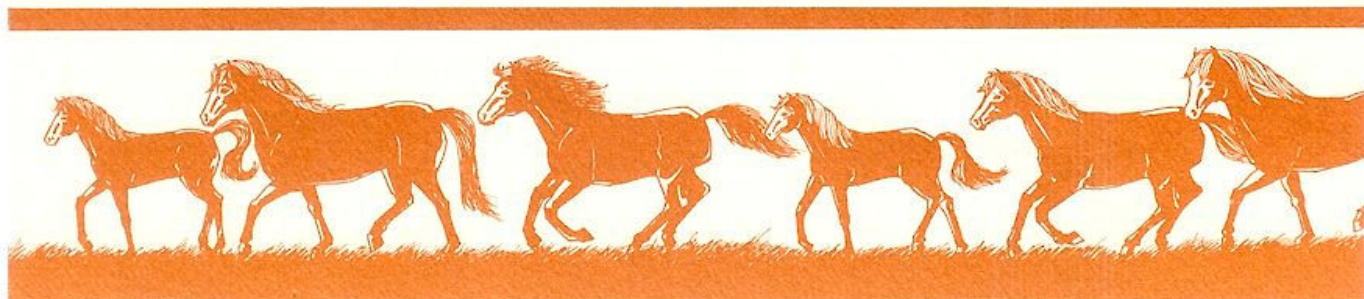


THE WELSH PONY



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EARLY HISTORY AND HERITAGE

The original home of the Welsh Mountain pony was in the hills and valleys of Wales. He was there before the Romans. His lot was not an easy one. Winters were severe. Vegetation was sparse. Shelter, most often, was an isolated valley or a clump of bare trees. Yet the Welsh pony managed not only to survive, but to flourish.

Led by proud stallions, bands of mares and their foals roamed in a semi-wild state, climbing mountains, leaping ravines, running over rough terrain. This sort of existence insured perpetuation of the breed through only the most hardy of stock. Hence, the development of a pony with a remarkable soundness of body, a tremendous endurance, and a high degree of native intelligence.

Even an edict of Henry VIII that all horses under 15 hands be destroyed, did not eliminate the Welsh. Hiding in desolate areas where his persecutors were reluctant or unable to go, he continued to live and reproduce, preserving for mankind a distinctive strain of pony that today has generated enthusiasm among breeders and pony lovers all over the world.

Down through the years, the Welsh pony has served many masters. There is evidence to support the belief that he pulled chariots in vast sports arenas. He has worked in coal mines, on ranches, and on postmen's routes. He has been pampered by royalty and neglected on the farms of the poor.

But the Welsh pony has adapted himself to the whims and needs of humans as easily as to his environment. He loves people. He responds well to proper treatment and discipline. He can be trusted. He is an ideal pony for a growing child and he has the spirit and endurance to challenge an adult.

Because of his heritage, the Welsh pony is not bothered by the somewhat extreme variations of climate and terrain encountered in the United States and Canada.

That the Welsh pony carries a trace of Arabian blood seems beyond doubt. However, he has maintained his own dominant physical characteristics over the years. It has been demonstrated

that the Welsh crosses well with many other breeds, and this is, to some breeders, an important aspect of his unusual versatility.

One of the most noted Welsh breeders recently wrote: "The blood of the Welsh Mountain pony of perfect type can improve any other blood with which it is mixed. This is a very strong statement to make, but I have had ample opportunity to prove it."

PERSONALITY TRAITS AND CHARACTERISTICS

In spite of adversity and neglect in early years, the Welsh pony picked up no permanent scars either in his physical development or in his personality.

The purebred Welsh pony of today is an animal of great beauty and refinement. He has a proud, aristocratic bearing. Yet he has the substance, the stamina, and the soundness of body and wind which are characteristic of animals that long have lived close to nature.

