



DONKEY & MULE REGISTRY GUIDELINES

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What is the purpose of having a registry of donkeys and mules?

There are many benefits to maintaining a registry of New Zealand's donkey and mule population:

- Recording pedigree information
- Recording age information to support healthcare and wellbeing decisions of all donkeys and mules
- Helping to prevent inbreeding which can occur when parentage is unknown
- Providing a repository of donkey and mule permanent identification details
- Assisting in the identification of rescue donkeys
- Improving donkey and mule welfare through breed and conformation standards
- Maintaining and improving the genetic value of each breed
- Understanding each breed in its historical context and development
- Identifying notable bloodlines over time
- Providing accurate pedigree information to prospective donkey and mule buyers
- Having an indication of the numbers of donkeys and mules in New Zealand
- Affirming the status of donkeys and mules as important to the human population

Which donkeys and mules should be registered?

All donkeys and mules should be registered. Both those without known parentage and those who are bred with clear bloodlines. All donkeys and mules deserve to have their identity recorded and, as detailed further on, there is minimum information required to include them on the registry.

Why should I register my donkey or mule?

Once your donkey or mule is registered with the Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand they have an official registration number and their details are maintained in the Registration Database. As well as the benefits outlined above, registration of your donkey or mule with their permanent identification lasts forever so in the event they are found away from home they can be identified and returned to you; this is especially easy for those who are microchipped or were branded when this was permitted.

What information is mandatory for donkey and mule registration?

Donkeys and mules can be registered at any age and it is not necessary to have complete information about them; for example you can register your donkey or mule even if you don't know their birth details or parentage. Where there is no bloodline information the animal will be registered as either a New Zealand Donkey or a New Zealand Miniature Donkey (dependent on height). Information that *must* be provided regardless of breed is:

- **Name of Donkey/Mule**
- **Colour**
- **Height**
- **Breed**
- **Gender**
- **Photos of Donkey/Mule** (refer Registry Photo Guidelines, page 10)
- **Owner Name and Contact Details**

What are Breed Registration Rules?

Breed Registration Rules define the criteria and rules for registering an equine as a specific breed. They include what constitutes a 100% bloodline and other variations to a minimum of 50%, section categories (if applicable), rules around maturity certification, breeding and accreditation, and other criteria specific to that breed. To register your donkey as a specific (non New Zealand Donkey) breed there are additional requirements which can be found in the relevant Breed Registration Rules.

Which breeds are recorded in the Donkey & Mule Registry?

- The Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand currently records **nine breeds** in the Registry. These include 7 donkey and 2 mule breeds. More details about each breed can be discovered in the Breed Registration Rules.
 - **New Zealand American Mammoth Donkey (NZAMD)**
 - **American Miniature Mediterranean Donkey (AMMD)**
 - **Australian Teamster Donkey**
 - **English/Irish Donkey**
 - **New Zealand Donkey (NZD)**
 - **New Zealand Miniature Donkey (NZMD)**
 - **Ponui Island Donkey**
 - **Pony Mule**
 - **Hack Mule**

What registration processes might I need to follow?

- **Donkey/Mule Registration** - this is when your donkey or mule is first registered
- **Height Certification** - when your donkey or mule is measured in order for an official measure to be recorded on their record. This is different to maturity certification which takes place for specific breeds at a certain time and involves reissuing of their registration certificate
- **Maturity Certification** - for some breeds maturity certification is required after 3 or 5 years (depending on breed) and involves measurements taken by a Society Approved Measurer to ensure they meet their breed standards
- **Transfer** - when a donkey or mule has a change of owner or is leased or rehomed
- **Jack/Jenny Accreditation** - verification that a jack or jenny meets specific breed requirements to be considered suitable for breeding
- **Prefix/Suffix Registration** - registration of a stud or farm name so that it can be used as part of a registered donkey or mule name

What should I know about choosing a registration name?

