



We breed Suffolk Horses

## **The Suffolk Punch Trust**

### **Guide to Colony Stud Services**

Suffolk Punch horses have been bred at The Suffolk Punch Trust's Colony Stud at Hollesley Bay, in the heart of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), for over 260 years, making us the longest established stud dedicated to breeding Suffolk Punch horses.

We own and breed our own stock of Suffolk Punch horses, and we also provide a flexible range of competitively-priced stud services for owners who wish to stable their Suffolk Punch horses with us for breeding, foaling, training, weaning, and livery.

We have recently refurbished our covering area and facilities, and can offer natural cover and artificial insemination (AI) services by an experienced team of grooms, supported by a British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) approved veterinary practice for the insemination of mares using chilled or frozen semen.<sup>1</sup>

This guide provides an introduction to Colony Stud Services – it can also be found on our website at [www.suffolkpunchtrust.co.uk](http://www.suffolkpunchtrust.co.uk). We would be happy to discuss how we can tailor our services to meet your requirements – please contact our Stud Manager, Tracey Pettit by email ([suffolkpunchtrusttracey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suffolkpunchtrusttracey@hotmail.co.uk)) or by phone (07776 210238).

#### ***Colony Stud Facilities***

The Suffolk Punch Trust's Colony Stud is located at Sink Farm, St David's Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk, IP12 3JR. However, our Main Visitor Entrance is on Woodbridge Walk, Hollesley, Suffolk, IP12 3LA (use this post code as your destination in your sat nav), which is approximately 8 miles from the A12 at Woodbridge – take the A1152 Melton turning off the A12, and then follow the brown tourist signs to The Suffolk Punch Trust.

The Colony Stud at Sink Farm is situated in over 100 hectares (over 250 acres) with 28 securely-fenced paddocks to enable us to segregate visiting horses from our resident stock. A number of our paddocks have field shelters.

We can offer secure stabling for visiting stallions, mares and foals, including five extra-large foaling units, each with CCTV to enable 24 x 7 live monitoring.

We have recently refurbished our covering area to improve safety for horses and attendant grooms and veterinary surgeons. There are stocks for the safe ultrasound examination of mares. Thanks to the generosity of a donor, we now also have new facilities for artificial insemination (AI).

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<sup>1</sup> Ben Ryder-Davies, Ryder-Davies & Partners, Veterinary Practice

### ***Bringing your horse(s) to The Colony Stud***

Before bringing your horse(s) to The Colony Stud, please discuss your requirement and plans with us, and complete our admission form with all of the necessary details. We will require to see the horse's passport, which should accompany the horse.

We require all horses coming to The Colony Stud to be in good general health, up-to-date on worming and farriery, and to meet the following health requirements:

- **Equine Influenza** – all horses, except foals, must be fully vaccinated against Equine Influenza, and a booster must have been given within 12 months, and no less than 7 days, of arrival. If a booster is due while the horses are at the Stud, it will be given unless advised otherwise.
- **Freedom from infection** – a signed declaration is required for each horse stating that it has not been in contact with, nor has it shown any signs consistent with Strangles or any other infectious disease, or that there have been no signs of infectious disease at the premises of origin.

Please note that it is the owner's responsibility to have their own insurance cover for their horse(s), if required. The Suffolk Punch Trust does not insure visiting horses.

### ***Breeding***

An introduction to the breeding of Suffolk mares and Artificial Insemination (AI) can be found in the Appendix to this Guide.

We can take-in mares for breeding by natural cover or artificial insemination (AI).

Mares are more likely to conceive if they are not stressed and well-settled into the breeding environment. We recommend bringing a mare for breeding to The Colony Stud at least a few days before breeding. Maiden mares or mares prone to stress may need longer to become settled.

In addition to the health requirements for all horses coming to The Colony Stud set-out above, mares for breeding will also need to meet the following additional health requirements:

- **Equine viral arteritis (EVA) and equine infectious anaemia (EIA)** - a negative blood test taken after 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year
- **Contagious equine metritis (CEM)** – a negative clitoral swab taken after 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year

A mare may have routine rectal ultrasound scans pre- and post-covering or -insemination.

A mare will have a first pregnancy scan at 15-16 days from insemination or the last covering, and an in-foal heartbeat scan at around 28 days - we recommend that the mare stays at The Colony Stud at least until this scan. A further scan at around 42 days can also be performed at the owner's discretion.

### ***Natural Cover***

We can arrange for your mare to be naturally covered by a stallion of your choice at The Colony Stud. This could be one of The Colony Stud stallions, or another - we can help to make all the necessary arrangements with your chosen stallion's stud. Traditionally, when a mare comes into season she is covered every other day until she goes out of season. Alternatively for some mares, it may be preferable for the vet to examine her and determine the optimum time of covering.

### ***Artificial Insemination (AI)***

We are able to take-in mares for artificial insemination (AI) with either chilled or frozen semen (collected elsewhere). We have the facilities to store frozen semen long-term, if required. If all necessary details are provided, we can liaise with the stud of origin of the semen to arrange delivery at a suitable time.

