



British Spotted  
Pony Society

## Introduction

Founded in 1947, the *British Spotted Horse and Pony Society* was created with the goal of establishing a formal Studbook. In 1976, the horse and pony sections were separated into two independent societies:

- **The British Appaloosa Society**
  - **The British Spotted Pony Society (BSpPS)**

The BSpPS holds the mother studbook for the British Spotted Pony and is recognised with studbook status by DEFRA.

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## Our Mission

The British Spotted Pony Society (BSpPS) is committed to the **preservation, promotion, and responsible breeding** of the British Spotted Pony—a uniquely British breed with a rich history and distinctive appearance.

Our mission includes:

- **Preserving the Breed's Heritage**

The British Spotted Pony is a rare and historic breed with roots dating back centuries. Through careful record-keeping and selective breeding, we aim to **safeguard its future**, maintaining its unique characteristics and promoting its heritage.
- **Encouraging Quality Breeding**

We work closely with breeders to support the production of **sound, healthy, and well-conformed ponies** with true British Spotted type and markings.
- **Promoting Versatility and Use**

British Spotted Ponies are not only striking in appearance but also intelligent, hardy, and versatile. Whether in **show rings, performance disciplines, therapy settings, or family homes**, we aim to promote awareness of their wide-ranging suitability.
- **Fostering Community and Education**

We strive to **educate** the public, breeders, and future generations about the breed, its care, and its value. By offering **events, awards, newsletters**, and online platforms, we create a welcoming, informed, and passionate community around the British Spotted Pony.
- **Raising Public Awareness**

Through participation in shows, events, regional events like Spotfest, and active online presence, we work to **raise the breed's profile** nationally and internationally, ensuring more people come to appreciate and support this distinctive British Breed.
- **Upholding Welfare and Best Practice**

The health and well-being of the ponies are at the heart of what we do. We advocate for **ethical breeding, proper care, and lifelong responsibility** for all animals registered with the society which is where our designated welfare section comes in.

By pursuing these goals, the British Spotted Pony Society continues to uphold its founding purpose while evolving to meet the challenges and opportunities of the modern equestrian world.

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# Annual Show

Each **July**, the BSpPS hosts its **Annual National Breed Show**. Classes include:

- Breed Classes for Registered British Spotted Ponies
  - Open & Fun Classes for Registered & ID Only British Spotted Ponies
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## Affiliated & Regional Shows

- Affiliated Shows across the country also offer classes for British Spotted Ponies.
    - A current list is available on our website.
  - Spotfest Shows:  
A popular series of regional events open to all spotted or spot-bred equines (registered or not).
    - Dedicated classes for British Spotted Ponies are included.
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## Communication & Updates

Stay connected with us:

- **Newsletters:** Regular society updates and announcements
  - **Facebook Pages:**
    - *British Spotted Pony Society*
    - *Spotfest*
    - Latest news, show results, photos, and more
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## Performance Awards

Each year we run a **Performance Awards Scheme**, open to all members.

- Small entry fee per animal
  - Points awarded for competition results
  - **Rosettes for winners**
  - A great way to showcase and reward ongoing pony achievement
  - **We aim to expand awareness** and participation in this scheme
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## Applications

All application forms are available to **download from the society website**.

### Important Notes:

- Always ensure you're using the **most current forms** – available to download from the society website. This will ensure that the address is up to date.

## For Breeders:

- Submit **annual stallion and mare returns**
- If using a stallion you do not own, you **must obtain a service certificate**

## Foal Registrations:

- Include **clear photographs** of each foal with its dam
  - Carefully **read and follow** form instructions
  - If in doubt, contact the **Registrar** for guidance
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## Contact & Further Information

Visit our **official website** for:

- Forms & documents
- Show listings
- News updates
- Contact information

We are here to help and support breeders, owners, and enthusiasts of this beautiful and unique British Breed.

## BREED STANDARD

### GENERAL CHARACTER

A quality pony with adequate bone & substance, hardy & active with real pony character. Miniature, riding or cob type up to & Including 14.2hh/148cm.

