

More Halter Judging

Beyond Stock Type Horses
Johnson County 4-H Horse
Judging



When Judging

- ▶ First compare each horse to the ideal and note + or – from ideal
- ▶ Determine top individual or top pair, then compare that top pair to each other
- ▶ Determine bottom pair and compare to each other
- ▶ Then compare middle pair
- ▶ Write your placings
- ▶ Draft your reasons

Hunter Horses

- ▶ Body is long & deep-chested rather upstanding & often angular
- ▶ Posses a high degree of quality & refinement throughout
- ▶ Head is small, refined & well proportioned with a straight face, small neat ear and fine throttle
- ▶ Neck is long & lean & joins the shoulder smoothly
- ▶ Shoulders & pasterns are sloping
- ▶ Cannon bones are relatively short with long forearms & high-quality bone that demonstrates substance & strength
- ▶ Thigh & quarter are muscled with long, athletic & powerfully defined muscles
- ▶ Temperament is active & energetic
- ▶ Movement is low, efficient & long-strided
- ▶ **Quality, Substance and Soundness are emphasized**

Hunter Terms

- ▶ Exhibited a longer, lower Hunter frame
- ▶ Showed more strength, substance & balance from end to end
- ▶ Stood straighter on all four corners
- ▶ Showed more slope from stifle to hock
- ▶ Was more athletic & fit in his muscle expression
- ▶ Was deeper through the heartgirth
- ▶ Traveled with more reach from his shoulder

General Breed Characteristics

- ▶ Stock-type– Quarter Horse
 - Majority of what we have seen & discussed
- ▶ Arabian
- ▶ Morgan
- ▶ American Saddlebred
- ▶ Tennessee Walking Horse
- ▶ Draft Horse
- ▶ Miniature Horse

