

## Poitou Donkey Registry of America Registration Tips

### NAMES

Registered Poitou donkeys are named according to the year of their birth. Each birth year begins with a new letter of the alphabet and the donkey's registered name will begin with that letter.

In 2022, Poitou donkeys have names that begin with the letter "M."

Donkeys born in 2023 will use the letter "N."

Donkeys born in 2024 will have the letter "O."

Donkeys born in 2025 will use the letter "P."

Etc.

The alphabetical naming convention allows for the use of a farm name (like Heartland Farm). Here are a few examples for a foal born in 2022:

Heartland Farm **M**arty

**M**arty of Heartland Farm

**M**arty

**M**arty Gras

A herd name (name of farm) may be added as a prefix to a horse's registered name if the farm both owns the dam at the time of the foal's conception and owns the foal at the time of registration. Donkeys can also have a barn name/pet name (like, "Fluffy") recorded in the registry database; however, this name will not appear on the registration papers.

### COLORS

Poitou donkeys can be brown and black. The coat color often lightens due to sun exposure.

- **Brown** Poitou donkeys have a reddish-brown body. It may have black points (tips of ears, lower legs, muzzle) or a pale gray, red or yellowish coloring on the belly, flanks, behind the elbows, inside the legs, on the muzzle, and over the eyes.
- **Black** Poitou donkeys have a black body. Points may be black or a pale gray, red or yellowish coloring on the belly, flanks, behind the elbows, inside the legs, on the muzzle, and over the eyes.

### PHOTOS

Please provide at least two good color photos (one from the front, and one from the side of the donkey's body). One photo will appear on your donkey's registration papers and should be clear and show the donkey's whole body (don't cut off the ears or feet). It helps to be at "eye

level” when you take the photo, with good lighting. Try to get photos that don’t have fences or other objects in front of the donkey’s body. The photos below are good examples:



### DNA Testing

Please note that a DNA test result must be on file with The Livestock Conservancy in order to register your donkey. The DNA testing laboratory for Poitou donkeys is Texas A&M University Animal Genetics Laboratory.

For donkeys, the easiest location to pull hair samples is the **underside of the tail, next to the skin**. It is necessary to pull the **hair root bulbs** out of the skin for the DNA analysis.

1. **Print** the DNA sample submission form on The Livestock Conservancy’s American Poitou Donkey Registry webpage: <https://livestockconservancy.org/heritage-breeds/breed-registration/>
2. **Lift the tail gently and clean** (use comb or brush if possible) the sample site to remove dirt, manure and loose hairs.
3. **Pull** (do not cut) 50-100 hair strands by collecting a few hairs at a time. It is easiest to pull 3-5 hairs at a time by grasping the hairs close to skin and pulling down sharply. (The donkey does not usually mind this process.)
4. **Examine** the ends of the hair strands for the presence of root bulbs. The bulbs are easier to see if you hold the hairs in front of a dark background. If the majority of the hair strands lack the root bulbs, discard that cluster of hair and start again.
5. **Keep** the clusters of hairs aligned so that the bulbs are in the same direction, and place them into a clean envelope. It will take a number of pulls to get the full hair sample. Just keep adding to the envelope until you have enough hair (50-100 hairs).
6. **Fill out** the DNA Submission Form and tape the hair bundle onto the yellow box at the bottom. Don’t put the tape across the follicles!
7. **Mail** the form and payment (or pay online) to the address on the form.

8. **Notify** The Livestock Conservancy when you receive your DNA report. You may email it to the Registrar or we can request the report from the laboratory. Your donkey's registration is incomplete without a DNA test on file.

For photos of hair samples with root bulbs, please refer to the webpage of Texas A&M University Animal Genetics Laboratory: <https://vetmed.tamu.edu/animalgenetics/forms/>

### **Microchipping**

Please note that a microchip is required to register your donkey. A microchip provides a lifelong means of identifying the donkey should it be lost or stolen, or its records lost. Microchipping can be done by a veterinarian or by the owner. The chip should be placed on the left side of the neck. A microchip that can be read by a universal scanner is highly recommended.

1. Before implanting it, scan the microchip make be sure it can be read by the chip reader.
2. Spread the hairs of the implant site apart and douse the skin with rubbing alcohol.
3. Implant the chip, then re-scan the chip to be sure it can be read.
4. Provide a copy of the microchip number with your registration paperwork.
5. This video provides helpful information on microchipping of a Poitou donkey:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZFRooxNNXU>

### **Weights and Measures**

- Poitou donkey **height** is measured as the distance from the highest point on the withers to the ground while the animal is standing on a level surface.
- Poitou donkey **weight** is measured with the animal on a scale, or it can be estimated with a basic fabric or other flexible measuring tape.
- To estimate weight, you will need to take two measurements, the heart girth circumference and the body length. The donkey's heart girth circumference is measured around the body just behind the elbows and withers. The length is measured from the point of the shoulder to the point of the buttock. Key the numbers into the weight estimate calculator here: <https://thehorse.com/tools/adult-horse-weight-calculator/>

**Mail or email registration form and photos to:**

**The Livestock Conservancy**  
Attn: Jaye Ray, Registrar  
PO Box 477  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
[jray@livestockconservancy.org](mailto:jray@livestockconservancy.org)  
919-542-5704, ext 111