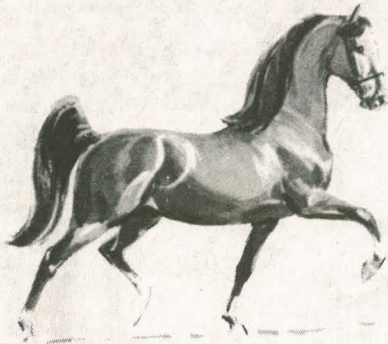


A HANDBOOK OF MARYLAND HORSES

by Jean du Pont McConnell



AMERICAN SADDLEBRED

This horse is the result of selective breeding and training by Southern plantation owners who desired a strong horse that looked like a "classic beauty" and was comfortable to ride. Today it is shown under saddle and with a lightweight vehicle in fine harness. Registered with the American Saddle Horse Breeders Association.

ORIGIN

Basic bloodlines imported from England during colonial times, developed by further crossbreeding in Kentucky.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—average 16 hands.

Weight—approximately 1000 lbs.

Color—Usually solid colors—black, bay, brown, chestnut, with a few grays. White markings on nose and legs *only* are seen regularly. Mane and tail natural, full-flowing. Coat fine textured.

Head—well formed, refined, carried high.

Neck—long and extravagantly arched, proud.

Body—strong, well muscled, round; back short.

Legs—long and slender; long pasterns.

Hoofs—very long with weighted shoes to produce action.

ACTION

Smooth, floating use of gaits—supremely high stepping; capable of speed.

DISPOSITION

Brilliant, intelligent, has showmanship. Adaptable to pleasure use.

PRIMARY USES

Riding—Show-ring competition, pleasure.

Driving—Show-ring competition, pleasure.

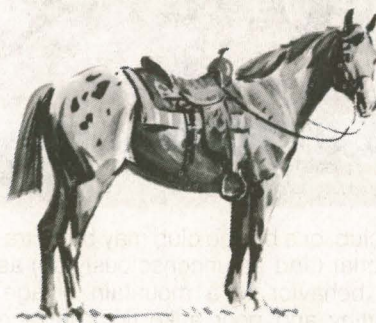
Hunting—(occasionally.)

APPALOOSA

A versatile "spotted" horse whose popularity is rapidly increasing. Registered in the Appaloosa Horse Club, Moscow, Idaho.

ORIGIN

Spain to America about 1730.



CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—14 to 15.3 hands.

Weight—950 to 1200 lbs.

Color—brown, bay, chestnut, cream, black. Mane and tail natural—may be of mixed colors. *Skin mottled, especially at nostrils. Coat patterns vary, generally a "white blanket" covers loins and rump, with dark spots that may be oval or round— $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter. *Head*—medium-size, clean-cut. *Eye encircled by white; ears medium; forehead wide.

Neck—shorter than most, set into deep chest.

Body—stocky with powerful hindquarters.

Legs—medium length; forearms well muscled.

**Hoofs*—medium size, vertically striped black and white.

**Note*: All Appaloosa horses have white encircling the eye, parti-colored skin, and parti-colored hoofs.

ACTION

Quick, surefooted, eager, has stamina.

DISPOSITION

Intelligent, gentle.

PRIMARY USES

Breeding

Riding—pleasure, hunting; showing—flat and jumping; stock horse.

ARABIAN

The Arab horse, historically, is the most completely pure breed, having structural peculiarities that distinguish him from all other breeds. Present-day horses registered in the Arabian Horse Club of America.

ORIGIN

Desert of Arabia before 570 A.D.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—14 to 15 hands.

Weight—800 to 1000 lbs.

Color—generally bay, brown, chestnut, and gray; piebalds and skewbalds and other color variations not found in purebred Arabians, but in Arab crosses. Sleek coat with silky-textured hair; mane and tail natural and flowing.

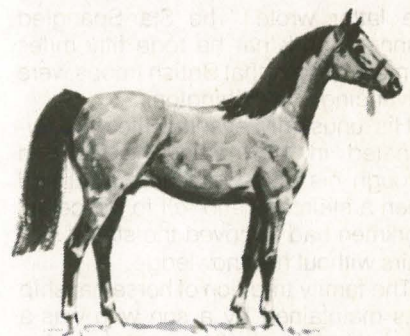
Head—delicate with slightly "dished" profile. Ears small; large dark eyes, set wide apart; fine muzzle, with strong jaw and cheekbones.