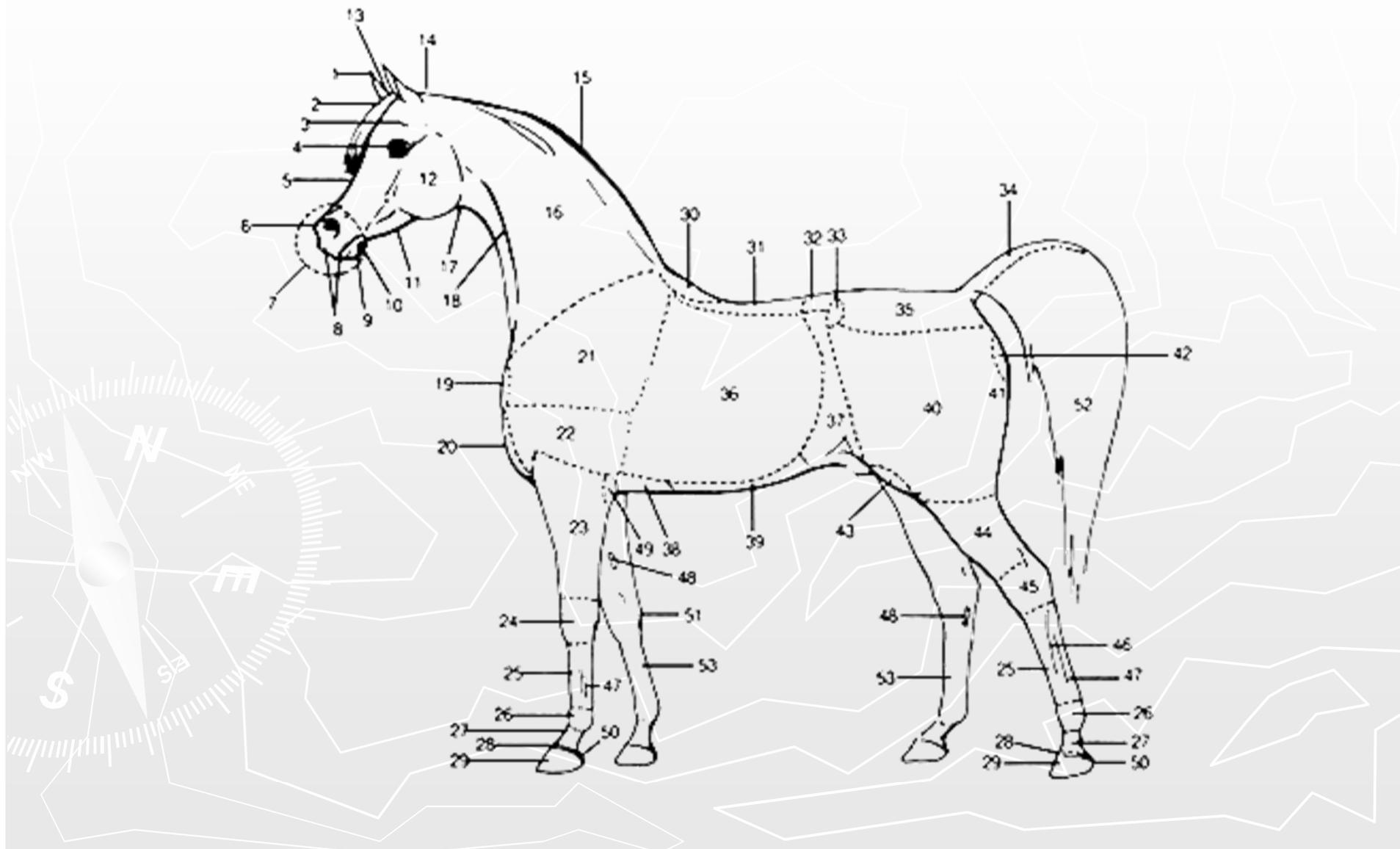
Arabian



Arabian

- ▶ Head is small with straight or slightly concave (dished) profile
- ▶ Eyes are large, round & expressive & set well apart
- ▶ Distance between ear & muzzle is short
- ▶ Ears are small, thin & well shaped with tips curved slightly inward
- ▶ Neck is long and arched, set high & running well back into moderately high withers
- ▶ Shoulder is long, sloping and laid over with plenty of muscle & the ribs are well sprung
- ▶ Forearms are broad, with short cannon bones
- ▶ Loins are broad & strong
- ▶ Croup is relatively horizontal (flat) & tail carriage is naturally high & straight when viewed from rear
- ▶ Hips are strong & round with well-muscled thighs & gaskins
- ▶ Pasterns are sloping & the feet are round & of proportionate size

Ideal Arabian



Arabian Horse Parts

- ▶ **1 - Ear, 2 - Forelock, 3 - Temple, 4 - Eye, 5 - Nose, 6 - Nostril, 7 - Muzzle, 8 - Lips, 9 - Chin, 10 - Chin groove, 11- Branches of jaw, 12 - Cheek, 13 - Occipital crest, 14 - Poll, 15 - Crest, 16 - Neck, 17 - Throatlatch, 18 - Jugular groove, 19 - Point of shoulder, 20 - Chest, 21 - Shoulder, 22 - Upper arm, 23 - Forearm, 24 - Knee, 25 - Cannon, 26 - Fetlock joint, 27 - Pastern, 28 - Coronet, 29 - Hoof, 30 - Withers, 31 - Back, 32 - Loin, 33 - Point of hip, 34 - Dock of tail, 35 - Croup, 36 - Ribs, 37 - Flank, 38 - Brisket, 39 - Belly, 40 - Thigh, haunch, 41 - Buttock, 42 - Point of buttock, 43 - Stifle, 44 - Gaskin, 45 - Hock, 46 - Suspensory ligament, 47 - Tendon, 48 - Chestnut, 49 - Elbow, 50 - Heel, 51 - Trapezium, 52 - Tail, 53 - Cannon.**