### BREED CHARACTERISTICS

With the exception of the solid colour ponies, at least one of these characteristics must be present in ponies put forward for registration:- White sclera, Striped hooves, Parti-coloured skin - this part dark/part pink skin is most evident where the hair is thinnest (Muzzle, genitals & eyes).

### COLOUR

LEOPARD- spots of any colour on a white or pale basecoat

FEWSPOT- white base coat with only a few spots, often with varnish on legs, stifle, elbow & face.

SNOWFLAKE- White spots on darker basecoat.

BLANKET- White area over hips/hindquarters with or without spots on darker base. Blanket may extend to shoulders.

MOTTLED PATTERN- Coat may be irregularly ticked with white. Indistinct snowflakes and spots give the mottled effect.

VARNISH ROAN- Coat may look like ordinary roan with varnished legs & breed characteristics.

SOLID COLOUR - ponies of proven BSpPS breeding may be registered. Solid Colour Animals with unknown breeding wishing to be considered under our discretion rule – ‘rule 13’ must display BSpPS Characteristics or we may request a hair sample to complete a test for the presence of the LP gene (at the owner’s expense).

### HEAD

Full of quality & true pony character. Big bold eyes set well apart. Ears should be well placed, small, neat and in proportion to the head. Prominent open nostrils. Clean well defined throat. A coarse head or roman nose are discouraged.

## **NECK**

Should have good length & be well carried. Moderately lean in mares but inclined to be more cresty in stallions. A slightly heavier neck is allowed in the cob type.

## **SHOULDERS**

Good, strong, sloping & well laid back. Withers should be well defined but not knifey.

## **FORELEGS**

Should be square & true. Not tied in at the elbow. Long, strong forearms with well developed knee. Short flat bone below the knee. Pasterns of proportionate length & slope. Well shaped dense hooves. The cob type should have a greater abundance of bone without coarseness and a moderate amount of feather when in the rough.

## **BODY**

Muscular, strong, well coupled with plenty of heart room. Good deep girth & well sprung ribs.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

Lengthy, strong, well muscled, not ragged or dropping. Well set on tail. Slightly finer in the riding type.

## **HINDLEGS**

Well let down hocks, large flat clean bone, prominent joints. The hock not to be set behind a line from point of quarter to fetlock joint. No sickle or cow hocks. Pasterns to be of proportionate length & slope. Hooves well shaped & dense.

## **ACTION**

Low, straight from the shoulder, free flowing. Hocks well flexed with straight action coming well under the body.

## **REGISTRATION RULES**

The British Spotted Pony Society will enter into the Studbook animals of the same breed, line or cross who are eligible for entry under the BSpPS breed criteria without discrimination on account of their country of origin.

### **RULE 1**

Ponies to be of small, riding or driving type, including cob type up to & including 14.2hh/148cm. Ponies who mature over this height remain registered with the BSpPS so that their pedigrees may be maintained and used for breeding. However they are not allowed to enter affiliated BSpPS classes.

### **RULE 2**

The following markings are eligible:- Leopard- spots of any colour on a white or pale basecoat. Few Spot- white base coat with only a few spots, often with varnish on legs, stifle, elbow & face. Snowflake- White spots on darker basecoat Blanket- White area over hips/hindquarters with or without spots on darker base. Blanket may extend to shoulders. Mottled pattern- Coat may be irregularly ticked with white. Indistinct snowflakes and spots give the mottled effect. Varnish roan- Coat may look like ordinary roan with varnished legs & breed characteristics. Solid colour ponies of proven breeding may be registered OR a verified test shows presence of the LP gene.

### **RULE 3**

Typical characteristics of the British Spotted Pony are as follows:- White sclera around the eye (similar to the human eye) Striped hooves. Parti-coloured skin – part pink, part dark. This is clearly visible

where the hair is thinnest. With the exception of the solid colour ponies at least one of these characteristics must be present in ponies put forward for registration.

#### RULE 4

In common with all British Native Pony Studbooks (with the exception of the Shetland Pony) ponies and progeny of ponies with skewbald or piebald markings are not accepted for registration. With the availability of colour DNA testing, foals may be tested to ensure that they are negative for the Tobiano gene. They would then be eligible to be registered according to their pedigree.

