

WEIGHT OF SHOES

There is one question which is of considerable importance and has been discussed by the Council of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society, resulting in the following regulations for the weight of shoes in the show-ring. It is laid down in the Stud Book that for animals exceeding 14 hands (excepting yearling colts and fillies) no shoe may exceed 2lb. in weight. For cobs and ponies exceeding 12 hands, and not exceeding 14 hands, also yearling colts and fillies, no shoe shall exceed 1½lbs. in weight. For ponies not exceeding 12 hands no shoe shall exceed 1lb. in weight.

Then follows a note which states that "It is earnestly requested that all affiliated societies will adopt these rules, and instruct the judges of these classes to give it particular attention." I do hope that the wishes of the Society on this question will be carried out. There is no doubt that exhibitors only too often shoe their ponies heavier than the weights above recorded, and until the matter is taken up officially by the societies which have classes for Welsh ponies, and the rule as to the weight of shoes published in the prize schedules, the evil will go on unchecked. Exhibitors do not like to object, and the onus should not be thrown on them. It is a question for the stewards and the veterinary surgeon, just as that of measuring for the height limit, and it should be done before the animals enter the ring, so that all unpleasantness may be avoided.

The absurdity of shoeing a mountain pony in heavy shoes to make it step like a Hackney must be apparent to all who are really interested in the breed. The Hackney Society, even, has now a shoe-weight limit for that breed.

JOHN HILL 1914

Extract from Volume XIII of the Welsh Stud Book

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*Round hoof'd, short-jointed, fetlocks shag and long,
Broad breast, full eye, small head and nostril wide,
High crest, short ears, straight legs and passing strong,
Thin mane, thick tail, broad buttock, tender hide:
Look, what a horse should have, he did not lack,
Save a proud rider on so proud a back.*

William Shakespeare - King Henry VIII