The purebred Welsh of today has a friendly personality and an even temperament. He is extremely intelligent and constantly alert. He has spirit, but this spirit is combined with gentleness and a willingness to obey. He does not resent discipline and shows respect for the master, young or old, who shows respect for him.

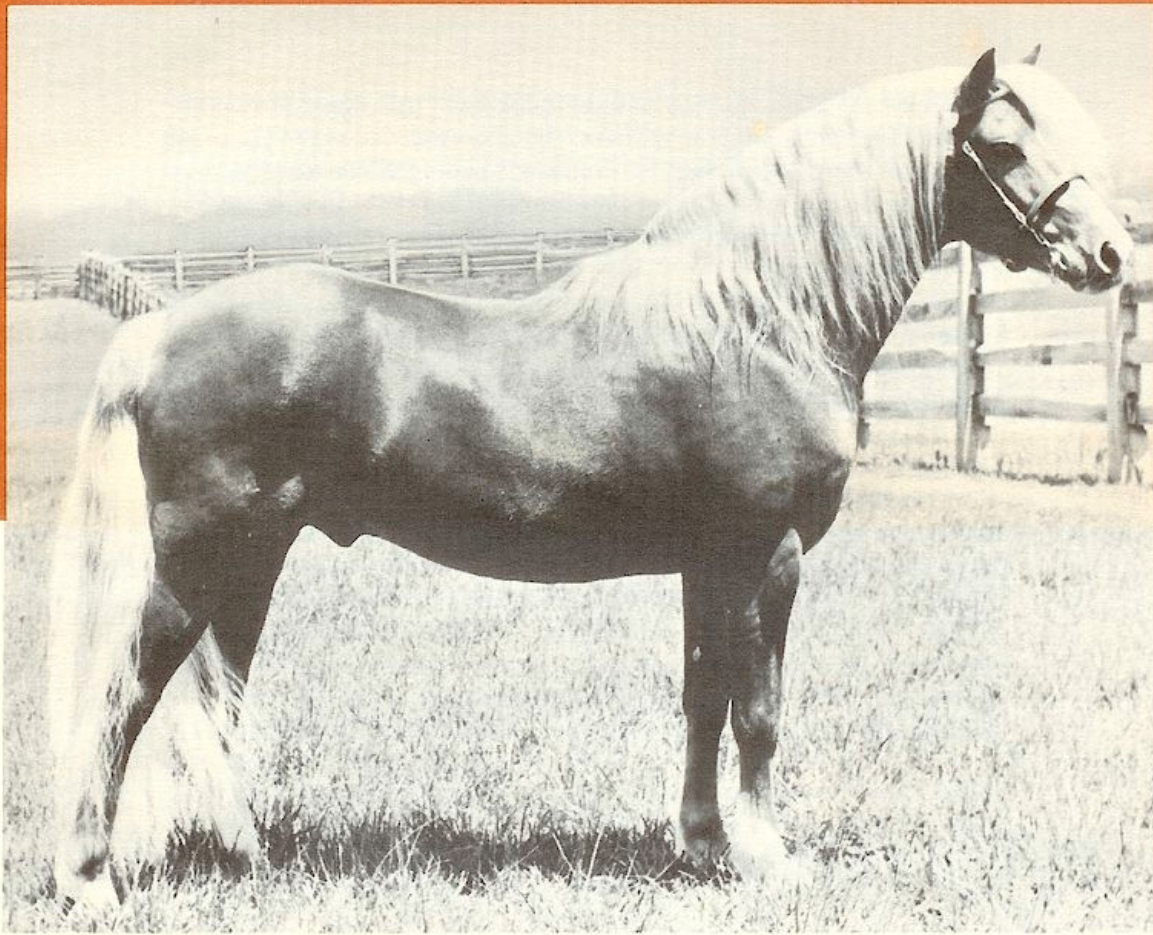
For those unacquainted with the Welsh, the first sight of a small herd, perhaps grazing in a hollow near a stream, is something to be remembered . . . "They are startled at your approach. For one second they stand with heads erect, nostrils distended, ears pricked and tails held high. Then they are off, flying over the rocks and rough ground, sure-footed and beautiful, their manes and tails tossed in the wind.

