will prevent the issue of a passport.

All processing of passport is undertaken electronically, using specialised computer software supplied by Grassroots Systems. Regular support is available from the Grassroots team and annual software support and update information is maintained.

### Registration of foals

Foal registrations will not be accepted unless both sire and dam have been parentage tested and the Society notified. If the dam or sire is deceased entry acceptance will be at the discretion of the Society.

All foals must be registered in the volume first published after their birth. When this is neglected increased fees will be charged and an entry only accepted only at the discretion of the Council.

### Filly foals

Filly foals must be parentage tested and the Society notified that the animals are cleared for inclusion before a valid registration number can be allocated and the animal is entered as produce in the Stud Book.

### Colt Foals

Colt foals entered and accepted for entry will not be given a registration number until such time as they are registered as stallions or are sold for exportation when they are numbered on a separate list, provided they are eligible for full registration with the Society.

### Stallion Registration

No colt will be accepted for stallion registration until the age of two years unless it is going for export.

In order to be registered as stallions all colts must be DNA tested and the Society notified.

Before a colt can be used as a sire, he must be DNA tested and registered with the Society as a Stallion.

### Breeding animals imported to the UK

The Society will generally accept the pedigree as stated in the exporting country's Stud Book, with the proviso that the animal must be DNA typed on arrival in the UK in order that its progeny can be tested against this for eligibility in the UK Stud Book.

### Artificial Insemination

A foal got by artificial insemination will be accepted on the same conditions as a natural service foal, provided that the British Equine Veterinary Association guidelines are observed.

There will be no restriction on the use of frozen semen after a stallion dies.

In the case of semen imported to the UK, the Society will generally accept the pedigree of the donor stallion as stated in the exporting country's Stud Book, with the proviso that the animal must be DNA typed prior to the arrival of its semen in the UK in order that its progeny can be tested against this for eligibility for registration in the UK Stud Book.

### Embryo Implant

A foal got by Embryo Implant will be accepted on the same conditions as a natural service foal provided that the British Equine Veterinary Association guidelines are observed. The owner of the embryo will be the registered breeder of the foal.

### Recording in the Stud Book

All horses presented for registration in any calendar year are eligible to be reported in the Stud Book for that year. The stud book categorises the list of breeders registering in that year, the list of mares in the year, the list of filly foals being registered, the list of colt foals being registered as produce, the list of late entries for earlier years, imported males and females, exported males and females, and stallions registered. The appendix records unregistered males and the grading up register for the year and earlier years as appropriate.

Stud book entries for any horse will record the dam (including registration number and volume of the stud book in which the horse was registered), sire of the mare (including registration number and the volume of the stud book in which the horse was registered), date of birth, name of horse being registered, name of sire of horse being registered (including registration number and volume of the stud book in which that horse was registered), breeder and current owner – and a brief description of the horse being registered (as appears on the passport).

All of this information is imported to the Stud Book using the Grassroots Breeding System.

### Export certificates

Export certificates provided by the Society are required for all females, stallions and entire colts being exported to countries out with the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Applications for these certificates must be submitted by the exporter to the Society three weeks prior to export.

All exports will be accompanied by a zootechnical certificate issued by the Society.

**Note** – For export to USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand entire colts and females must be DNA tested against stated parentage prior to export. For export to remaining countries, entire colts do not require to be DNA tested prior to export but will require to be tested prior to registration as stallions.

## Breeding Objectives and Selection

The objectives of the breeding programme of the Clydesdale Horse Society are:

- To maintain unimpaired purity of the breed of horse known as Clydesdale Horses;
- To promote the preservation, improvement and breeding of the Clydesdale Horse;
- To promote the integrity of the breed and its place in the heritage of rural Britain by setting standards for breeding. The production of an annual Stud Book recording pedigrees and enabling the purity of the breed to be maintained;
- To further in every way the prosperity of the breeding so that it continues to be an important part of the diversity of the rural environment; and
- To promote high standards of stockmanship and animal welfare by encouraging classes at agricultural shows and by providing prizes to encourage the widest participation in the drive to improve standards.

### Selection of breeding animals

Animals for breeding must be registered by the Clydesdale Horse Society and they must be of the Breed type.

Registered Stallions must be certified as being sound by a qualified veterinary surgeon.

Non-registered animals must be of Breed type and approved by the Clydesdale Horse Society before their offspring can be entered in a grade up register.

### **Performance Testing and Genetic Evaluation**

As noted above, the Clydesdale Horse Society invests in computerised systems, maintained and designed by Grassroots Systems Ltd, specialist in the industry of maintaining Breed Records. Updates and support are purchased each year.

It is on this system that the Society records all breed record and it is from this system that all reports including the production of the annual Stud Book are sourced.

All DNA and other genetic testing including parentage testing results are recorded on this system and reports of activity are presented to each quarterly meeting of the Council of the Society.

When stallions or filly foals are registered with the Clydesdale Horse Society each animal must be DNA tested to confirm parentage.

Hair samples are sent to the Weatherbys in Republic of Ireland and only after positive confirmation of parentage is received does the Clydesdale Horse register the animal in question.

It is the responsibility of the breeder to organise DNA tests in consultation with their veterinary surgeon and it is the role of the Society never to issue a passport or other document unless and until a DNA test as required by our rules, has been obtained and found to be satisfactory.

### **Division of Stud Book**

The studbook is composed of a main section and a supplementary section, as set out below.