#### RULE 5

Breeding from grey ponies is discouraged (although not prohibited) because the grey gene is damaging to the spotted coat pattern. Ponies may lose their spots due to the fading factor.

#### RULE 6

Except with an application under the Discretion Rule 13, where a decision can only be made by the committee, the eligibility or otherwise of any registration will be decided by the Registrar. In cases of uncertainty the Registration Committee will be consulted. The Registrar can request an inspection of an animal and may appoint an inspector for this purpose. At the registrars discretion they may also request a DNA Parentage test where parentage can not be verified or the animal is over 12 months of age, a Colour or pattern test may also be requested. The owner is liable for any expenses incurred. An appeal may be made, council would appoint an appeal panel. The panel decision is final.

#### RULE 7

The registered name of an animal cannot be changed. The deletion of a prefix is not allowed. Mistakes may be remedied if a joint application to do so is signed by both the breeder and owner.

#### RULE 8

No breeder may use a prefix unless they have registered it for use with the BSpPS. An application for a new or the extension of an existing one may be made through the BSpPS registrar. No two word prefixes, hyphens or suffixes are allowed. A prefix may only be used on stock bred by the owner of the prefix. The breeder is defined by the BSpPS as the legal owner of the dam at the time of foaling. A breeder may use their own prefix if they have a mare on breeding loan and the loan agreement has a proviso for this. Please lodge a copy of such an agreement with the registrar.

#### RULE 9

Registration/Passport applications and overstamp (apart from those under rule 13) can be made by both BSpPS members and non-members although the latter will pay higher fees. Applications must be made by the owner of the animal and sent to the registrar. Foals MUST have a passport by the time that they are six months old or by 31st December in the year of their birth, whichever is the later. An application must include: Passport Application form with microchip section completed by a vet – ensure the vet signs and stamps the markings chart page. The appropriate fee. All late applications are deemed Duplicate or Replacement. Four good photographs of the animal, two of each side clearly showing markings. Foal photographs should include the dam. Please write animal name and date on the back. If the sire is not owned by the breeder a service certificate should be included. If either parent is registered with a society other than BSpPS please include a copy of their registration. For

overstamp/endorsement application please include a completed form, the fee and a good photograph of each side.

#### RULE 11

##### Youngstock

All foals must be registered by the time that they are six months old or by 31st December in the year of their birth. Passports should be returned to the BSpPS for the addition of adult photographs by 1st April of their fourth year.

#### RULE 12

##### Performance List

Although not forming part of the Stud Book the BSpPS maintains a list of spotted performance ponies. Details are available on request.

#### RULE 13

##### Discretion Rule

The Council expects all applications for entry onto the various registers to comply fully with the established rules. However, in exceptional circumstances, the Council may exercise discretion. Until such time as the Council decides otherwise, a BSpPS member may apply for entry onto the Supplementary Register for a pony that:

- Has good conformation,
- Meets the breed standard, and
- Displays characteristics or presence of the LP gene.

The Council will assess whether acceptance or rejection of such an application best serves the overall objectives of the BSpPS.

##### Conflict of Interest:

No member, including Council members, with any connection to the animal under consideration, may be present during the discussion or decision-making process.

##### Application Requirements:

Any member submitting an application under this rule must provide the Registrar with the full history and all available pedigree details of the pony. The following may also be required:

- An inspection - the Registrar can request an inspection of an animal and may appoint an inspector for this purpose. To be carried out at the owner's expense.
- DNA colour and pattern testing at the owner's expense.
- Stallions must pass a veterinary assessment/license to be eligible for entry.

##### Right of Refusal:

The Council reserves the right to:

- Refuse registration, or
- Cancel an existing registration, if it is deemed that continued registration would be detrimental to the objects of the Society.

Note: This discretionary power has not been exercised since 1996.

## RULE 14

### Main Section 1: Full/Main Register

#### Requirements:

- Ponies must have a minimum of two generations of British Spotted Pony Society (BSpPS) breeding - two BSpPS Main registered parents and four BSpPS-registered grandparents.
- Ponies from the now-defunct Spotted Pony Breed Society (GB) are also accepted if they meet ancestral requirements.