"In selecting the one we want, we shall look for the great bold eye, the tiny head, short back, strong quarters, high set of tail, fine hair, hocks that do not turn in, the laid-back shoulder, the straight foreleg, and the short, so very short, cannon bone."

One of the outstanding breeders of Welsh has said: "The bigger the eye the better, the deeper through the heart the stronger, the prouder the lift of the head the more courageous, the swifter the action the more fearless."

The pure Welsh pony may be any color: black, gray, bay, roan, cream, or chestnut. He can never be piebald or skewbald, and gaudy white markings are not popular.

In the United States the terms Welsh Mountain pony and Welsh pony are used interchangeably. They are distinguished in the British Stud Book principally by height alone. In the British



ESSENTIAL POINTS OF CONFORMATION

General Character	Hardy, spirited and pony-like.		
Color	Any color except piebald and skewbald.		
Head	Small, clean-cut, well set on, and tapering to the muzzle.		
Eyes	Bold.		
Ears	Well placed, small and pointed, well up on the head, proportionately close.		
Nostrils	Prominent and open.		
Jaws and Throat	Clean and finely cut, with ample room at the angle of the jaw.		
Neck	Lengthy, well-carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of matured stallions.		
Shoulders	Long and sloping well back. Withers moderately fine but not "knifey." The humerus upright so that the foreleg is not set in under the body.		
Forelegs	Set square and true, and not tied in at the knees. Long strong forearm, well		
			developed knee, short flat bone below knee, pasterns of proportionate slope and length, feet well shaped and round, hoofs dense.
Back and Loins	Muscular, strong and well coupled.		
Girth	Deep.		
Ribs	Well sprung.		
Hind Quarters	Lengthy and fine. Not cobby, ragged or goose-rumped. Tail well set on and carried gaily.		
Hind Legs	Hocks to be large, flat and clean with points prominent to turn neither inwards nor outwards. The hind leg not to be too bent. The hock not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. Pasterns of proportionate slope and length. Feet well shaped, hoofs dense.		
Action	Quick, free and straight from the shoulder, well away in front. Hocks well flexed with straight and powerful leverage and well under the body.		

Welsh Stud Book, ponies listed under the "A" division cannot exceed 12 hands at the withers. In the American Welsh Stud book, the limit is 12.2 hands. Ponies exceeding these heights, but not more than 14 hands are listed under the "B" division of the American book. In recent years there has been increased interest in "B" ponies.

The general physical characteristics of an acceptable Welsh pony are outlined on Page 5. These are the characteristics which experienced breeders look for when selecting Welsh ponies for breeding and registration.

Although essential points of conformation can be listed, and should be considered, it is the combination of desirable physical characteristics, plus a pony's highly individual personality, plus one's own preference for color, which makes a pony exactly the *right* pony for any one person.

One of the great thrills of breeding Welsh ponies is the chance or calculated mating of two animals, so compatible and complementary, that they produce a near-perfect specimen. This is the challenge. And the goal, with carefully chosen Welsh stock, is not unattainable.

GROWTH OF THE BREED IN AMERICA

Welsh ponies were imported by American breeders as early as the 1880's. George E. Brown of Aurora, Illinois, appears to have been one of the first real Welsh enthusiasts, importing a large number of animals between 1884 and 1910. Principally through his efforts and those of John Alexander, The Welsh Pony & Cob (the word "Cob" was dropped in 1946) Society of America was formed and certification for the establishment of a breed registry was issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on July 30, 1907.

By 1913 a total of 574 Welsh had been registered, and the owner-breeder list showed applications coming from Vermont, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Texas, Oregon, Iowa, Massachusetts, New York City, and Canada. The popularity of the Welsh was spreading, and his great versatility was already becoming apparent, not only because he was adapting himself well to any geographical area, but because he was being put to many uses, both by children and adults.