Arabian Overall

- ▶ Ranges from 14.1 to 15.1 hands high
- ▶ Emphasis should be placed on type, conformation, substance and quality
- ▶ Horse must be serviceably sound & any transmissible weaknesses in breeding stock should be penalized

Arabian



Arabian Reasons

- ▶ More overall Arabian type
- ▶ More characteristic about the head
- ▶ Had a larger, more expressive eye
- ▶ Was cleaner & sharper about the head or was more refined & stylish about the head
- ▶ Was more prominent over the withers
- ▶ Stronger & more comparatively horizontal over the croup
- ▶ Showed more brilliance & animation at the trot
- ▶ Was cleaner about his hocks and knees

Arabian



More Arabian Reasons

- ▶ Had a longer, more graceful neck that came out higher from a more sloping shoulder
- ▶ Folds his knees with more elevation and works more aggressively over his hocks
- ▶ Longer & smoother muscling through quarter & gaskin
- ▶ Exhibited greater spring of rib & depth of heart
- ▶ Exhibited more style, grace and overall smoothness
- ▶ Was more deeply dished about the head
- ▶ [half Arab Halter](#)
- ▶ [Full Arab Halter](#)

Morgan



Morgan Characteristics

- ▶ Head should be expressive with broad forehead, large prominent eyes, a straight or slightly dished short face, firm, fine lips, large nostrils and well rounded jowls
- ▶ Throatlatch is slightly deeper than other breeds yet refined enough to allow proper flexion at the poll & normal respiration
- ▶ Neck should come out on top of an extremely well-angulated shoulder, with depth from the top of the withers to the point of the shoulder
 - Neck should be relatively fine in relation to sex and is slightly deeper than other breeds
 - Neck is slightly arched & should blend far back into the withers and back
 - Topline of the neck is considerably longer than the bottom line
 - Stallion should have more crest than the mare or gelding

Morgan



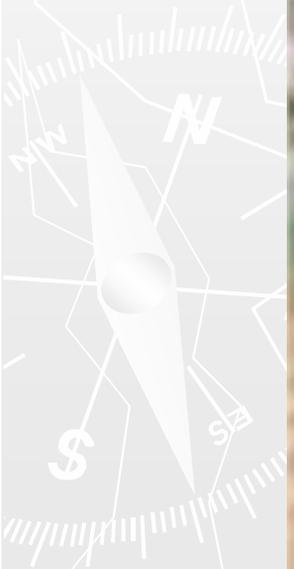
Morgan Characteristics

- ▶ Withers should be well-defined & extend back in proportion to the angulation of the shoulder
 - From the side neck should appear like it is sitting on top of the withers rather than in front of them
- ▶ Back is short & straight
- ▶ Croup is relatively level, rounding to a well-muscled thigh
 - Croup should NOT be higher than the withers when mature
- ▶ Tail should be attached high & carried with an arch to it
- ▶ Underline should be long & body deep through heartgirth and flanks
- ▶ Front legs appear slightly forward on body due to extreme angulation of the shoulder

Morgan Overall

- ▶ Combination of muscling with refinement
- ▶ Displays a great deal of attitude & alertness, combined with a great deal of animation in its strong, natural way of going
- ▶ Walk should be rapid, flat-footed, elastic and four-beat , with the accent on flexion in the pastern
- ▶ Trot should be a two-beat, diagonal gait, animated, elastic, square & colleted
- ▶ The hind action should be in balance with the front

Morgan Horse



Morgan Terms

- ▶ More closely matched the standard of perfection set by the Morgan Breed
- ▶ Exhibited greater show ring presence
- ▶ Showed more natural thickness & dimension
- ▶ Was a brighter, bolder & more expressive individual
- ▶ His neck tied in higher & smoother
- ▶ Her neck was higher & stronger, coming out of the top of a well angulated shoulder
- ▶ The neck rose more vertically out of the shoulder
- ▶ Showed more substance combined with refinement
- ▶ Exhibited higher, rounder motion
- ▶ Showed more brilliance & animation in his way of going
- ▶ Had a better combination of knee & shoulder action, reaching out further & breaking over higher with each stride of a bolder trot