### ***Foaling***

You may bring your mare to The Colony Stud for foaling. We recommend you bring the mare to The Colony Stud at least 4 weeks before the expected foaling date to allow her to become well-settled.

We offer secure stabling for visiting mares and foals, including five extra-large foaling units, each with CCTV to enable 24 x 7 live monitoring, and an experienced team of grooms.

### ***Handling***

Once your foal has been born, and the mare and foal have recovered from foaling, we regularly handle the foal to train it to get used to being led and having its feet picked up. Regularly handling while the foal remains at The Colony Stud will help to make the foal easier to handle when you take the mare and foal home.

### ***Weaning***

As we usually have groups of similar aged foals, we can offer to wean the foal from the mare before they return home. Alternatively, we can take-in foals specifically for weaning.

### ***Livery***

In addition to livery for breeding services, we also offer general livery services for Suffolk Punch horses and Suffolk cross-bred horses, or other breeds by arrangement.

### ***Heartbeat***

The Suffolk Punch Trust's Colony Stud has a bespoke livery agreement with a charity, Heartbeat Home for Horses Ltd, to provide a retirement home for up to 10 aged horses.

### ***Schedule of Fees***

The Colony Stud charges for Stud Services for 2021 at the following rates (excluding VAT):

Note: veterinary, farrier and other third-party costs will be billed as incurred or passed to the owner for payment.

<b><i>The Suffolk Punch Trust Colony Stud Services Fees 2021</i></b>			
Breeding Services:	Stud Fee: (Natural Cover or Artificial Insemination (AI) by Colony Stud stallions)	Pure Suffolk Mares	£450
		Other Breeds	£350
Livery Services:	Stabled	per day	£13.20
	At grass	per day	£10.00

## ***Terms & Conditions***

The Suffolk Punch Trust provides Colony Stud Services on the basis of the following Terms & Conditions.

The owner (or their agent on behalf of the owner) must fully complete and sign the attached admission form for a horse(s) being brought to the Colony Stud for any Stud Services. By completing and signing the admission form you are agreeing to these Terms & Conditions.

The Suffolk Punch Trust reserves the right to terminate any agreement to provide Colony Stud Services if we believe there may be an unacceptable risk to other horses or to grooms or other handlers, or in the event that the owner breaches any of these Terms & Conditions.

While every care will be taken, The Suffolk Punch Trust is not liable for any damage, illness or injury to any horse(s) brought to The Colony Stud. It is the owner's responsibility to have their own insurance cover for their horse(s), if required - The Suffolk Punch Trust does not insure visiting horses.

We will require to see the horse's passport, which should accompany the horse.

We require all horses coming to The Colony Stud to be in good general health, up-to-date with worming and farriery, and to meet the following health requirements:

- **Equine Influenza** – all horses, except foals, must be fully vaccinated against Equine Influenza, and a booster must have been given within 12 months, and no less than 7 days, of arrival. If a booster is due while the horses are at the Stud, it will be given unless advised otherwise.
- **Freedom from infection** – a signed declaration is required for each horse stating that it has not been in contact with, nor has it shown any signs consistent with Strangles or any other infectious disease, or that there have been no signs of infectious disease at the premises of origin.

In addition to the health requirements for all horses coming to The Colony Stud set-out above, mares for breeding will also need to meet the following additional health requirements:

- **Equine viral arteritis (EVA) and equine infectious anaemia (EIA)** - a negative blood test taken after 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year
- **Contagious equine metritis (CEM)** – a negative clitoral swab taken after 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year

Owners are advised to bring any mares to The Colony Stud for Breeding Services in sufficient time before services are to be provided to ensure that they are not stressed and they are well-settled, and for mares to remain at The Colony Stud until after a successful ~28-day scan (unless otherwise agreed).

The owner will be charged for agreed Colony Stud Services provided on the basis of our current schedule of fees, which can be found on our website at [www.suffolkpunchtrust.co.uk](http://www.suffolkpunchtrust.co.uk), and which may be updated from time-to-time. Veterinary, farrier and other third-party costs will be billed as incurred or passed to the owner for payment.

In the event that urgent medical intervention is required, we will use reasonable endeavours to contact the owner to inform them of the measures required and to obtain their consent to proceed, but we reserve the discretion to proceed in the best interests of the welfare of the animals involved and to bill the owner for any costs involved.

Any outstanding invoices for Colony Stud Services provided and any associated costs must be settled in full before the horse(s) leave The Colony Stud. If outstanding invoices remain unpaid, we reserve the right to sell horses and any associated tack, rugs and equipment left at The Colony Stud in order to try to recoup our costs.



We breed Suffolk Horses

***The Suffolk Punch Trust Colony Stud Services – Admission Form***

Please complete all relevant sections of this form, and sign the form to confirm your acceptance of our Terms & Conditions.

