

## *Béar Glen Connemaras*

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Additional Information for owners of purebred and part bred Connemaras:

In light of the recent confirmation of a recessive heritable hoof defect known as Hoof Wall Separation disease in Connemara Ponies we require verification of HWSD status for all purebred Connemara pony mares before accepting your Breeding Agreement/Contract.

HWSD appears to occur only in the Connemara pony and the carrier frequency has been estimated to be about 14.8%. A DNA test for this specific mutation can determine if ponies are normal or if they carry one or two copies of the mutation. Ponies that carry two copies of the mutation are highly likely to be affected with the disease. Some cases are milder while others are more severe. We have identified at least one case where the pony does not appear to have clinical signs associated with having two copies of the mutation. This indicates that the mutation is not fully penetrant; however it has very high penetrance of 96.8%.

Ponies that are carriers of HWSD are completely normal and they can be safely bred to non-carriers. To determine your mares HWSD status go to The University of California Veterinary Genetics Laboratory website for additional information and arrange for testing.