American Saddlebred

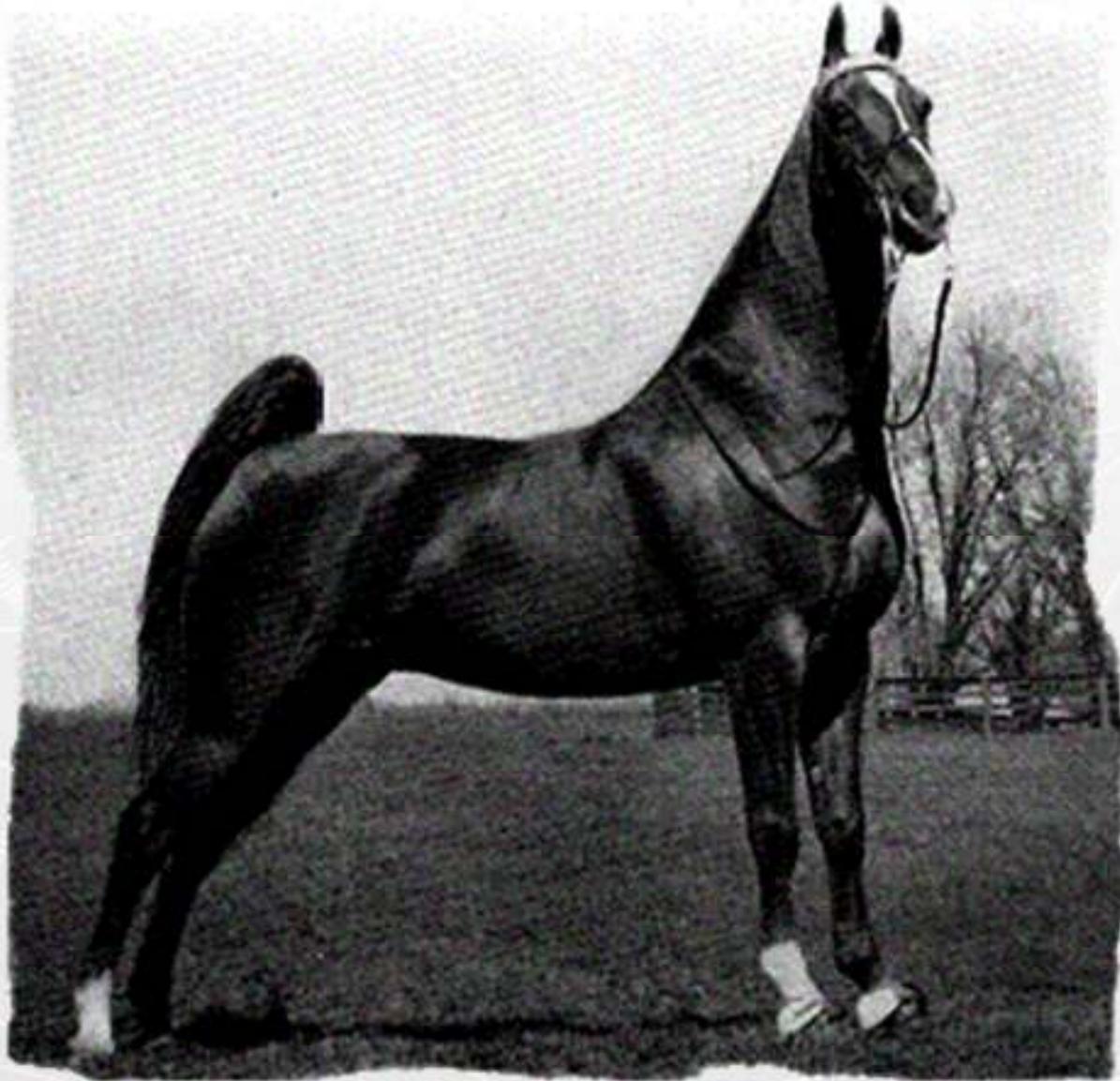




American Saddlebred

- ▶ Well-shaped head carried relatively high
- ▶ Small, alert, pointed ears set close
- ▶ Large eyes set well apart
- ▶ Fine muzzle with large nostrils
- ▶ Fine straight face line
- ▶ Long neck is nicely arched with fine, clean throatlatch
- ▶ High withers with long, sloping shoulders & a short level back with well-sprung ribs
- ▶ Croup is level with well-carried tail coming out high
- ▶ Forearms and hindquarters are well muscled to the knees & hocks
- ▶ Legs are straight with broad flat bones, sharply defined tendons, sloping pasterns & good sound hooves which are open at the heels

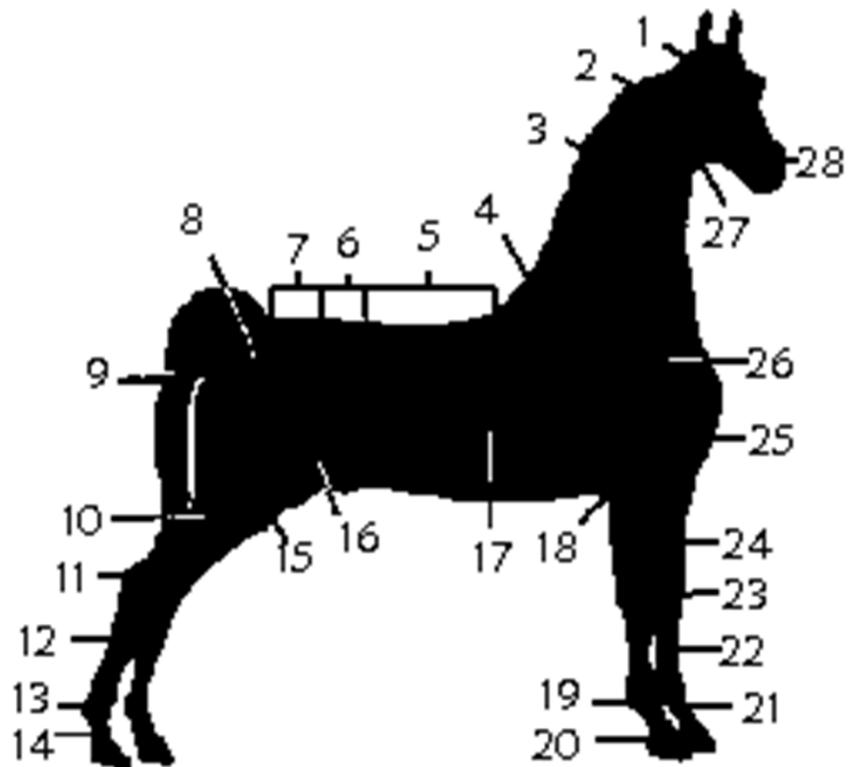
American Saddlebred



American Saddlebred

- ▶ Average height 16 hands
- ▶ Clean, rhythmic & fluid action is vital
- ▶ Action should be straight & true with extreme knee & hock action desired
- ▶ Winging, interfering, traveling wide behind, mixing of gaits & loss of form due to excessive speed should be penalized

Saddlebred Conformation



- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Poll | 15. Stifle |
| 2. Crest | 16. Flank |
| 3. Mane | 17. Barrel |
| 4. Withers | 18. Elbow |
| 5. Back | 19. Fetlock |
| 6. Loin | 20. Coronet |
| 7. Croup | 21. Pastern |
| 8. Hip | 22. Cannon Bone |
| 9. Buttocks | 23. Knees |
| 10. Gaskin | 24. Forearm |
| 11. Hock | 25. Chest |
| 12. Cannon Bone | 26. Shoulder |
| 13. Fetlock | 27. Throatlatch |
| 14. Pastern | 28. Muzzle |

