

Volunteers get the measure of horses

24 January 2019 - Around 130 horses have been measured at the Ashburton A&P Showgrounds over the last few months.

Having an official height measurement is a requirement for horses competing in various categories at shows registered with Royal Agricultural Society (RAS).

Local equestrian volunteers measured horses in Ashburton in September, October and at a fourth session last week.

A permanently-mounted measurement stand at the showgrounds is used and basic horse details and credentials are checked.

Horses are measured from the ground to the top of their withers using a spirit level on a stand.

More nervous horses are measured with a laser.

Local equestrian volunteer Caroline Coulter said all horses that competed at shows registered with RAS needed a height certificate.

Horses were measured as a first measure, as an annual re-measure and as a young stock re-measure.

Horses over the age of eight also had the option of obtaining a life certificate, said Mrs Coulter.

RAS measuring rules are issued in conjunction with the NZ Equestrian Federation, the NZ Pony Clubs Association and all affiliated Equestrian Breed Societies and in consultation with the NZ Veterinary Association.

Volunteer Rachael Edmondstone measures Gem, the pony belonging to Lucy Coulter, 8, of the Tinwald Pony Club.

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