It was the concern of early importers and breeders that a "purity of the breed" be maintained, and this subject was regularly discussed with Welsh and English breeders who had established their own registry in 1901. Mr. Brown summarized his views in this way in a report to members of the American Society:

“With a correct standard fixed and uniformly adhered to, nothing can block the advancement of Welsh to front rank in their classes.” He called the Welsh “the grandest little horse yet produced.”

Interest in the Welsh pony took a drop during the depression years, but through the combined efforts of breeders, particularly those in the East, participation in shows and fairs continued. Beginning in the mid-50’s, “many new members joined the Society, more ponies were imported, interest spread enormously, breeding classes increased in size and number, and a start was made in drawing up a panel of approved judges.”

By the close of 1957, a total of 2881 Welsh had been registered, and the surging growth of the breed began to require annual publication of the Stud Book.

Over the past decade, the Welsh has been the fastest-growing breed of pony in America. An average of more than 500 new owners is recorded annually. Registered Welsh now may be found throughout the 50 states and Canada. However, large numbers of people have not yet had the good fortune to see a truly outstanding Welsh pony in the natural setting of a grassy valley, in a trotting race, or with a blue-ribbon at a show or fair.

Today’s Welsh pony is a quality animal of unusual versatility and wide use. To see him is to admire him and love him. To own him, and enjoy his companionship, is a privilege that certainly will be enjoyed by more and more people over the years ahead.

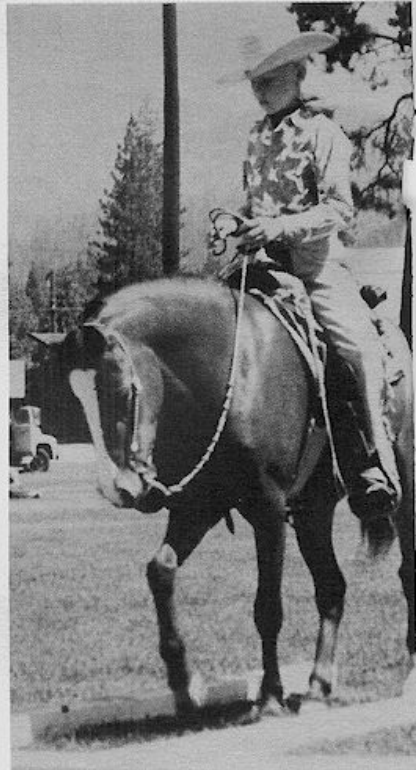
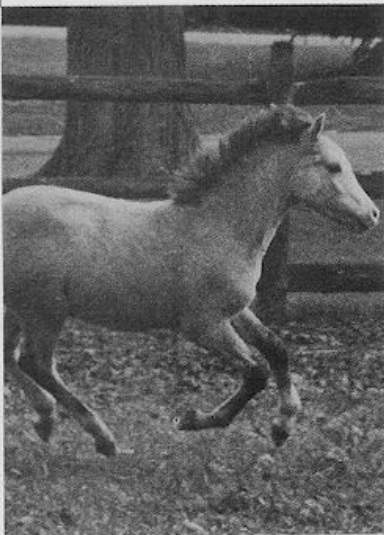
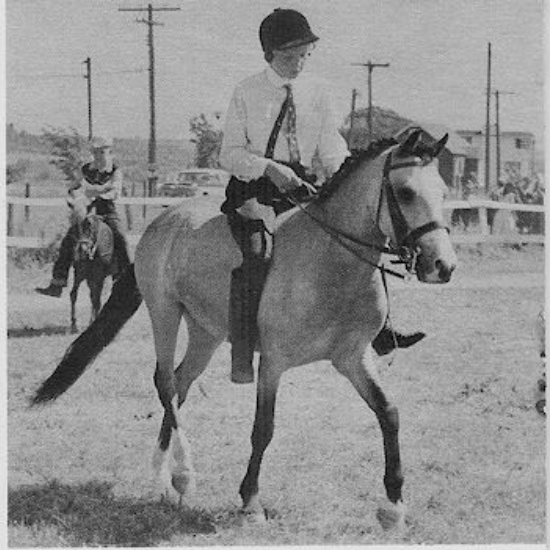
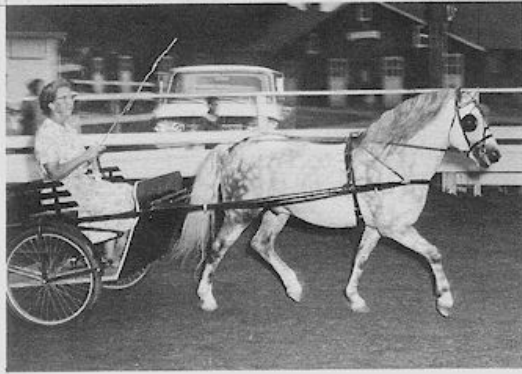
USES OF THE VERSATILE WELSH PONY