Neck—well set in shoulders, slender and arched.

Body—compact with well-sprung ribs.

Legs—strong, slender and small-boned.

Hoofs—small.



ACTION

Animated, supple, smooth, with noble bearing.

DISPOSITION

Spirited, intelligent, gentle.

PRIMARY USES

Breeding—purebred and crossbreeding.

Riding—pleasure, hunting; showing—flat and jumping; racing; endurance trail rides; stock horse.

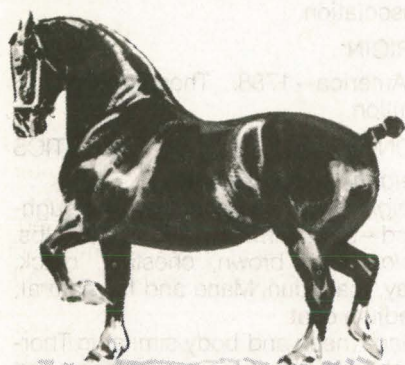
AND PONIES

BELGIAN

Heaviest of all horses bred to do draft work, offering massive "horse power." A descendant of the Flemish horse.

ORIGIN

Belgium—imported to America in 1886.



CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—15.12 to 17 hands.

Weight—1900 to 2200 lbs.

Color—Sorrel, chestnut, and roan preferred; bay, black, and gray sometimes penalized in showing. White markings on head common; flaxen mane and tail, usually with light hair at fetlock. Coat medium and of good texture.

Head—large, well-rounded jaws; ears medium; eyes set well apart.

Neck—medium length, well crested.

Body—compact; short, close-coupled back; deep through the barrel; massive in haunches.

Legs—short, chunky, powerful.

Hoofs—round and short.

ACTION

Short "paddling" strides without spring in their step. Steady, powerful.

DISPOSITION

Intelligent, docile, willing—with extremely good temper.

PRIMARY USES

Breeding

Driving—heavy farm work; competitive weight pulling.

MORGAN

This serves as a useful all-around horse. Registered with the Morgan Horse Club, Inc.

ORIGIN

Breed established in Massachusetts in 1789 of mixed bloodlines. Later called "Justin Morgan."

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—14.1 to 15.1 hands.

Weight—800 to 1000 lbs.

Color—dark brown, bay, black; less frequently chestnut; white markings rarely noted. Slick coat; mane and tail natural.

Head—fine, carried high; small ears; large eyes, set wide apart; small muzzle, large nostrils.

Neck—short and crested

Body—compact; thick barrel with power in hindquarters.

Legs—short, heavily muscled, with hairy fetlocks.

Hoofs—small and dark.

ACTION

Quick, able, powerful short strides.

DISPOSITION

Intelligent, gentle, eager, has great stamina.

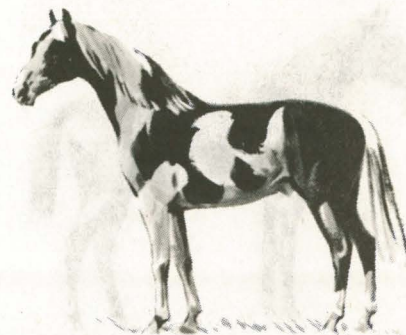


PRIMARY USES

Breeding

Riding—pleasure, hunting, jumping, western stock.

Driving—pleasure, show harness, farm duties.



PINTO

A colorful horse, it is becoming increasingly popular. There are two categories: Overo and Tobiano. Registered with the Pinto Horse Association of America.

ORIGIN

Mexico in early 1500s, thence to United States.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—up to 14 hands.

Weight—600 to 800 lbs.

Color—two patterns: Overo is a colored horse (roan, dun, sorrel, bay, brown, black) with large white irregular-patterned markings. Tail and mane dark or mixed, and face either white or bald. Tobiano has a base color of white with patterns of another color on coat. Mane and tail always the same color as neck and rump. Legs usually white, head and face dark. Face may be marked with a snip, star, or similar decoration. Coat of medium texture for both.