- The first person to register a donkey or mule must choose the registration name. Once registered, name changes are not possible. The name must not be longer than 45 letters (including prefix/suffix and spaces).
- To include the stud/farm name in the registered name the following format is used
- **Brayland** Eeyore = stud/farm as prefix i.e. Eeyore was bred by Brayland and registered by them
- Tigger **of Brayland** = stud/farm as suffix i.e. Tigger was owned by Brayland at time of registration but not bred by Brayland. Tigger was bred somewhere else.
- Stud/farm names must be registered with the Society to be used as a prefix or suffix, and must be unique
- On the registration form an AKA (also known as) name can be entered
- Registration names cannot be used for more than one donkey or mule. If a donkey or mule name already exists in the registry the owner will be required to select a different name

Important things to know

- To register a donkey or mule, the **owner does not have to be a member** of the Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand, however different registration fees will apply.
- All **registration numbers assigned are permanent**. Temporary numbers are not assigned however some breed registrations may have T following the registration number to indicate that maturity certification is required after 3 or 5 years (depending on the breed). After maturity certification the T is removed.
- It is strongly encouraged that all donkeys and mules have **permanent microchip identification**, while this is a mandatory requirement for registration of some breeds (refer Breed Registration Rules for further information). The Society recommends the microchip be placed in the near side neck nuchal ligament. Where microchipped a copy of the certificate and one of the microchip printed labels must be supplied to the Registrar. A handwritten copy of the numbers will not be accepted.
- **Photos are mandatory** for all registrations (*refer Registry Photo Guidelines, page 10*).

Important things to know, *continued*

- All **breeding jacks standing at stud in New Zealand must be accredited** from 3 or 5 years of age depending on their breed (refer Breed Registration Rules for details).
- **Height** details are to be provided in either inches or centimetres. Depending on the relevant Breed Registration Rules an official measurement may be required in which case a height certification must be supplied.
- Only **Approved Measurers** appointed by the Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand (or by special appointment of the Registrar on behalf of the Society) can **certify Height and Maturity Measurements** (*refer Height and Maturity Certification, page 6*).
- Please **print clearly** on all documentation.
- Transfers, updates and corrections must be accompanied by the **original certificate** (*not a photocopy*)
- All registry **forms can be emailed** to the Registrar - open and complete the form on your computer then email to the Registrar. Alternatively you can print out the form, complete and then scan or photograph, then email to the Registrar.
- Once your donkey or mule has been registered there may be **information that needs to be updated** such as owner contact details, addition of microchip information, that the donkey has been gelded or something else; for these updates or if you have any queries please email registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz
- The Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand reserves the **right to refuse** any application for entry to the Registry and the **right to amend** the Rules as and when it is considered necessary.
- For any other **Registry queries** please email registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz

Terminology

- The term **mule** refers to the off-spring of a male donkey and female horse. The off-spring of a female donkey and a male horse is called a **hinny**.
- **Breed gender** refers to the biological gender of the equine.
 - Jenny: female donkey
 - Jack: entire male donkey
 - Gelding: castrated male donkey
 - Mare: female horse
 - Molly: female mule
 - Stallion: entire male mule or horse
 - John: castrated male mule

DONKEY/MULE REGISTRATION

How do I register my donkey or mule?

1. Read the Breed Registration Rules for your donkey or mule to understand any specific requirements
2. Clearly photograph the nearside and offside of your donkey or mule (*refer Registry Photo Guidelines, page 10*)
3. Download and complete all details on the **Application for DONKEY Registration** or **Application for MULE Registration** form
4. Depending on the age of some breeds a **Maturity Certification** may also need to be completed
5. Transfer the **Registration Fee** into the Society account **03-0960-0185073-00**
 - **Particulars:** REGISTRY
 - **Code:** REGISTRATION
 - **Reference:** OWNER SURNAME
6. Email the completed Application with photographs and any other attachments (e.g. microchip barcode, pedigree, overseas registration certificate) to registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz
7. The Registrar will be in touch if any additional information is required
8. Once your donkey or mule has been registered a copy of the Registration Certificate will be sent to the owner or breeder by post or email (as specified on the application form with the relevant fee paid)

REGISTRATION TRANSFER

What are the different kinds of registration transfer?

There are three ways in which a donkey or mule registration can be transferred:

1. A transfer of **ownership** from one person or party to another
2. A **leasing** arrangement where the transfer has a fixed term after which the donkey or mule will return to the original owner. In rare circumstances a lease may be open-ended but the conditions of lease must clearly document the terms under which such an arrangement would end.
3. A **rehoming** arrangement where the intention is for the new owner to have ongoing care and responsibility for the donkey or mule but in the event this is not possible the donkey or mule is returned to the original owner

For both leasing and rehoming arrangements it is strongly encouraged that a written agreement is made between the original owner and other party clearly documenting the terms of lease or rehoming, and a copy of the agreement is sent to the Registrar.

How do I transfer the registration of my donkey or mule?

