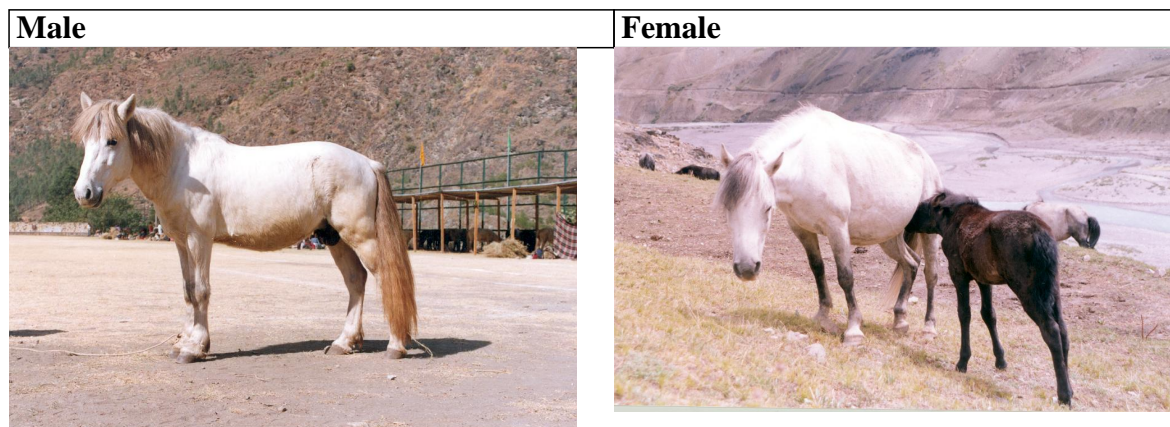


Breed Descriptor of Spiti (Horse)



Breeding Tract			
State: Himachal Pradesh	Lahul & Spiti		
	Kinnaur		
Location			
Longitude (deg.)	76.5 - 78.		
Latitude (deg.)	32.5 - 33.2		
General Information			
Synonyms			
Origin	These horses are believed to be the descendants of wild horses which used to inhabit the alpine region of Spiti, Ladakh and Tibet. There are two strains - Spiti and Konimare (comparatively taller).		
Major utility	Work - Transport, riding, draught.		
Comments on utility	The spiti horses are primarily reared for transport purposes. The migratory horses kept by shepherds move with sheep and goat flocks and are used as transport carrier and for riding purpose.		
Comments on breeding tract	Main breeding tract is Kaja Subdivision of Lahul and Spiti district and Yanthang area of Kinnaur district. Sizable population is found in adjoining districts of Kullu, Mandi and Kangra.		
Adaptability to environment	These horses thrive well in the height range of 5000 to 15000 ft above MSL. The majority of these areas are adjacent to permanent snowline with arid cold climate without large vegetation		
Population			
	Year	Population	Other information
	2002	4000	Survey conducted by HPKV, Palampur under Network project on AnGR of NBAGR, Karnal.

	2013	1010	Source: Estimated Livestock Population Breed Wise Based on Breed Survey 2013. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India, New Delhi
Management			
Management system	Backyard		
Mobility	Stationary as well as migratory		
Feeding of adults	Grazing, Fodder and Concentrate		
Comments on Management	In the main breeding tract, all the horses are stationary from December to May. In June, all horses except young ones and pregnant females are shifted to high land pastures for almost five months till they are taken back to homes when heavy snowfall occurs. Herd size ranges from 1 to 3. Kannait community rear these horses.		
Morphology			
Colour	Highly variable ranging from chestnut to black. Grey colour is most predominant followed by brown and black.		
Horn shape and size			
Visible characteristics	Limbs and muzzle are of the same colour as that of main body		
	Male	Female	Overall
Height (avg. cm.)	132.14	131.19	
Body Length (avg. cm.)	129.85	122.88	
Heart girth (avg. cm.)	143.12	140.56	
Body weight (avg. kg.)	240.0	224.0	
Birth weight (avg. kg.)	31.85	29.93	
Performance			
	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Age at first parturition (months)	43.68	36.0	58.0
Parturition interval (months)	12.23		
Any Peculiarity of the breed	The nuchal ligament in Spiti ponies is very powerful elastic apparatus, which assists the extensor muscles of the head and neck. It is longer in comparison to other breeds of horses, which helps the animal to walk and carry load in steep mountains.		