To qualify for entry into the main section of the studbook a pony must:

- Be descended from parents entered in the main section of the Stud Book of the breed or any other EU approved Stud Book for the breed;
- Have a pedigree established according to the rules of the Stud Book; and
- Be identified as a foal at foot according to the rules of the Stud Book.
- Pure bred breeding animals belonging to another breed are not permitted entry into the Main section of the Clydesdale Horse Society Stud Book.

### Main Section

- Only horses entered in this section can be described as registered Clydesdales.
- Stallions must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate of soundness and suitability for breeding purposes and must be submitted to the Society together with the registration form.
- Horses entered in this Section can compete for any Clydesdale Horse Society awards or trophies.

### Supplementary (Appendix) Section

- Horses in this section cannot be described as Registered Clydesdales.
- This section is for part bred Clydesdale horses i.e. a Clydesdale sire with Clydesdale type mare or Clydesdale type sire with Clydesdale mare.
- All stallions, not entered into the Main Section, will be entered into this section.
- Offspring of stallions entered in this Section will also be entered into this section.
- Stallions and their offspring entered in this section are not entitled to be promoted to the main section.
- Horses in this section are not eligible to compete for any Clydesdale Horse Society awards or trophies.

### Supplementary (Appendix) Section – Grading up process

A grading up register is incorporated as an Appendix to the Stud Book.

- In keeping with EU Regulations and controls, our Stud Book incorporates a separate, grading up register for part bred horses as an appendix to the Stud Book. Grade up horses are not eligible to compete for Clydesdale Horse Society awards. This register is separate and apart from our main breeding

register and is shown as an appendix in the Stud Book. Horses in this appendix cannot be described as Registered Clydesdales.

- Animals eligible to be registered in this appendix will be female produce of the first cross between a fully registered Clydesdale Mare and a stallion of Clydesdale Type or a mare of Clydesdale type and a fully registered Clydesdale Stallion.

#### Filly foals

- Filly foals of a mating described in the previous paragraph will be DNA tested and entered on the Stud Book as grade up fillies in the appendix.
- Filly foals out of a grade up mare by a fully registered Clydesdale stallion are acceptable for full registration in the main stud book but only after DNA testing.
- Breeders who wish to enter fillies in the main part of the stud book must submit photographs of both sides and front of the non-registered Clydesdale parent and that animal's DNA sampled before the filly can be entered in the grade up register in the appendix.

#### Colt foals

- First cross colt foals and colt foal out of a grade up mare are not eligible for registration in the main part of the Stud Book and shall be gelded.
- The Clydesdale Horse Society will rule on whether a horse is of Clydesdale type and any dispute in relation to any decision relating to pedigree rules and in all cases of doubtful or suspicious pedigrees of Clydesdale Horse and all other cases of alleged misrepresentation relating to them which may be brought under notice to the Society shall be dealt with by Council in accordance with procedure in the Stud Book section of the Articles of Association. This procedure involves various elements including a reference to the Executive Committee who will issue a preliminary report stating whether in their view the matter requires investigation. If it is to be investigated then it shall be referred to the Editing Committee for a ruling.

### **Technical Activities**

The organisation used by the Society for DNA testing is Weatherbys Scientific , Unit 1, M7 Business Park, Newhall, Naas, Co Kildare, Republic of Ireland, W91VX86

The Society uses the Grassroots system for breeding record. Their details are: Grassroots Systems Ltd, 2 High House Drive, Inkberrow, Worcs, WR7 4EG

### **Rules of procedure**

All cases of disputes or questions referred to the Society Secretary, Ian Roy, 7 Turretbank Place, Crieff, PH7 4LS, for arbitration and settlement shall be dealt with by Council and the following procedure shall be observed:

- a) Twenty eight days before the meeting of the Council at which the case is intended to be brought forward, statements in writing by both parties shall be sent to the secretary, at the office, setting forth all the facts in dispute and the contentions of the respective parties, and the secretary shall inform the chairman of the Executive Committee thereof. These statements shall be laid before the Executive Committee who shall make a preliminary report thereon to the Council, stating whether, *prima facie*, the case is one which the Council may properly undertake.
- b) If the Council resolve to undertake the arbitration and settlement of the case, it shall be referred to a special committee, with instructions to investigate the same, and to report thereon to a subsequent meeting of the Council.
- c) Fourteen days before the meeting of the Council at which such report is intended to be considered, notice of such intention shall be given to the Council in the manner before prescribed.
- d) The Council may enlarge the time (if any) fixed for making any aware, and may conduct the proceedings in any manner, and either with or without oral evidence, as they may think fit.

The Council will not undertake the arbitration upon or settlement of any dispute or question unless both the parties to such a dispute or question be members of the Society, nor unless both parties give satisfactory assurance to the Council that they will be bound by the decision of the Council as final.

The Clydesdale Horse Society is an equal opportunity Society and no form of discrimination will be tolerated either on account of race, sex or any other form of inequality. Any instance of discrimination encountered will be treated with the utmost seriousness and will immediately be referred to our committee responsible for discipline and procedure.

We encourage active participation in the membership of our Society and all members have full voting rights under the Companies Act including the right to be heard at General Meeting of the Society.

To help secure greater democracy the Society's activities are split into geographical areas and each geographical area has the right to vote on to Council 3 members to serve on that Council, each for a 3 year period, by rotation. Members in each geographical area are encouraged to communicate to the Society through these Council members throughout the year.

Breeders who are non-members of the Society pay a higher fee for the registration of their horses than do full members but in all other respect the rights of breeders (both member and non-member) are equal and remain the same.