



Standard of Excellence

General Impression

A small, sound, well balanced horse possessing the conformation characteristics desirable of most breeds.

In fact, if there were no size reference, the miniature and small horse might give the illusion of being a full sized horse. A miniature and small horse should show refinement and femininity in the mare and boldness and masculinity in the stallion at the same time displaying an impeccable temperament.

The general impression should be one of refinement, symmetry, agility and an alert intelligence. Since the breed objective is the smallest possible perfect horse, preference in judging shall be given to the small horse for its age when other characteristics are approximately equal.

Size

There shall be miniature, small and little horse categories:

Miniature

- Weanlings must not exceed 30"
- Yearlings must not exceed 32"
- Two Year Old must not exceed 33"
- Mature horses must not exceed 34"

Small Horse

- Weanlings must not exceed 34"
- Yearlings must not exceed 36"
- Two Year Olds must not exceed 37"
- Mature horses must not exceed 38"

Little Horse

- Weanlings must not exceed 38"
- Yearlings must not exceed 40"
- Two Year Olds must not exceed 41"
- Mature horses must not exceed 42"

An allowance of one half inch (0.5") will be made for mature horses exceeding the Miniature height of 34" and Small Horse height of 38" for registration and showing purposes. There is no height allowance for Little Horse.

Head

In proportion to length of neck and body, broad forehead with large expressive eyes set well part, comparatively short distance between eyes and muzzle, profile straight or slightly concave below eyes, large nostrils, and clean refined muzzle.

Teeth

An even bit is necessary with no more than 3mm out. Overshot or parrot mouth a disqualification.

Ears

Medium sized, pointed and alert, tips curving slightly inwards.

Throat-Latch

Clean and well defined allowing ample flexion at the poll.

Neck

Flexible and lengthy in proportion to body and style, blending smoothly into withers.

Shoulder

Long, sloping and well angulated allowing a free swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage, well muscled forearm.



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Body

Well muscled with ample bone and substance, without being heavy, balanced and well proportioned, short back and loins in relating to length of underline, smooth and general level top line, proportionate depth of girth and flank, trim barrel.

Hindquarters

Long, well muscled hip, thigh and gaskin, highest point of croup of be same height as withers, tail set neither excessively high nor low but smoothly rounding off rump.

Legs

Lengthy and slender in proportion to the rest of the body, set straight and parallel when viewed from front and back, straight true and squarely set when viewed from the side with hooves pointing directly ahead, pasterns sloping approximately 45 degrees and blending smoothly with no change of angle from hooves to the ground, hooves to be round and compact, trimmed suitable but not excessively for an unshod horse.

Gait

Smooth and fluid gait in motion, naturally free moving.

Colour

Any colour or marking pattern is acceptable, any eye colour is allowed, the coat should be lustrous and silky.

Temperament

Good temperament is of the utmost importance – curious, alert, intelligent and friendly, poor or vicious temperament is considered a fault.