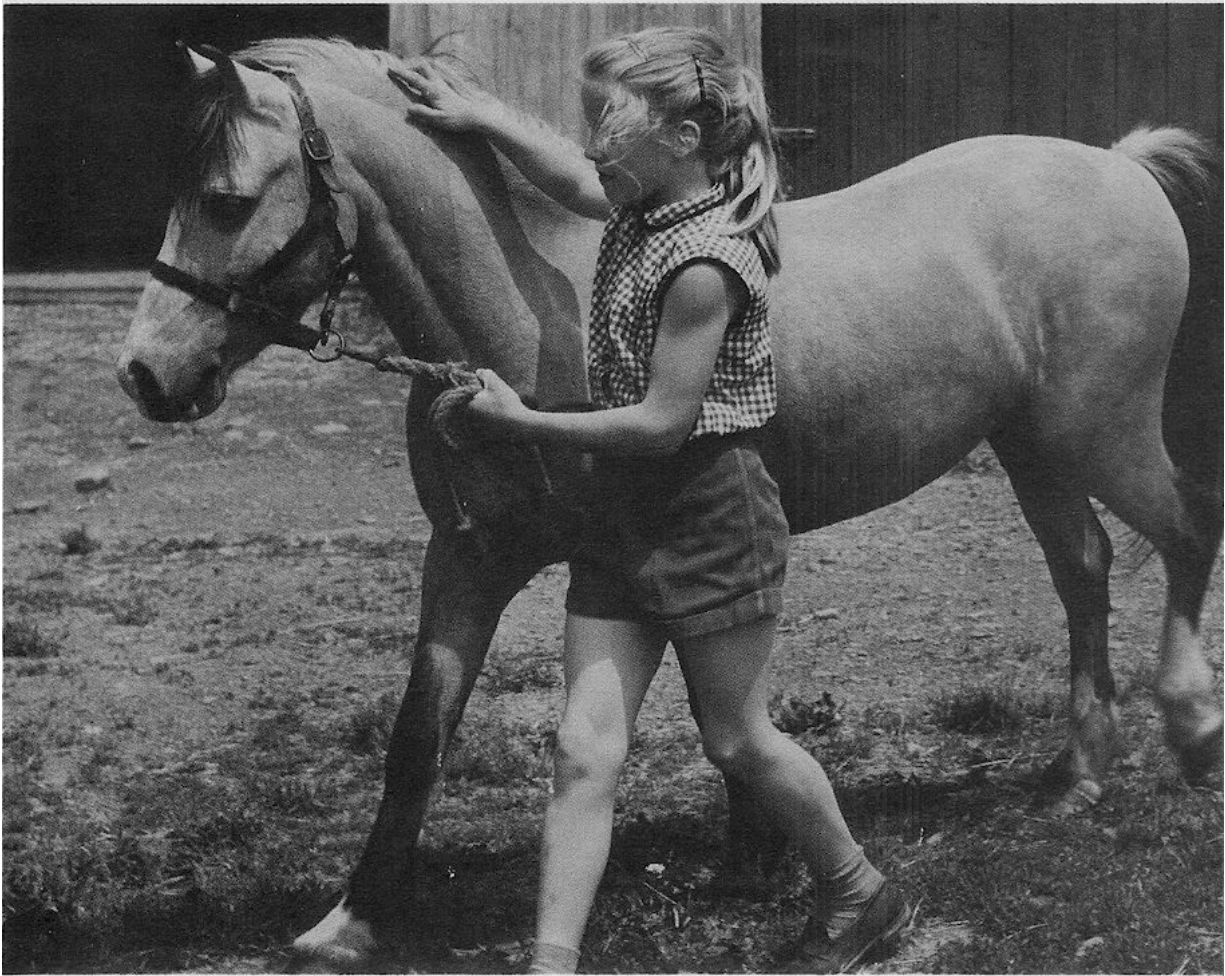
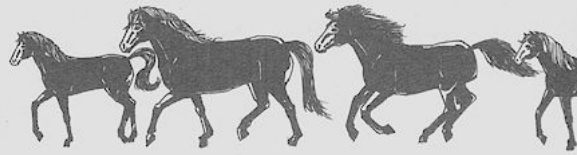
The Welsh pony combines the most admirable qualities of the smaller pony and the light horse and his uses exceed both. In temperament he may be so quiet as to be suitable for the very young; or, he may be more spirited and active, and thus ideal for the growing youngster and teen-ager. He is being used increasingly in 4-H, Vo-Ag, and Future Farmer projects, and is shown successfully at fairs and shows by youngsters. He is the first choice of the family wanting a “child’s pony” that is friendly, responsive, and dependable.

