

Special Pony Issue!

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SIDELINES

PONIES

What You Don't Know about Today's Shetland Pony... And Why these Small Equines that are Growing BIG in Popularity

The Shetland ponies of yesteryear were often linked with the Thelwell cartoons, but today's Shetland is a more akin to a small-refined sport horse. Shetland Ponies are easy to keep and provide an affordable equine outlet for children and adults of all ages. Whether you are just getting started in horses, introducing your children to riding and driving, 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.

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. So there's a Shetland Pony perfectly suited to almost everyone's needs. According to ASPC Marketing Director, Johnny Robb, "Our biggest challenge is overcoming the misconceptions that people have about Shetland Ponies. Whenever I bring my Shetland's to a show, I feel like the pied piper. Children and adults flock to them and ask what kind of pony is that. They always seemed surprised when the learn they are ogling over a Shetland Pony."

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. The American Shetland Pony club hosts hundreds of annual awards programs to recognize the achievements of Shetland Ponies and their owners.

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.

Classic Shetland Ponies are a refined version of their Scottish ancestors. They have been selectively bred for 100 years and the result is



sturdy pony with appealing conformation. Classic Shetlands can be up to 46" at the wither. They are the perfect size starter pony for children. 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 4 or more ponies in hand. Whatever the challenge, the ever-appealing Classic Shetland Pony is ready to excel.

Modern Shetland Ponies combine 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. Modern Shetland Ponies are shown in two height categories, under 43" at the wither and 43-46" at the wither. They excel in performance classes including roadster, harness, and pleasure driving.

A well-trained Modern Shetland makes an athletic responsive mount for a child and can be used for everything from gymkhana to the popular pony jumper division. Modern Shetlands are a thrill to watch and even more exciting to own and compete.

The American Show Pony is similar to the Modern Shetland Pony with its animated gait and brilliance. However, American Show Ponies can measure up to 48" at the wither. They can be of Shetland or Hackney breeding or a combination of the two. These larger, flashy ponies are especially suited to driving and draw a lot of attention in the show ring.

The American Shetland Pony Club offers national and world championship level competitions for American Show Ponies and recognizes their unique accomplishments with special year-end awards for top ponies in the division.

For more information about Shetland Ponies visit www.shetland-miniature.com or write the American Shetland Pony Club, 81-B East Queenwood Road, Morton, IL 61550 309-263-4044



From their early history of pulling ore carts in coalmines, Shetlands have retained an innate driving ability and their popularity as a driving pony for children and adults alike is ever growing. Classic Shetlands can be found driving along or country lane or holding their own in highly competitive driving events