Head—small, well-shaped ears; eyes set wide apart; small muzzle.

Neck—nicely arched.

Body—broad chest, sloping shoulders, short back, deep girth.

Legs—strong, straight, with good muscles.

ACTION

Gait agile and quick. Stride long; has ability for speed.

DISPOSITION

Intelligent, game, gentle.

PRIMARY USES

Breeding

Riding—pleasure, polo, stock horse, hunting, showing, jumping.

Racing



QUARTER HORSE

A small horse, recognized by ability to turn-on-a-dime, "stop dead" suddenly, as well as sprint with speed, it is becoming one of America's most popular animals. Today the world's richest race is for only a "quarter" of a mile. Registered with the American Quarter Horse Association.

ORIGIN

Spain—came to America with the explorers in the early 1500s.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—14.3 to 15.1 hands.

Weight—1100 to 1300 lbs.

Color—Any color without spots is acceptable. Coat medium texture; mane usually roached; tail usually pulled and banded.

Head—relatively short; eyes set wide apart; small ears and muzzle; well-developed jaw.

Neck—of sufficient length, fairly thick. *Body*—broad chest; heavily muscled shoulders; back short, close coupled; deep girth; heavy powerful hindquarters.

Legs—set wide apart; short, full forearms; flat, clean knees and hocks.

Hoofs—tough-textured feet with wide-open heel.

ACTION

Quick, surefooted, low gaits that can produce instant speed in any direction.

DISPOSITION

Very intelligent, quick to learn, cheerful, kind, diligent.

PRIMARY USES

Breeding

Racing

Riding—pleasure, hunting, showing—flat and jumping; stock horse.

SHIRE

Tallest of all horse breeds, the Shire appears as a mountain of strength.

ORIGIN

From the Shires of east-central England to Canada in 1836, then to the United States in the early 1840s.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—16 up to approximately 20 hands.

Weight—1500 to 2000 lbs.

Color—Generally bay, brown, and black; however, gray, chestnut, and roan are acceptable. White markings on face usual; with white legs from knee or hock to hoof. Characterized by "feathers" about the fetlocks (long white hair beginning just above the ankle down to the hoof). Mane and tail natural—tail usually tied up during work. Coat of medium texture.

Head—large; ears, jaw, and cheekbones respectively proportioned; eyes set wide apart.

Neck—thick and crested.

Body—not compact; chest wide; back longer than Belgian, giving massive, rangy appearance; hindquarters capable of power.

Legs—long and powerful.

Hoofs—large (huge).

ACTION

Powerful strides; more rhythm than Belgian, due to rangy build.

DISPOSITION

Intelligent, tractable. (If it were other than kind, the giant Shire would be impossible to handle.)

PRIMARY USES

Breeding

Driving—farm use; heavy contest pulling; coaching; team horses.

STANDARD BRED

Bred to race in harness within a certain "standard" of speed. Any horse that has not qualified under that "standard" may not be raced in an officially recognized meeting of the U.S. Trotting Association.

ORIGIN

America—1788. Thoroughbred stallion.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—15 to 16 hands.

Weight (Size)—smaller than Thoroughbred—approximately 800 to 1000 lbs.

Color—bay, brown, chestnut, black, gray, roan, dun. Mane and tail natural; medium coat.

Head—neck and body similar to Thoroughbred, yet of more substance and ruggedness.

Legs—not as long as Thoroughbred; well muscled, with good bone.

Feet—medium size.



ACTION

Natural tendency for trotting or pacing. These gaits must be highly controlled to produce speed.

DISPOSITION

Extremely kind and tractable.

PRIMARY USES

Breeding for sales.

Harness racing.

Harness horses in horse shows.

PONIES

THOROUGHBRED

Registered in any stud book recognized by The Jockey Club.

ORIGIN

Descended from Arabian stallions brought to England about 1700.



CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—Small: over 14.2, under 15.2½ hands. Other: over 15.2½ hands.

Weight—approximately 1000 lbs.

