

THE SPIRIT OF NEW FOREST PONIES REPRINT

Mike Read

Established as a royal hunting preserve over 900 years ago, the New Forest has seen Commoners' 'rights of pasture' since 1016. It was then that the first ponies were turned out onto the Forest. The New Forest Pony is a unique breed and one of its outstanding characteristics is its good-natured temperament. This, combined with its muscular frame, makes it an excellent riding pony and as such it has been exported widely around the world. But there is no better place to view the ponies than on their native heath, either in the shows like the New Forest & Hampshire County Show or within the special habitat of the New Forest National Park.

Renowned photographer Mike Read reveals the special 'spirit' of the ponies as he captures the showing classes, the annual round-ups (drifts), the only true remaining point-to-point race in Britain, held annually in December, and above all these lovely animals at their very best in the peerless landscape of the New Forest itself.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Read is an established professional wildlife and landscape photographer, writer, lecturer and tour guide. His previous books for Halsgrove include the acclaimed *New Forest Moods* and *Discover the New Forest*, and he has also contributed to numerous other books, magazines and partworks.

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Halsgrove House,
Ryelands Business Park,
Bagley Road, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9PZ
Tel: 01823 653777
Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com
e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

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SPIRIT OF NEW FOREST PONIES



When foals of this age get together there can often be fun and frolics.



A mare leaves the pound after temporary penning at a drift near Turf Hill.



Foals are usually born in April or May.



Three competitors battle it out for first place in a 2005 Veterans' race at the Boxing Day point-to-point.



Rider and helpers on foot work together to turn this mare and foal towards the pound.



The leading grey mare makes a break to avoid the pound while other ponies head in the right direction.

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A long mane certainly helps to keep the flies away from a pony's eyes.

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Pony drifts take place at high speed and it pays not to get in the way of thundering hooves!

Example of a double-page spread