

## FELL PONIES IN THE USDF ALL-BREEDS PROGRAM

Anyone familiar with the Fell Pony knows that it is true – good things *do* come in smaller packages! A rare breed native to northern England, the Fell Pony is known for its hardiness, natural stamina, and versatility. For centuries it has been used in a variety of pursuits – as a shepherds’ mount, pack pony, for hunting, light draft work, riding and driving for the disabled, jumping, as well as for dressage. It has thus been said that “You cannot put a Fell to the wrong job!”

The first Fell Pony stud book was actually established in the late 1800’s by the Polo Pony Society, when Fells were used as foundation stock for producing “top class” riding and polo ponies. Standing at up to 14 hands high, the purebred Fell pony is powerfully-built with great bone and is up to the weight of most adult riders, while its kind and sensible nature is also ideal for older children. In addition, the Fell Pony’s intelligence, outstanding conformation and movement are also very well-suited for dressage, with characteristic long and sloping shoulders, well-balanced knee and hock action, and ground-covering gaits. Not only is the Fell Pony highly athletic but it is also a very attractive mount with a luxurious mane, tail and “feather”, and although it is most commonly black, it may also be bay, brown or grey.

**Fell Ponies You Might Know:** While the Fell Pony is very rare, the breed is fairly well-known in its homeland as a longstanding favorite of the Royal Family, being ridden by HM Queen Elizabeth II and also driven regularly in competition by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. In the USA, however, the Fell Pony is still “getting its feet wet” in the dressage ring due to its rarity. At present there are only about 300 Fell ponies in North America, with the majority being young stock or breeding stock. However, as the young

stock continue to mature, more Fell ponies have begun to compete in dressage, and we expect to see great things out of them in the near future! Among others these include **Laurelhighland Victor** (gelding) and **Laurelhighland Frivolity** (mare), owned by Lisa Lindholm in Minnesota, **Hintor** (stallion) owned by Kevin and Ann Tarsagian in Rhode Island, **Littletree Born Supremacy** (stallion) owned by Allison Wolff in Oregon, **Mustahevonen Zorro** (gelding) owned by Elise Miller in Washington, and **Generaal de Knip** (gelding) owned by Elaine Olsen in California.



*Littletree Born Supremacy ("Jason") and Darci Traxler at National Dressage Pony Cup 2008 (Photo courtesy of Allison Wolff)*



*Laurelhighland Victor and Keri Erickson in 2008 (Photo courtesy of Lisa Lindholm)*

**The Organization:** The Fell Pony Society of North America, Inc. (FPSNA) is the oldest registered Fell Pony organization in North America, and was the first Registered Overseas Branch of the Fell Pony Society - UK (FPS). Our mission is to promote and preserve the Fell Pony breed in North America in ways that are consistent with the rules and regulations of FPS. FPSNA, Inc. is also federally-recognized as a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**All-Breeds Awards Offered:** All classes in the Open, Junior/Young Rider, and Adult Amateur Divisions (Training Level through Grand Prix), Dressage Sport Horse Breeding Division (11 levels in-hand for all ages), and Materiale Classes (for ponies 4 years or older).

**How to Participate:** Only purebred Fell Ponies that are registered with FPS or a recognized Daughter Society, and that are allowed to be shown as a Fell Pony according to FPS regulations, are eligible to compete. Ponies must be at least 4 years old to compete in any ridden class. The owner and rider must be USDF member(s), and the Fell Pony must have a USDF Lifetime Horse Registration (LHR) and compete, both under its full FPS-registered name, when scores are earned. The owner and rider must also be member(s) of the Fell Pony Society of North America, Inc. (FPSNA).

**Organization Contact Information:** *Fell Pony Society of North America, Inc.* [info@fpsna.org](mailto:info@fpsna.org)  
[www.fpsna.org](http://www.fpsna.org) (218) 263-5217

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