**Main Section 1 'B':** As per DEFRA regulations progeny of unlicensed stallions have a right of entry into the Main Section. Main section 1 'B' requirements are the same as Main Section 1 but for the progeny of unlicensed stallions. This ensures that there is a differentiation between licensed and unlicensed progeny.

*The BSpPS recommends that stallions are licensed to ensure they are free from hereditary defects and conformational faults that could be passed onto progeny.*

## RULE 15

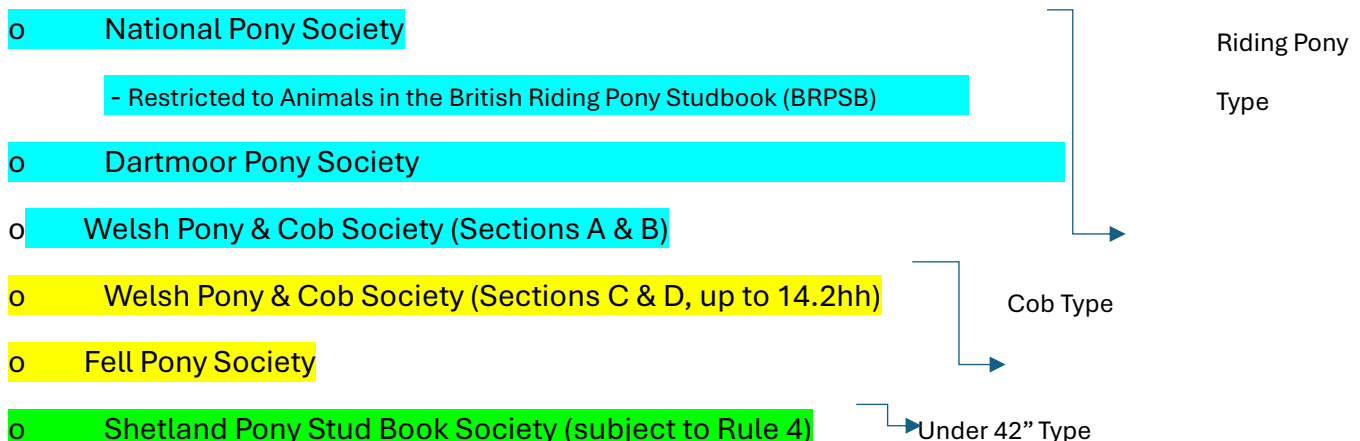
### Main Section 2:

#### Requirements:

- Ponies must have a minimum of 1 generation of British Spotted Pony Society (BSpPS) breeding - two Registered Parents on the BSpPS Main Section 2 or 3.

Or one parent an Allowable Outcross:

- In some cases, an allowable outcross may be used instead of a BSpPS-registered pony. The outcross must be registered with one of the following societies on their Main Register and meet the breed standard. Additional Conditions: The sire from any of the below societies must be licensed with its respective breed society.



- Ponies from the now-defunct Spotted Pony Breed Society (GB) are also accepted if they meet ancestral requirements - They will be considered on a case by case basis.

**Main Section 2 ‘B’:** As per DEFRA regulations progeny of unlicensed stallions have a right of entry into the Main Section. Main section 2 ‘B’ requirements are the same as Main Section 2 but for the progeny of unlicensed stallions. This ensures that there is a differentiation between licensed and unlicensed progeny.

