







## A VOICE FOR THE PONIES

### **A March against breeding Devonshire ponies for human consumption.**

On Thursday the 22nd of September 2016 three Pack Ponies from Dartmoor, along with Sam Goodwin, Barbara Haddrill and others will be marching 164 miles from Dartmoor to Exmoor and back to raise awareness of the issues around the irresponsible breeding of native moorland ponies and specifically against the Dartmoor Conservation Meat scheme set up by the Dartmoor Hill Pony Association, whereby three year old ponies are being bred and slaughtered for human consumption.

The 164 mile hike links together the two moors of Devon, threading through the deep sunken lanes and following old pack horse trails. The three ponies, who have been trained by Sam as pack ponies will be carrying all the equipment needed for the eight day trek. The ponies, Jasmine, Ebony and Billy are walking to give a voice to the ponies, they are walking to save their own kind from harm.

The image of the moorland pony has been blackened through the ongoing media campaign and discussion by members of the 'DCM' and 'DHFA' as they attempt to "educate" us by suggesting we should eat ponies to save them. Primarily this is because members of the public have been told that many of the ponies bred on the open moor have little or no other value than for meat. Many of us believe that proposing a pony meat market is in fact likely to further reduce the value of and opportunities for private pony sales, and that alternative methods are already available.

To date a number of charities have suggested, and are helping to implement, strategies that are proven to be working by effectively reducing the annual number of foals born, and adding value through careful breeding and promotion.

A study by moorland farmer and scientist Robyn Petrie-Ritchie called 'An Investigation into the Management Options Available to Secure a Future of the Pony on Dartmoor', has demonstrated how other methods really do exist that are humane and retain the herd structure and dynamics, and, importantly, that allows all types of pony to exist on Dartmoor without conflict, thus doing away with an issue of contention that has dogged all efforts at finding a solution for the last 95 years.

It's time that the moorland ponies were given a break, breeding only for a market that seeks to do them no harm.

Let's get out there and help to secure a viable and humane future for our moorland pony friends. We are welcoming other people to join us on the first four days of the march from Dartmoor to Exmoor. The team will be walking approximately 20 miles a day, over sometimes



challenging terrain and some roads. Shorter sections can be completed to suit people's time and fitness. Please contact Sam or Barbara for more details.

There is absolutely no reason to turn ponies into sausages or salami. Keep Moorland Ponies On the Moor and Off the Menu!

## Notes

- The walk is open to anyone who wants to join in for the first four days from Dartmoor to Exmoor. Day one is Ivybridge to Jay's Grave. Day 2 takes the march to Zeal Monachorum, Day 3 takes the route to near Twitchen, Exmoor and Day 4 takes the trek over The Chains past Pinkery Pond, Parracombe Common and down in to the west Exmoor village of Parracombe.

- Sam Goodwin has trained the ponies as pack ponies over years of painstaking trial and error, research of the terrain of Dartmoor, study of the old packhorse routes as well as building all the packs for his ponies himself. He has a blog which describes his progress on facebook [Dartmoor Pony and Pack](#) and next year will be setting up business as a guide to Dartmoor, with the ponies carrying all the gear for people to come and experience the wilds and the history of Dartmoor as has never been done for over 200 years since the last pack pony walked on Dartmoor.

- To fund the costs of the walk, Sam and Barbara have set up a Just Giving page

[Just Giving A Voice for the Ponies](#)

For more information about the issues and the walk please contact either Barbara Haddrill on 07901 741217, [bhaddrill@googlemail.com](mailto:bhaddrill@googlemail.com) or Sam Goodwin 07759 222184