

MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND CLASSES

by Karen Chorney

What is Mountain & Moorland?

Mountain & Moorland refers to a group of native pony breeds that originated on the moorlands, highlands and heathlands of the British Isles. These breeds were shaped by centuries of living in rugged, often harsh environments, which gave them their characteristic hardiness, sure-footedness and kind temperaments. Today they are celebrated not only as wonderful riding and driving ponies, but as living pieces of British heritage.

M&M breeds are divided into two groups — small breeds and large breeds:

Small Breeds: Dartmoor, Exmoor, Shetland, Welsh Section A, Welsh Section B

Large Breeds: Connemara, Dales, Fell, Highland, New Forest, Welsh Section C, Welsh Section D

To compete in M&M classes at the Western Canadian Pony Classic, ponies must be registered with their respective breed society, registered partbreds are also eligible to compete.

In-Hand Classes

In in-hand classes, the handler leads the pony rather than riding it, making this a wonderful way to showcase young ponies that are not yet under saddle — and a great starting point for competitors who are new to showing.

Ponies are shown at a walk and trot, with manes, tails and feathers left natural — no braiding is required or expected. Judges look for breed type, correct conformation and free, natural movement.



Welsh Section B pony PC:M.Tanney

Class Structure

Our M&M in-hand classes are divided by breed size and age.

Youngstock classes are for ponies three years of age and under, while senior classes are for ponies four years and over. Each have separate classes for small and large breeds, and the top two from each class proceed to their respective championships.

Both the Junior and Senior Champion and Reserve ponies then compete for the overall Grand Championship. This is the pinnacle of our M&M in-hand division — and comes with a cash prize!

All in-hand classes are pointed, meaning ponies accumulate points based on their placings throughout the division. These points contribute toward the M&M High Point Award.

Turnout

Turnout for ridden M&M should be tidy but natural. Manes, tails and feathers are left unbraided. English tack is appropriate.

Ridden Classes

Our ridden M&M classes are a great opportunity to show your British native pony under saddle. Riders compete together, as a group (known as a rail class) demonstrating walk, trot and canter on both reins for the judge. Or in the Novice class, walk and trot only.

Ponies are judged on their performance under saddle, breed type and movement.

Following the rail class, riders in the Small Breed and Large Breed classes each take a turn performing an individual show — a figure of eight at the canter. Simple or flying lead changes are both acceptable.

We offer four ridden M&M classes. Small and large breed classes are open to registered ponies four years and over. Our Green Ridden class is for ponies in their first or second year of showing under saddle, in classes that require a canter. And our Novice Ridden class is the perfect introduction for riders new to M&M competition — walk and trot only, open to riders of all ages.

All ridden classes are pointed and contribute toward the M&M High Point Award.



Highland Pony (L)

And

Welsh Section A pony (R)

PC:M.Tanney



Working Hunter Classes

If your M&M pony loves to jump, the working hunter classes are for you! Our M&M working hunter classes are run in a similar style to a handy hunter class — featuring fences with natural elements, flowing lines and questions that reward a bold, willing and capable pony.

The course may include related distances, bending lines and other elements that reward handiness and a good eye. Ponies are judged on jumping style, rhythm, pace and the overall quality of the round. Refusals and knockdowns will affect the score.

We offer four working hunter classes divided by breed size, with fences set at either 2' or 2'6" for both small and large breeds.

All working hunter classes are pointed and contribute toward the M&M High Point Award.



Connemara PC:M.Tanney

The M&M High Point Award

One of the most exciting aspects of our M&M division is the High Point Award. Points are tallied across ALL M&M classes — in-hand, ridden and working hunter — and the pony with the highest overall point total is named M&M High Point Champion. Reserve High Point Champion is awarded to the pony with the second highest point total.

This award celebrates the truly versatile M&M pony — one that can excel in the show ring, under saddle and over fences. Both the High Point and Reserve High Point awards include cash prizes!

For full class details, entry information and prize money, please visit our prize list at www.poshalta.com/shows