

FPS Stallion Grading Scheme 2017

This grading scheme is FREE and VOLUNTARY and will not affect the current FPS stallion licensing rules.

- Grading, during 2017, will take place at the FPS Stallion and Colt Show at Dalemain, Ullswater, Penrith Cumbria CA11 0HB on Saturday 20th May and at the FPS Southern Show, Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead SL6 6QR on Sunday 10th September. Other dates and venues will be arranged if entries are sufficient to make this worthwhile.
- All colts / stallions born in 2012, 2013, 2014 & 2015 are eligible to be graded during 2017. Pony details must be sent to the FPS Office, on a stallion grading entry form, at least 21 days before the grading session. Every pony will be allocated a 20 minute slot in which to be graded and owners will be notified of these times approximately 7 days before the grading session.
- Ponies must be shown unplaited and untrimmed, including head, mane, feather and tail, which should not have been previously plaited as the hair should be straight and silky.
- Stallions and colts must be under the control of a handler aged 14yrs or over. The exhibits forward for grading will be expected to be well behaved. Ill mannered ponies will not be tolerated.
- All ponies must be presented in a 'fit condition' with feet in good condition. All ponies must be familiar with a 'hands on' assessment from the assessor i.e. pick feet up, feel feather & bone and check teeth.
- All ponies will be expected to walk and trot in a controlled manner.
- Grading will be undertaken by a panel of three assessors and marks will be independently awarded as per the Fell Pony Breed Standard (Breed Type / General Characteristics & Scale of Points). The marks awarded by each assessor will be totalled and an average mark will be calculated.
- There will be three grades:
 - Gold:** will be awarded to ponies who achieve 80% or above. These will be of the highest quality and the ones which breeders should be encouraged to use.
 - Silver:** will be awarded to ponies who achieve 65% - 79%. These will be of slightly less quality but still have an important role to play.
 - Bronze:** will be awarded to ponies who achieve 50% - 64%.

- All ponies will receive a FPS certificate stating the grade and this information will be recorded by the FPS and will be published in the FPS Magazine. A premium will be paid to pony owners: Gold £50; Silver £25.
- Colts / stallions who are graded Silver or Bronze in 2017 can be represented no sooner than two years from the first grading (2019).

Andrew Thorpe (Stallion Grading Chairman)