Lightweight—up to carrying 165 lbs.

Middleweight—up to carrying 185 lbs.

Heavyweight—up to carrying 205 lbs.

Color—bay, brown, chestnut, black, occasionally gray and roan. White markings on face and legs common. Mane and tail natural.

Head—refined, but not as small as Arabian's.

Neck and body—slender; sloping shoulders.

Legs—long, straight, well muscled.

Feet—small; may be black or white.

ACTION

Gait light and quick; stride low and long.

DISPOSITION

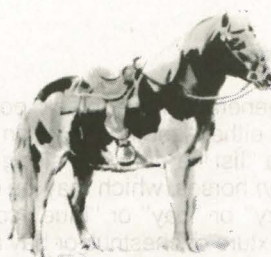
Shy, high-strung, intelligent.

PRIMARY USES

Breeding for sales.

Racehorses—flat, steeplechase.

Riding—pleasure, hunting, polo, stock.



SHETLAND

These ponies have undergone a breeding transformation in the United States, so that today there are two types: the *English* and the *American*. Registered with the American Shetland Pony Club.

ORIGIN

Shetland Islands, British Isles.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—26 to 46 inches (only Shetlands are measured in inches rather than hands.)

Weight—300 to 500 lbs.

Color—assorted colors (mouse gray, bay brown, dappled, cream, gray, etc.)

Mane and tail long and natural. Coat sleek in the summer, thick and furry in winter if not stabled.

ENGLISH TYPE PONY is small, resembling a miniature draft horse.

Head—reasonably coarse, tiny ears, straight profile.

Neck, body, and legs—short, compact.

Hoofs—very small.

AMERICAN TYPE PONY is small, yet slender and supple.

Head—refined; ears tiny; slightly dished profile.

Neck, body, and legs—compact, deep chest, well-balanced.

Hoofs—tiny and hard.

ACTION

Short little strides, quick, surefooted, able to pull weight and jump.

DISPOSITION

Spirited, intelligent, adapts to stylish show appearances with pride and animation; gentle pet for child.

PRIMARY USES

Riding—(children) pleasure, showing.

Driving—pleasure, showing, racing.

WELSH

A useful and all-purpose pony to be enjoyed by adults as well as children. The only means of transportation for many in Wales. Registered with the Welsh Pony Society of America, Inc.

ORIGIN

Wales, British Isles.

CONFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS

Height—Section "A" ponies—up to 12.2 hands. Section "B" ponies—over 12.2 to 14.2 hands.

Weight—450 to 600 lbs.

Color—any color except piebald and skewbald. Mane and tail natural, well set on tail. Coat of medium texture.

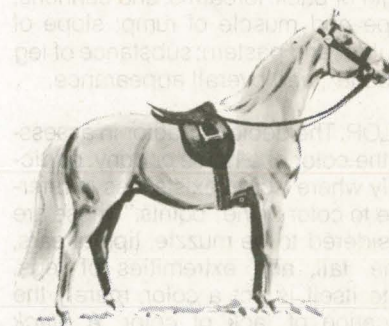
Head—small, slightly dished profile; little ears; eyes set wide apart.

Neck—slender and lengthy, crested in stallions.

Body—shoulders long, sloping; girth deep; back well coupled, hindquarters lengthy and fine.

Legs—strong forearms; flat clean joints.

Hoofs—small, well shaped, dense.



ACTION

Elastic and showy, strong, proud, smooth gaits.

DISPOSITION

Intelligent, spirited, responsive, gentle.

PRIMARY USES

Breeding

Riding—pleasure, hunting, showing.

Driving—showing, coaching.

Racing—trotting, roadster.

Photos: Black Horse Press, Sam Savitt "Guide to Horses"

BREEDS AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

Horses may be classified as light horses, ponies, or draft horses, according to size, build, and use. *Light horses* stand about 14 to 17 hands high, weigh 900 to 1400 pounds, and are used primarily for riding, driving, or racing, or for utility purposes on the farm. They generally are more rangy and are capable of greater speed and more action than draft horses. *Ponies* stand under 14.2 hands high and weigh 500 to 900 pounds. *Draft horses* stand 14.2 hands to approximately 20 hands high, weigh 1400 or more pounds, and are used primarily for drawing loads and other heavy work.