*The BSpPS recommends that stallions are licensed to ensure they are free from hereditary defects and conformational faults that could be passed onto progeny.*

## RULE 16

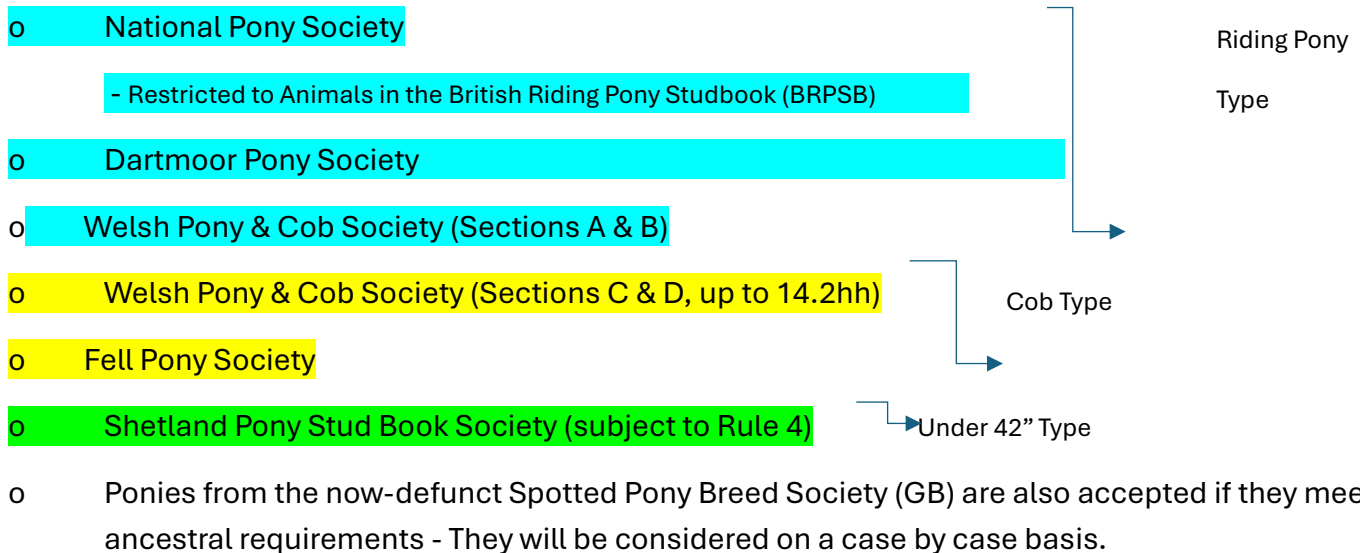
### Main Section 3 - Provisional

Requirements:

- Ponies must have a minimum of 1 generation of British Spotted Pony Society (BSpPS) breeding from two BSpPS Registered Parents, one parent may be Registered in the Supplementary Section - has unknown or incomplete breeding records. These animals are therefore not eligible for Main Section 2.

Or one parent an Allowable Outcross:

- In some cases, an allowable outcross may be used instead of a BSpPS-registered pony. The outcross must be registered with one of the following societies on their Main Register and meet the breed standard. Additional Conditions: The sire from any of the below societies must be licensed with its respective breed society.



**Main Section 3 – Provisional ‘B’:** As per DEFRA regulations progeny of unlicensed stallions have a right of entry into the Main Section. Main section 3 – Provisional ‘B’ requirements are the same as Main Section 3 - Provisional but for the progeny of unlicensed stallions. This ensures that there is a differentiation between licensed and unlicensed progeny.

*The BSpPS recommends that stallions are licensed to ensure they are free from hereditary defects and conformational faults that could be passed onto progeny.*



## RULE 17

### Main Section 4

For progeny of Supplementary or Supplementary Part Bred Section animals that do not meet the breed standard or pedigree requirements for main section 3 and above but have a right of entry into Main Register as per Defra regulations.

## RULE 18

### Supplementary Register

For ponies with less than two BSpPS registered parents or allowable outcrosses. Animals with unknown or incomplete breeding records which mean they are not eligible for the main section — they must meet the breed standard and characteristics set out by the BSpPS (see Members Handbook).

Solid-colour animals with unknown breeding must display BSpPS characteristics. If there is uncertainty, we may request a hair sample to test for the LP gene (at the owner's expense). Presence of the LP gene without characteristics may still gain the animal entry into the Supplementary Register.

Animals with unknown parentage, or parentage that cannot be verified, may gain entry based purely on meeting our breed standard and characteristics. This decision lies with the BSpPS Breed Committee – see Rule 13: The Discretion Rule.

If animals are accepted into the Supplementary Register, they may grade up through one generation, in line with DEFRA regulations.