1. Download and complete all details on the applicable **Donkey/Mule Transfer** form
2. Transfer the **Transfer Fee** into the Society account **03-0960-0185073-00** (note that payment is the responsibility of the current owner)
 - **Particulars:** REGISTRY
 - **Code:** TRANSFER
 - **Reference:** OWNER SURNAME
3. Email the completed Application to registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz
4. Post the original Registration Certificate to Registrar, 368 Runciman Road, RD2, Pukekohe 2677
5. The Registrar will be in touch if any additional information is required
6. Once the donkey or mule transfer has been processed in the Registry a copy of the Registration Certificate will be sent to the owner by post or email (as specified on the application form with the relevant fee paid)

What is height and maturity certification?

Height certification is where the equine has their height measured by an Approved Measurer and this is submitted to the Society for inclusion on the equines Registry record.

Maturity certification means that an equine has reached maturity and been certified as meeting specific measurement requirements for its breed. An Approved Measurer certifies the equines measurements after which a new registration certification is issued with the equines updated information and photo.

When is maturity certification required?

American Miniature Mediterranean and **NZ Miniature Donkeys** must have maturity certification at **3 years old**. **NZ American Mammoth** and **Australian Teamster Donkeys** must have maturity certification at **5 years old**. For the **Miniature** and **Teamster** breeds a height requirement must be met. The **NZ American Mammoth** breed must meet a heart girth and mid cannon bone circumference requirement (in addition to a height requirement). The specific measurement requirements are detailed in the registration rules for each breed.

Where can I find a list of Approved Measurers?

Only Approved Measurers appointed by the Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand (or by special appointment of the Registrar on behalf of the Society) can certify Height and Maturity Measurements. For a list of Approved Measurers please contact the Registrar at registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz.

What measurement procedures are Approved Measurers required to follow?

Measurements must be taken with an approved, properly calibrated measuring stick fitted with a side arm and levelling device. The measurement of animals must take place in a place open to all members. Any member can attend the measuring procedure should they wish to do so.

The correct procedure for height verification is to measure the animal from the withers to the ground with the front two legs vertical and in line with or parallel to the measuring device, and the back of the hocks in a vertical line to the donkey's buttocks. The donkey's head and neck should be in a natural position and the animal must stand squarely on all four feet on a level (concrete) surface. Have an assistant hold the animal, and measure the withers to ground three times to get a correct reading. Measurement should be given in increments no smaller than ¼ inches.

A Witness shall assist and scrutinise the Measurer and also examine the measuring stick reading. Witness and Measurer must identify the donkey against the Registration papers and check all details on the Height Certificate.

How do I obtain height certification for my equine?

1. Contact a Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand Approved Measurer to arrange a measuring appointment
2. Arrange a Witness to attend the appointment
3. Download the **Height Certification** form and complete the first two sections
4. Provide this form to the Approved Measurer at your measuring appointment
5. The Measurer will identify your donkey against the information provided, verify the microchip number, take the official measurements and complete the third section of the form
6. Email your completed form to registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz
7. The Registrar will update the donkey's registration record to reflect the official height measurement

How do I obtain maturity certification for my equine?

1. Read the Breed Registration Rules for your donkey to understand their Maturity Certification requirements
2. Contact a Donkey & Mule Society of New Zealand Approved Measurer to arrange a measuring appointment
3. Download the **Maturity Certification** form and complete the first two sections
4. Provide this form to the Approved Measurer at your measuring appointment
5. We ask the measurer to identify your donkey against the information provided, verify the microchip number, take the official measurements and complete the third section of the form
6. Clearly photograph the nearside and offside of your donkey or mule (*refer Registry Photo Guidelines, page 10*)
7. Transfer the **Maturity Certification Fee** into the Society account **03-0960-0185073-00** then complete the last section of the form
 - **Particulars:** REGISTRY
 - **Code:** MATURITYCERT
 - **Reference:** OWNER SURNAME
8. Email your completed form and photographs to registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz
9. Post the original Registration Certificate to Registrar, 368 Runciman Road, RD2, Pukekohe 2677
10. The Registrar will update the donkey's registration record to reflect the mature measurements and any colour or marking changes
11. Once the donkey maturity certification has been processed in the Registry a copy of the Registration Certificate will be sent to the owner by post or email (as specified on the application form with the relevant fee paid)

What is accreditation?