Because of his inherent quality, intelligence, and beauty, the Welsh pony is also the favorite of adults who can show him with pride, regardless of the competition. Because of his great natural action, speed, and endurance he is unsurpassed in the rapidly-growing field of racing.

The wide range of uses is illustrated on the following pages.

The Versatile Welsh Pony





AN INVITATION TO YOU

The quality of the Welsh pony speaks for itself. A good understanding and appreciation of the breed can therefore best be gained by seeing the Welsh in his most natural state.

Students, teachers, prospective owners, and others are encouraged to visit the farm or ranch of one or more member-breeders of the Society. A printed list of these people is available.

It is also recommended that those interested in the Welsh make an attempt to see him at county and state fairs, at 4-H shows, and at local races. Many national events also feature the Welsh pony and an Annual Welsh Show is held.

Most of the larger Welsh breeders have young stock for sale at all times. Mature stallions and mares can also be purchased, including both imported and native stock. Welsh auctions are held at various times in different sections of the nation. These present fine opportunities for studying and purchasing outstanding stock.

Those who wish to start breeding Welsh on a limited scale may want to purchase one or more mares or fillies and use the services of a top stallion standing in the area. Bred mares are featured at spring sales, and bred mares with foals at their sides can often be purchased in late summer or fall.

The breeders of both fine light horses and smaller ponies have successfully crossed with Welsh. The Welsh has an unusually high capacity for transmitting his best qualities through carefully selected crosses. Exceptionally good show-type animals are often produced in this way.

For those who wish it, packets of literature on the Welsh pony are available from the Society's office for \$1.00. Area representatives of the Society are also anxious to provide any kind of help.

~~The Welsh News, a magazine devoted exclusively to the breeding and promotion of Welsh ponies, is published by the Society. Free sample copies are available.~~

The breeder of Welsh ponies derives a wide variety of dividends from his efforts. Whether he is interested principally in pleasure or profit, there are few personal satisfactions which can match that of owning and perpetuating such a distinctive breed of animal.

For additional information, write to the address below or contact the person or organization from which this booklet was received.

THE WELSH PONY SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

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