*Please note – Animals that were issued a Supplementary Passport prior to April 2025 who would like their progeny to grade up to the Main Register must get their animal approved by the BSpPS Breed Committee who will ensure that they meet the Breed Standard for the purposes of progeny grading up.*

#### - Part-Bred Section

This is the supplementary register, Part Bred Section. For ponies who have one parent on the Main register and one parent a non-allowable outcross such as Thoroughbred or Arabian. The non BSpPS parent must be registered in the relevant stud book and if it is the sire it must be licensed. Part-Bred ponies are allowed to be shown in the Society's affiliated classes and in the appropriate classes at the Breed Show.

Grading up - If animals are accepted into the Supplementary Register - Part Bred Section, they may grade up through one generation to Main Register, in line with DEFRA regulations.

Please note that these ponies must meet the breed standard and characteristics set out by the BSpPS (see Members Handbook)."

## RULE 19

### ID Only Register

For horses & Ponies that do not meet the parentage standards for the main section nor meet the breed standard for the Supplementary Register. Known/verified pedigree can be recorded in the non-statutory pages of the passport.

This is a list of spotted/spot bred ponies & horses who do not qualify for registration.

## NOTES

All passports/registrations remain the property of the BSpPS. The Registration Committee can ask for the return of any registration for amendment, endorsement or cancellation. Registration may be cancelled for any breach of the registration rules. Membership and the right to register may be suspended for falsifying a pedigree. The Supplementary Register is of a conditional nature. Whilst entry is carried out by the Registrar/Registration Committee in good faith, in exceptional circumstances Council has the right to cancel registration for a pony that does not comply with the rules. The correctness of pedigree on a Passport Application is the responsibility of the applicant. Duplicate passports can in certain circumstances be issued. An updating service is available for the addition of further photographs to be added to the passport. There is a fee for this service. In the event of the death of an animal the passport must be returned for invalidation. The owner can request the return of the passport after this process. Stallions of 4 years & over must be in possession of a license if being shown in affiliated classes. Breeders should be aware that these rules are likely to be revised with the eventual declared aim of forming a closed stud book. Council cannot introduce retrospective rules and any changes will be notified to the members two years before their implementation. No pony by an unknown or unlicensed stallion is eligible for registration. A passport could be issued on the Supplementary Register. As an exception to this rule a foal with both parents registered in the main register would be eligible for registration on the Main B register. Applications where one parent is registered with another society, a copy of their registration must be included in the application. Foal photographs should include the dam.

## ID ONLY

For horses & Ponies that do not meet the parentage standards for the main section nor meet the breed standard for the Supplementary Register. Known/verified pedigree can be recorded in the non-statutory pages of the passport.

Animals that are ID ONLY are not eligible to enter BSpPS affiliated Classes.

## GUIDELINES FOR SHOWING & JUDGING

Classes should be judged using the Breed Standard, based on conformation including correct bite and movement. Manners may be a consideration depending on class description. Coat colour and markings should only be taken into consideration if two ponies are equal in all other aspects. Judges must not judge ponies which they or their immediate family have bred, sold, leased, produced or received financial gain from except stud fees. The Judge's decision is final. All ponies exhibited in British Spotted Pony classes must be registered with the BSpPS and shown in their registered name. Exhibitors and their grooms should present themselves neatly and smartly dressed. Whips/canes must not exceed 30". In Working Hunter Pony classes spurs are not allowed. Hard hats to the current safety standard must be worn at all times when mounted. Foals may be shown in a halter or

headcollar Youngstock and Brood mares may be shown in a halter, headcollar or bridle. Stallions and colts three years old & over must be adequately bitted. Junior ridden/novice/family ponies must be shown in a snaffle. The age of a pony is calculated from 1st January in the year of its birth. All ridden ponies and Brood mares must be four years and over. Three year old mares with foals at foot are not allowed to enter youngstock classes. Stallions and colts of four years and over must have a BSpPS Stallion License. Ponies manes may be plaited, hogged or left natural, tails may be plaited, pulled or left natural. Ponies may be clipped (only after they are 12 months old) or left natural. Foals must not be clipped but show trimming is allowed. The cosmetic enhancement of spots and the use of stage make up is not allowed.

## MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The BSpPS is a small, friendly and helpful society. It unites those interested in preserving, improving, protecting and enjoying British Spotted Ponies. The BSpPS has a policy of open communication via the elected council. Members are encouraged to make their views known. Rules are kept to a minimum. All we ask is that members help each other, act with fairness, integrity and are honest in all their dealings. Members should conduct themselves in a manner befitting a respected Breed Society. Any grievances should be brought to the society's attention using established procedures. The BSpPS aims to give members and non members alike the best possible service. We would take any complaint very seriously. If you are dissatisfied with our service we would deal with your complaint in the following manner:

- 1) We will acknowledge receipt of your complaint by telephone, email or post by return.
- 2) Within 10 working days we will try to find a solution agreeable to you. If an acceptable solution cannot be found we will refer the matter to the next BSpPS council meeting. We will write or email to explain how your complaint will be dealt with.
- 3) We will contact you within three working days of the meeting to give you council's decision. If in your opinion the decision is unacceptable you may appeal under the appeals procedure. An appeal must be made within fourteen days and will be considered at the next council meeting.

## PRIVACY POLICY

The British Spotted Pony Society is committed to protecting your privacy and security. Whenever you provide personal information, we will treat that information in accordance with this policy, current UK Data Protection legislation and Internet best practice. Any personal information held will be kept securely. No personal information held will be given to any third party. (With the exception of goods delivery services) No information will be held for any longer than is necessary. Details such as banking information will be destroyed after 2 years of non use.

## PASSPORT INFORMATION

There is a mandatory legal requirement for the BSpPS to hold passport information about the horse/pony and owner. This information may be passed to Defra in order to carry out their responsibilities regarding EU equine ID requirements. It will also be used for disease control, surveillance activities and to assist in tracing the owners of stray, lost or stolen animals. This data will

also help to reduce malpractice in the sale of ponies & horses. Defra will also provide information to third parties or organisations or persons contracted by Defra for the purposes of research & evaluation. Defra will be joint data controller for the mandatory information. Data may be shared if necessary with other Central Government Departments, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Local Authorities and other enforcement agencies. Defra may be required to release data under the Freedom of Information act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 however neither Defra nor their agents will permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality, nor will they act in contravention of their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET POLICY

The BSpPS acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin, home web pages, chat rooms and all other forms of electronic communication. We are aware of the role that social media plays in the day to day lives of BSpPS members. This policy note is just to remind members that the BSpPS rules apply to members when using social media or the internet. Failure to adhere to this policy could lead to disciplinary action being taken. Using Social Media a) You should be aware that the BSpPS may from time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the BSpPS and its members. b) The BSpPS produced images are subject of copyright and should not be copied or used in social media. c) You should ensure that any material that you transmit to or post on social media is clearly stated to be your personal view. Such items must not be held to be, nor could be mistaken for, the view of the BSpPS d) You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the BSpPS, its members/former members. Material must not be derogatory to the character nor prejudicial to the interests of the BSpPS. e) You must not post or transmit any material relating to the BSpPS, members/former members or their ponies/horses which could otherwise be or associated or may reasonably be attributed as coming from the BSpPS. This might constitute or encourage conduct that would be in breach of the BSpPS rules, or constitute a criminal offence, give rise to a civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of a third party in the UK (or any other country) f) Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the BSpPS rules and could also lead to a civil and/or criminal prosecution. g) If officers of the BSpPS deem that an inappropriate post or transmission has been made then they will contact the appropriate administrator to request that the item be removed. Social Media can be a fun friendly place too. Enjoy interacting with other spotted enthusiasts.

**DISCLOSURE UNDER LAW OR LEGISLATION** Members should be aware that the BSpPS will fully cooperate with any law enforcement authorities or court order which directs us to disclose the identity of or locate anyone in breach of this policy. If a request is made by the police or any other regulatory or government authority, investigating suspected illegal activities to provide your personal information then the BSpPS will comply. The society is entitled to do this.