When a jack or jenny is accredited it means they have met specific breed requirements that determine them suitable for breeding. Accreditation applies to **American Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys, American Mammoth Donkeys, Australian Teamster Donkeys and English/Irish Donkeys**. Accreditation is important because only foals from accredited jacks can be registered as these breeds.

Accreditation is one way in which New Zealand works to ensure continued breed excellence among the donkey population. Accreditation requirements are different for each breed and can be found in the Breed Registration Rules. There is no fee for registering accreditation unless a new registration certification is required in which case the Replacement Certificate fee will apply.

Where can I find a list of accredited jacks standing at stud?

A list of accredited jacks standing at stud is published each year in the September issue of the Donkey & Mule Dispatch.

How do I get my jack or jenny accredited?

1. Read the Breed Registration Rules for your jack or jenny to understand the specific Accreditation requirements
2. When you are satisfied your jack or jenny has met all other requirements for Accreditation make an appointment for your equine veterinarian to complete an examination
3. Download the **Veterinary Examination for Accreditation** form, complete your jack or jenny's details and arrange a veterinarian to conduct the examination
4. Provide this form to the veterinarian at your appointment (you may wish to send in advance to ensure they can fulfil the requirements of the examination)
5. We ask the veterinarian to identify your donkey, examine them against the listed requirements and complete the section 'Veterinary Examination'
6. Take a clear full view photograph of the nearside and offside of your donkey - a summer coat photo is strongly preferred as this provides the best indication of colour (*refer Registry Photo Guidelines, page 10*)
7. Ensure all sections of the form are now complete
8. There is no fee to have your donkey recorded with accreditation in the Registry; however if you would like a new copy of the Registration Certificate (with accreditation noted) mark this on the form and transfer the **Replacement Certificate Fee** into the Society account **03-0960-0185073-00**
 - **Particulars:** REGISTRY
 - **Code:** REPLACECERT
 - **Reference:** OWNER SURNAME
9. Email your completed form to registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz
10. The Registrar will verify that your jack or jenny satisfies all accreditation requirements and update the registration record to reflect this
11. If requested, a new copy of the Registration Certificate will then be sent to the owner by post or email (as specified on the application form with the relevant fee paid)

PREFIX/SUFFIX REGISTRATION

What is a prefix/suffix?

- A prefix/suffix is how a stud/farm name is used in the registered name of a donkey or mule.
- Stud/farm names must be registered with the Society to be used as a prefix or suffix, and must be unique
- It is recommended to keep them short as registered donkey and mule names can not exceed 45 letters (including prefix/suffix and spaces).
- The prefix is used at the beginning of a donkey or mules registered name and indicates the stud/farm where it was bred and that it was registered by that stud/farm (e.g. **Brayland** Eeyore).
- The suffix is used at the end of a donkey or mules registered name to indicate the stud/farm who owned it at the time of registration and that it was not bred by them (e.g. Tigger **of Brayland**).
- Registered donkeys and mules cannot have both a prefix and suffix.
- Donkeys and mules cannot be registered with the stud/farm name of a stud/farm that does not own them, even if they were bred on that stud.

How do I get a prefix/suffix?

1. Download and complete all details on the applicable **Prefix/Suffix Registration** form
2. Transfer the **Prefix/Suffix Registration Fee** into the Society account **03-0960-0185073-00**
 - **Particulars:** REGISTRY
 - **Code:** PREFIXSUFFIX
 - **Reference:** OWNER SURNAME
3. Email the completed Application to registrar@donkey-mule.org.nz
4. The Registrar will review the application and confirm the stud prefix to the stud owner

REGISTRY FEES

Donkey/Mule Registration, Maturity Certification, Transfer, Replacement Certificate

- Members: \$10 (electronic certificate), \$25 (physical certificate)
- Non-Members: \$20 (electronic certificate), \$35 (physical certificate)

Prefix/Suffix Registration

- Members and Non-Members: \$5

Jack/Jenny Accreditation, Non-Maturity Height Certification

- Members and Non-Members: No Fee (record updated only, no certificate)

When making any registry related payments to the Society account please **annotate your bank transfer** as follows:

- **Particulars:** REGISTRY
- **Code:** REGISTRATION **or** TRANSFER **or** MATURITYCERT **or** REPLACECERT **or** PREFIXSUFFIX (*as applicable*)
- **Reference:** OWNER SURNAME

