



A note to NPS members, enthusiasts, breeders and lovers of Newfoundland Ponies;

The Newfoundland Pony Society held an Open General Meeting December 12, 2015, in Clarenville NL, for the purpose of sitting down with NPS members, pony owners and enthusiasts, to discuss suggestions, feedback and concerns heading into 2016. The meeting was held in Clarenville, with hopes that individuals from outside of the Avalon Peninsula would have been more likely to attend; I myself had to leave the West Coast at 5am in order to get to the meeting on time! One of the downsides of living on such a huge and beautiful island; we are pretty spread out! For those who live off-island, or who were unable to attend the meeting in person for whatever reason, I put out a call for email comments, to be presented at the meeting.

We had 13 individuals and 5 council members attend the meeting; I was thrilled with the turnout as it was a pretty rainy day for driving. Pam Pippy our Treasurer brought along sandwiches, cookies and bottled water for our guests. After brief introductions, and updates from council members, I shared the email correspondence received. We then had open-floor discussion. It was amazing how engaged individuals are when discussing the Newfoundland Pony. Whether or not we all agreed on every topic, it is clear that each and every individual present at the meeting is passionate about Newfoundland Ponies. It was really encouraging to see discussion happening in such a positive and productive manner, I really hope this type of meeting can become a regular occurrence.

In my opinion, the overwhelming take-home message from this meeting is that the Newfoundland Pony Society needs to facilitate more involvement and communication with NPS members and pony owners. Any step that NPS can take to involve more people, more owners, more discussion, more constructive criticism, will be to the direct benefit of the Newfoundland Pony in the future.

It is a little late for New Year's Resolutions, but here are some things I would like to see with NPS in 2016:

- NPS Members and Pony Owners volunteering to assist council. Many hands make light work, and as we experienced at the open meeting, the more people are involved, the more great ideas come to light. The Newfoundland Pony needs us, we have a lot of hard work ahead, and the NPS council (currently 8 individuals) cannot possibly do it all, nor do it all justice.
- Open communication: my personal preference is for face-to-face communication, but given the fact that Newfoundland Pony enthusiasts are so spread out this is not always possible. I would like to see NPS hold at least one meeting annually, separate from the AGM. And I would like for the AGM to always involve a significant amount of time for open-floor discussion. NPS council also needs to maintain an open line of communication via email correspondence with members,

phone calls when appropriate, and snail mail for those who are not readily “plugged in”. I don’t want any member to feel they are not being kept in the loop.

- Let’s have fun with our ponies!!! I think in general we all have a tendency to take things a little too seriously. We are passionate pony people after all 😊 Keep in mind that we are ALL working towards a common goal; the long term survival of the Newfoundland Pony. We should celebrate this fact, and support one another when possible.

Please feel free to contact me directly @ [jboyddvm@hotmail.ca](mailto:jboyddvm@hotmail.ca) if you have any comments or concerns. I want to work with you, for the Newfoundland Pony 😊

Jessica Boyd, DVM

NPS Council President