CONFORMATION. A matter of pleasing appearance, good structure, and sound proportion for the type of horse and the type of work it is expected to do. Principal areas for determining good conformation include: size of head; length and shape of neck; proportionate length of back, forearms, and cannons; shape and muscle of rump; slope of shoulder and pastern; substance of leg or "bone"; and overall appearance.

COLOR. The deciding factor in assessing the color of a horse or pony, particularly where doubt exists, lies in reference to color of the "points." These are considered to be muzzle, tips of ears, mane, tail, and extremities of legs. White itself is not a color, merely the indication of lack of color. A *black* horse is black with black points. A *brown* horse is dark brown or nearly black with brown points. A *bay* horse is brown with black points. A *chestnut* horse is ginger or reddish color with similar main and tail. "Light," "dark," and "liver" chestnuts are variations. A seldom seen red chestnut is an old-fashioned "sorrel." A *grey* horse has both white and black hairs throughout the coat. An "iron grey" is one in which white hairs predominate. A "fleabitten grey" is one in which the dark hairs occur in tufts. A horse is never correctly described as a "white horse." *Dun* horses vary from mouse color to

golden, generally have black points and show either "zebra" marks on the limbs or a "list," a dark line along the back. *Roan* horses, which may be of a "strawberry" or "bay" or "blue" color, show a mixture of chestnut, or bay and white, or black and white hairs throughout the coat. A *piebald* horse shows large irregular patches of black and white. A *skewbald* horse shows large irregular patches of white and any other color except black. Horses that conform to no fixed color may correctly be described as "odd colored." The term bay-brown is also permissible in a horse that appears to conform partly, but not exactly, to bay or brown.

MARKINGS. The Head: A *star* is a white mark on the forehead. A *stripe* is a narrow white mark down the face. A *blaze* is a broad white mark down the face that extends over the bones of the nose. A *white face* includes forehead, eyes, nose, and part of muzzle. A *snip* is a white mark between the nostrils that in some cases extends into the nostrils. A *wall eye* shows white or blue-white coloring in place of the normal coloration. The Legs: A *stocking* is a white leg extending as far as knee or hock. A *sock* involves the fetlock and part of the cannon region. A *white fetlock*, *white pastern*, or *white coronet* involves the part named only. The term *ermine* is used where black spots occur on white. Brands: These are generally placed either on the flat of the shoulder, the saddle region, or the quarters. Sometimes on the neck.

[Note: It is important to have a thorough knowledge of horse colors, markings, and terms for accurate descriptions. When registering a horse or pony with the association of its breed, or with the American Horse Shows Association, a complete and detailed description is necessary in order to establish ownership, and performance privileges for your animal.]

GLOSSARY

ANGLO-ARAB. Breeding of an Arabian and a Thoroughbred horse.

BONE. Term used in relation to measurement taken around foreleg immediately below knee. "Good bone" should measure 8½ inches or more. When the measurement falls short of requirements, the horse is said to be "light of bone," indicating his limbs are not up to carrying the weight his body should.

CROSSBRED. The breeding of a "grade" mare to a stallion of any unregistered breed other than Thoroughbred.

FEATHERS. Luxuriant growth of hair on lower legs.

GIRTH. A measure of the circumference of the chest below a point back of the withers and in front of the back.

GRADE. A horse of unknown or unregistered bloodlines.

HALF-BRED. The breeding of a "grade" mare to a Thoroughbred stallion.

HAND. Equals 4 inches; hence a horse 15.1 hands high measures 61".

MORAB. Breeding of an Arabian and a Morgan horse.

PADDLING. Rolling action of forelegs at walk or trot.

PUREBRED. All animals in the bloodline of the same registered stock.

ROACHED (hogged). Refers to mane clipped close to neck.

TYPE. Hunters, hacks, polo ponies, cobs, and vanners are types of horses as distinct from breeds.

WEIGHT. Can be estimated. However, averages for breeds have been determined through use of scales.

WELSH-ARAB. Breeding of an Arabian and a Welsh pony.