



New Forest Pony

(*Equus ferus caballus*)

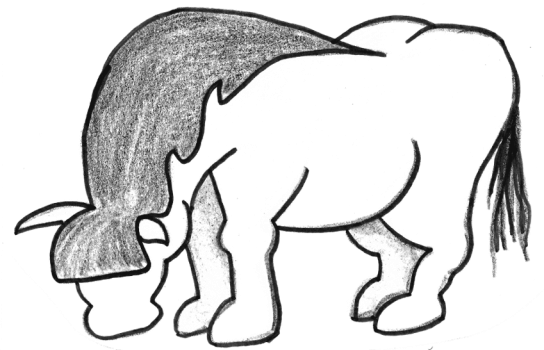
Description: Strong and hardy pony with a short back and neck.

Earliest record of breed: 1016

Size: Up to 150 cm tall

Habitat: Heaths, woodland and bogs

Food: Grass



New Forest ponies are a breed of pony with a very old history. All ponies grazing on the New Forest are free to roam but they are owned by New Forest commoners – people who have "rights of common of pasture" over the Forest lands. An annual marking fee is paid for each animal turned out to graze. The population of ponies on the Forest is essential to the survival of many of the New Forest's freshwater plants and animals. Their grazing helps to reduce competition from taller grasses and scrub, and their dung provides just enough nutrients to fuel an ecosystem.