REGISTRY PHOTO GUIDELINES

- **Two photos** are required showing a clear full view of both the nearside and offside of your donkey or mule
- Photos should be taken **within the last six months**
- Ensure the **donkey or mule covers the majority of the photo**, it should be a close-up not distant photo
- A **summer coat** photo is preferred (best indication of colour), but if not possible a current photo is still acceptable
- The **head should be up, facing forward with ears erect**
- The donkey or mule must be **standing** not moving, **on flat ground**
- Ensure the **colour and markings are clear**
- **No ribbons or other decoration** (wearing a halter is fine)
- Have a **clear and uncluttered background** (no people or other animals)
- Take the **photo at donkey or mule eye level** (not from above) **in landscape** (horizontal) orientation
- Where possible take photos with the **sun behind you**, ensuring your own shadow does not fall across your animal, and for best lighting take your photos on a sunny day **in the late afternoon or early morning**
- **Photos must be clear** (not blurry when enlarged)
- **Submit** photos **electronically**



Registration photo example

COLOUR GUIDELINES

Please select your donkey or mule colour from the options below. As winter and foal coats can be deceptive as to colour, colour should be determined by the freshly shed summer coat if possible. The terms light or dark can be added to all colour descriptions. If the donkey has no light points (around muzzle, eyes, underbelly and tops of legs) then NLP should be added to the description. If the donkey has dun markings add the word dun if it is not in the colour description.

Black Black is sometimes a difficult colour to determine. There are two kinds of black, a raven black, which is easy to determine and a duller black, which could often be a very dark brown. If the donkey is “jet” black or “raven” black with no visible cross and stripe if it can be listed as black. If the coat appears black but the cross, stripe and lower legs are visibly darker black it is called Black with a cross (smoky black). Dark brown describes donkeys whose coats are very dark brown in appearance with darker cross, stripe and lower legs. This applies especially for foals. Charcoal is not a shade of black but the very darkest shade of grey-dun.

Broken Colour This is always listed as whatever the base colour is first, then “and white broken coloured” e.g., Grey, and white broken coloured” or “brown and white broken coloured,”. Red and white. The donkey might have three colours in its coat in solid patches. The eyes are dark. The skin (especially around the eyes, muzzle, and genitals) is broken coloured pink and black. The body may actually show mottled (patched) grey and pink skin, but the colour does not appear on the coat. A dark or partial cross, coloured ear tips, tail-tip, striped hooves, dark spots may be present in the foal coat, which fades out in the adult coat, leaving the broken coloured skin as the only indicator of the broken coloured pattern.

Brown Light, Dark or Very Dark

Cream Off white, creamy colour. Can be a dun or not have any dun markings.

Grey-Dun The most common of donkey colours. It is the original “wild” colour. Body colour is some shade of grey or tannish grey, ranging from very light oatmeal or light silver colour, to a very dark charcoal colour. Cross dorsal stripe, ear marks and often leg stripes (garters) or black dots on the lower part of the neck below the jowls are found. Grey-dun donkeys may have black muzzles and no light points (belly and legs as well as muzzle are usually lighter than the coat in all donkeys) and still be the grey dun colour.

Red For all the red shades that are not bay, red roan or reddish brown. Most red donkeys have extensive white points as adults. If they are clearly frosty or dappled red roan it should be noted on their papers.

Dark Red Usually no stripe or cross

Light Red Tending towards apricot. With or without cross.

Silver Grey White, with a silvery sheen giving the impression of silver. With or without dun markings.

White (Frosted spotted white, or Ivory/Blue eyed White). Due to many factors White is not always snow white. Often it is yellowish. If a donkey has blue eyes and pink skin it is registered as White* (BEW) Blue-eyed white. Although there is no true pink-eyed albino in equines, the term albino- white is accepted in equine circles. The descriptive term is Ivory. Dark-eyed white donkeys with mottled skin are spotted and not true white.

Roan Brown Roan - dark chocolate and white or fawn hairs mingling, dark predominating on the body. Light on face and legs. Mane and tail unusually dark.

Blue Roan - as above, intermingled black and white hairs with white predominant

Pink Roan - as above, but fawn or chestnut hairs replacing the dark. Roans do not usually have a cross.

Black Roan - intermingled black and white hairs with black predominant

Grey-Dun Roan - grey-dun with white hairs intermingled

Dark Red Roan - intermingled brown and white hairs with brown predominant chestnut roan

Red-Roan – intermingled brown and white hairs in approximately equal amounts

Pink Roan – intermingled brown and white hairs, with white predominant.