

THE NEWFOUNDLAND PONY

The Newfoundland Pony is an "all purpose" pony and has many desirable characteristics - strength, stamina, courage, intelligence, obedience, willingness and common sense. Newfoundland Ponies are hard workers and easy keepers.



The ancestors of the Newfoundland Pony arrived with the island's early settlers from the British Isles. These ancestors were primarily Exmoor, Dartmoor and New Forest ponies and to a lesser extent Welsh Mountain, Galloway (now extinct), Highland and Connemara ponies. They were hardy creatures, already well adapted to the harsh climate of the islands of the North Atlantic. Over subsequent centuries, and with little outside influence, the hardiest of these early pony immigrants to Newfoundland interbred and eventually evolved into one common pony type, now recognized as the Newfoundland Pony.



In the past, the Newfoundland Pony was used to plough gardens, haul fishing nets and fish, kelp and wood, gather hay, and provide their families with transportation around the island. These functions were replaced by modern technology and the pony population plummeted. To protect this special and historic pony, the Newfoundland government has recognized it as a Heritage Animal. The current Newfoundland Pony population is estimated at 400 to 450 animals worldwide. An ongoing effort on the part of concerned individuals from across Canada has stabilized the population. However, the Newfoundland Pony continues to be identified as a critically endangered species by Rare Breeds Canada.

Today, the Newfoundland Pony is used for riding, driving and light draft work. They make excellent mounts for children and adults and excel under saddle and harness.