***Owner's Details:***

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Email address:

Telephone Number:

Mobile (Emergency) Number:

***Agent's Details (if applicable):***

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Email address:

Telephone Number:

Mobile (Emergency) Number:

***Horse's Details:***

Name:

Breed:

Date of Birth:

Gender:

Colour/Distinguishing Marks:

Horse Passport Number:

*Please provide the horse's passport, which will be retained while the horse remains at The Colony Stud.*

Insurance:

*Please provide details of any insurance cover for the horse.*

Planned Arrival Date at The Colony Stud:

***Horse's Health Requirements:***

Equine Influenza:

*Please provide dates fully vaccinated and a booster within 12 months, and no less than 7 days, of arrival.*

Freedom from infection:

*By signing this Admission Form you are declaring that the horse has not been in contact with, nor has it shown any signs consistent with Strangles or any other infectious disease, or that there have been no signs of infectious disease at the premises of origin.*

Date of recent worming:

Wormer:

Date of recent farriery:

Feeding:

*Please detail any special feeding requirements and/or regular medication.*

**Mares for Breeding - Additional Health Requirements:**

Equine viral arteritis (EVA) and equine infectious anaemia (EIA):

*Please provide evidence of a negative blood test taken after 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year.*

Contagious equine metritis (CEM):

*Please provide evidence of a negative clitoral swab taken after 1<sup>st</sup> January of the current year.*

**Mare's Breeding History:**

Date bred:	Natural Cover or AI type (fresh, chilled, frozen):	Cycle conceived:	Outcome (eg foaled (colt or filly), not carried full-term, etc):	Date foaled:

**Colony Stud Services Required:**

Breeding:

Natural Cover by Colony Stud stallion:

Artificial Insemination (chilled or frozen)

by Colony Stud/other stallion:

Foaling:

Handling:

Weaning:

Livery:

Stabled:

At grass:

Other:

*Please describe any other special requirements.*

**Owner's Signature:**

**Date:**

*By signing you are confirming your acceptance of our Terms & Conditions.*

## **Appendix:** **An Introduction to the Breeding of Suffolk Mares & Artificial Insemination (AI)**

This appendix provides an introduction to the breeding of Suffolk mares and Artificial Insemination (AI).

### ***Breeding of Suffolk Mares***

Timing is crucial to successful breeding. A mare releases an egg (ovulates) every 18 – 24 days (a process called cycling). Each egg forms inside the ovary in a structure known as a follicle. A mare is in season (oestrus) for 5 – 7 days, and is then out of season (dioestrus) for 14 – 15 days. During a mare's season, follicle growth coincides with an increase in the fluid (oedma) within the lining of the mare's uterus. When the follicle reaches a key size (usually over 50mm in Suffolk mares), an ovulation-inducing drug can be administered. A mare should then ovulate within 24 – 48 hours, which is the window of time within which the mare should be presented to a stallion (natural cover).

### ***Artificial Insemination (AI)***

Artificial insemination (AI) involves collecting semen from a stallion and artificially inseminating the semen into a mare. There are three types:

*Fresh* – collected from the stallion (who must be on site with the mare, or nearby) and must usually be used within 3 hours. Fresh semen offers the highest fertility rates, and is longest-lasting once inseminated.

*Chilled* – mixed with extenders, preservatives and antibiotics to lengthen its lifespan to up to 24 - 30 hours, which allows the stallion and mare to be remote, though the chilled semen must be available at the mare's location prior to the mare ovulating.

*Frozen* – processed and frozen to be stored indefinitely, but must be carefully thawed and used within 6 hours of ovulation. Sperm post-thaw motility (swimming ability) can vary between different stallions. Fertility rates with frozen sperm have improved, but still require more intensive veterinary management.

A stallion typically produces 30 – 70ml of sperm-rich semen. Diluted semen to be frozen will be packaged into 0.5ml plastic straws, each containing 150 million sperm cells, and up to 8 of these straws (900 million sperm) will comprise a single insemination dose.

Semen must be collected at an approved collection centre, and must be accompanied by the stallion's original veterinary Animal Health Certificate. It is illegal to use semen from an unknown source or to import semen from abroad without the required health documentation.

The choice of semen type may depend on the mare's age and breeding health – fresh or chilled semen may maximise an older mare's chance of conceiving, providing it is available prior to ovulation.

However, frozen semen can provide an opportunity to preserve the semen of rare breed stallions in a sperm bank, to help to diversify breeding lines in order to protect and preserve the breed.

At The Colony Stud, we currently offer artificial insemination (AI) of mares using chilled or frozen semen (collected elsewhere).

A number of new advanced techniques are under-development, and may become increasingly important in helping to preserve the critically-endangered Suffolk Punch horse breed:

- Sexed Semen - semen can be selected to choose the preferred sex of the resulting foal (eg a filly).
- Embryo Transfer (ET) involves breeding a (donor) mare to a stallion, and then transferring the resulting embryo into a reproductively competent (recipient) mare, which carries the foal to term and nurses it until weaning.

However, these advanced techniques require highly specialised skills and resources, and are only likely to be available at a few specialist centres across the UK for the foreseeable future.