

## MHRC HOY 2023 – Mermaid

### Lakehead Mermaid, Standard Black Shetland Mare

Mermaid came to me from Andrea Dymott in 2009 aged 19, as a companion for my Section D, Ronnie. She was a very successful brood mare for Andrea. We were her retirement home, but Mermaid had other ideas.

Over the years we did some small shows with her, if there were no classes for Ronnie! We did the Shetland Mare class at the New Forest Show in 2016. Coming 7<sup>th</sup> & receiving a beautiful special rosette for being the oldest pony in the class!

After sadly losing Ronnie, Mermaid has stepped into the showing world. She has competed at MHRC Christmas show for the last few years. Winning numerous rosettes & the Glitz & Glamour class. She also won a very big SSADL class at Sparsholt in 2017. Her prize was a bespoke browband, which she wears at the Christmas show!

Over the last 2 years we have competed at various local shows, including MHRC shows, always coming home with a selection of rosettes & often winning the Veterans classes. This summer she was Reserve Veteran Champion at the Breamore Show.

At 33 years old she is still up for a pony party. Often jogging to the ring & has been known to buck during her individual show! She does like to trot out, often pulling me along with her. She thoroughly enjoys her showing & meeting up with her fan club.

Last Christmas she appeared in Horse & Hound. They ran an article about readers veteran ponies & horses.

Mermaid was diagnosed with Cushing's 3 years ago. She is on half a pink pill per day & doing very well on it. She does take longer to lose her winter coat because of the Cushing's, but being a Shetland there is a lot of coat to loose. Her teeth are checked 6 monthly, so any problems are picked up quickly. She can only eat very soft, fine hay & has soaked mash feeds.

Altogether, a truly amazing pony, who has filled my heart with great joy! I wouldn't be without her!

