



DARTMOOR COMMONERS' COUNCIL

Code of Guidance for Grazing Ponies on the Commons of Dartmoor

1. A Code of Guidance for the grazing of ponies on Dartmoor shall be enforced from 1 April 2005.
2. The Dartmoor Commoners' Council seeks to ensure proper standards of livestock husbandry, specifically using regulations 8 and 15 to control the grazing and quality of the stallions, colts and fillies kept on the commons.
3. Mature stallions must be inspected, approved and branded before being allowed to graze on the commons.
4. Stallions presented for inspection must be suitably hardy and of sound conformation.
5. All Moorland breeds/crosses are eligible for approval therefore there is no restriction as to colour but animals should not exceed 12.2hh
6. Young stallions must be removed from the commons by 1 January each year and not returned until they are rising three years old, approved by the Dartmoor Commoners' Council and branded
7. Filly foals may remain on the commons but must be branded for identification purposes by 1 January following the year of their birth.
8. Ponies not meeting the requirements set out in this Code of Guidance will become prohibited animals and impounded.
9. The usual penalties shall apply to the offending pony keepers.

DARTMOOR COMMONERS' COUNCIL – REGULATION 8

No person shall depasture a prohibited animal on the commons or a designated unit thereof during a prohibited period. A prohibited period shall be a period designated by the Council in accordance with advice concerning animal health or other matter or because of any outbreak of infection or of notifiable disease or in response to such locally prevailing circumstances as cause the Council to consider that the commons should not be stocked during that period and may apply either to all the commons or to such unit or units thereof as the Council decides. A prohibited animal may be an animal of any description as the Council may decide.

When the Council has determined that a prohibited period is necessary and the appropriate extent thereof the Secretary of the Council shall send to the secretary of all those Commoners' Associations whose commons are affected by the prohibition notice of the prohibited period and the prohibited animal or animals together with the reason for the prohibition and shall advertise notice of such prohibition in a newspaper circulating in the area of such commons.

DARTMOOR COMMONERS' COUNCIL – REGULATION 15

The Council may require the removal of stock from the commons or from a particular part of the commons where stock is being grazed or fed in contravention of any Code of Guidance approved by the Council or in order to prevent or limit damage to the commons.