

How you can help?

Simply put, you can help with your time and by donating. We need volunteers to handle/train ponies, foster homes until they are placed, administrative help, transportation and fundraising. 100% of all donations go to the care and maintenance of our ponies as we are a 100% volunteer organization- no one gets paid a penny for their time.

We have consolidated into 3-4 national breeding centers. It takes dollars and time to maintain the breeding stock, raise the babies and train/prepare them for their important role in life. We depend on the generous hearts of the many people who volunteer and make financial contributions. Without funds, we cannot continue to add quality breeding stock. If you think our work is important to the lives of people with special needs, please take the time to visit our web site at www.personalponies.org to see how you can help. A pony often lives for thirty years and during a lifetime may serve many people.

We Believe in Magic!

YOUR NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

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PPL is a non-profit, 501-C-3 organization
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All donations are deductible to the extent
of the law

Personal Ponies

Why we chose the UK Shetland



The United Kingdom (UK) Shetland pony is a very special breed. These ponies are docile and kind, intelligent, sensitive, and capable of doing hard work. But they are definitely NOT world class beauties! Quite to the contrary, mostly they look like sturdy miniature draft horses—wide, round and low to the ground with shaggy coats and thick manes and tails. And the truth is we chose them precisely because they are not at all like sleek, slim-legged, high-spirited show ponies. Our ponies have far more important work to do

The UK Shetland has an amazing temperament. Steady of mind and great of heart, they were originally bred to haul peat and do farm work. In the late nineteenth century they were used extensively in the coal/ore mines of Scotland and Wales and in the mines of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Their patient, quiet, and kind ways were ideal for

the work of pulling coal carts through the narrow mine shafts.

Because our ponies are often very small (as small as 30") and seldom very tall (usually not more than 39"), they are the ideal pony to do the work we ask of them as therapeutic ponies.

Why we chose the UK Shetland

The decision to breed the UK Shetland began quite by accident when our founder, Marianne Alexander, purchased what she thought were two "Miniature Horses," the stallion, Casey, and a broodmare, Cupcake. Though Marianne had been a breeder of Connemara Ponies and Irish Sporthorses for thirty years, she was enchanted by these small ponies and amazed by their kind ways and sensitivity to small children.

Curious about their lineage, she began to research their bloodlines. She discovered that they could be traced to the first UK Shetlands imported to the US in 1884 from the Stud of Lord Londonderry. Thus, though they were registered in the US with the Miniature Horse Registry due to their size, Casey and Cupcake were really UK Shetlands! Intrigued by her discovery, Marianne then visited England, Scotland, and Wales to see the Shetland in its homeland and to study the UK studbooks.

Convinced that these ponies were the ideal companions for children with disabilities, Marianne began to assemble a

breeding herd of UK Shetlands here in the US and established **The Shetland Register (TSR)**. Today, there are more than 500 ponies in this registry.

Breed Standards

Temperament is the first standard of excellence in our breeding stock. A pony with a kind attitude and the innate ability to relate to children and be a loving companion is the number one requirement!

This photograph is of one of our imported stallions, Highfield Cupid. Cupid was donated to us by UK Shetland breeder, Melissa Warren, Mirkwood Ponies, Scotland. This is the true UK Shetland, with all the bone, substance and amazing temperament that this breed is known for.



We like our ponies to stay in the mini-to-midi range, 28"-38". However, regardless of size, all ponies must possess the bone, substance, and temperament of the UK Shetland.

What do our ponies DO?

Lots of people ask us what our ponies must be able to DO. The only thing our ponies **MUST** be able to do is to be fine companions for special needs people.



Some of our ponies are too small to be ridden except being led with a child of thirty pounds or less. Larger ones are trained to ride for larger children. Very often they make very fine driving ponies. But **ALL** of our ponies must love to be hugged and petted and kissed, to stand patiently while a child or senior or veteran in braces or on crutches or in a wheel chair brushes and combs, feeds or caresses them. **THAT** is the primary work our ponies do!

Where do they come from?

Building a quality herd of UK Shetlands is hard work—and expensive. Mostly we breed our own from the imported stock collected over the past 30 years. We will import additional lines in the future but, for now, we are focused on managing the gene pool we currently have.