Saddlebred Gaits

- ▶ Walk should be elastic, prompt, showy & alert in manner
- ▶ Trot is 2-beat gait that is square & bold with natural action & brilliant motion of the knees & hocks
- ▶ Motion should be snappy & uniform, with each stride a duplicate of the previous
- ▶ True & accurate gaits should be placed above extremely animated gaits that lose form & quality
- ▶ Gaits should be executed in a collected manner with high action
- ▶ Head high, ears alert with an air of brilliance
- ▶ Three-gaited & five gaited pleasure classes judged with emphasis on action, manners & soundness
- ▶ Similar to English Pleasure judging

American Saddlebred



Saddlebred Terms

- ▶ Had a longer, more graceful neck that came out higher from his shoulders
- ▶ More comparatively horizontal over the croup
- ▶ More sloping in his shoulder
- ▶ Longer in his hip
- ▶ Exhibited more brilliance & animation in the trot
- ▶ Had a higher tail set
- ▶ Showed more snap to his knees & drive to his hocks
- ▶ Had a more reaching trot
- ▶ Showed more roll to his shoulders at the trot
- ▶ Was more elastic in his stride
- ▶ Was more elegant in her appearance
- ▶ Was more elegant in her head & neck
- ▶ Was a bolder more expressive horse on the move

Tennessee Walking Horses



Tennessee Walking Horse

- ▶ Height of 15-16 hands
- ▶ Emphasis placed on Type, Conformation, Substance & Quality
- ▶ Intelligent & neat head
- ▶ Well-shaped & pointed ears
- ▶ Clear alert eyes
- ▶ Tapered muzzle
- ▶ Neck should be long & graceful
- ▶ Shoulders muscular & sloping
- ▶ Short back with good coupling at the loins
- ▶ Chest of good proportion & width
- ▶ Body should be deep in the girth & well-ribbed
- ▶ Croup is generally more sloping than other breeds
- ▶ Hips should be well-muscled, extending well down to hocks
- ▶ Legs should be flat & cordy

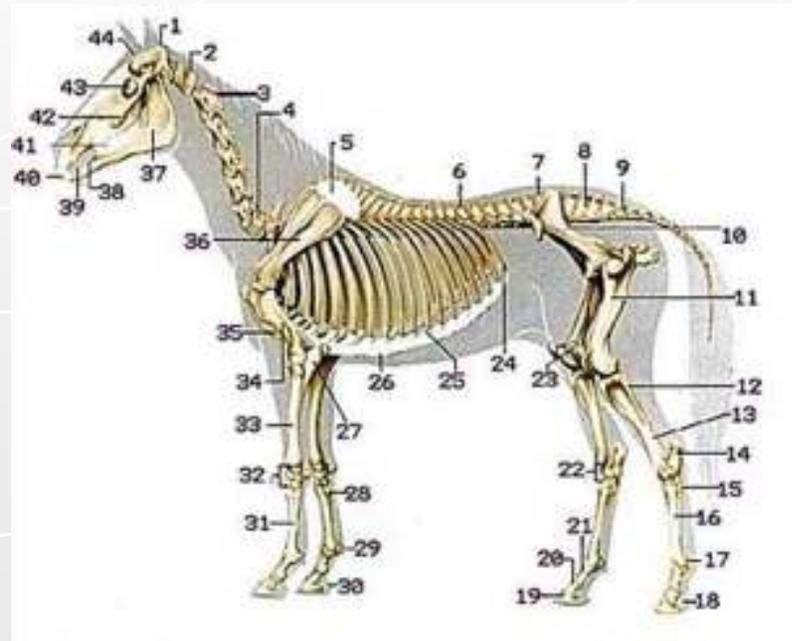
Tennessee Walking Horse



Tennessee Walking Horse



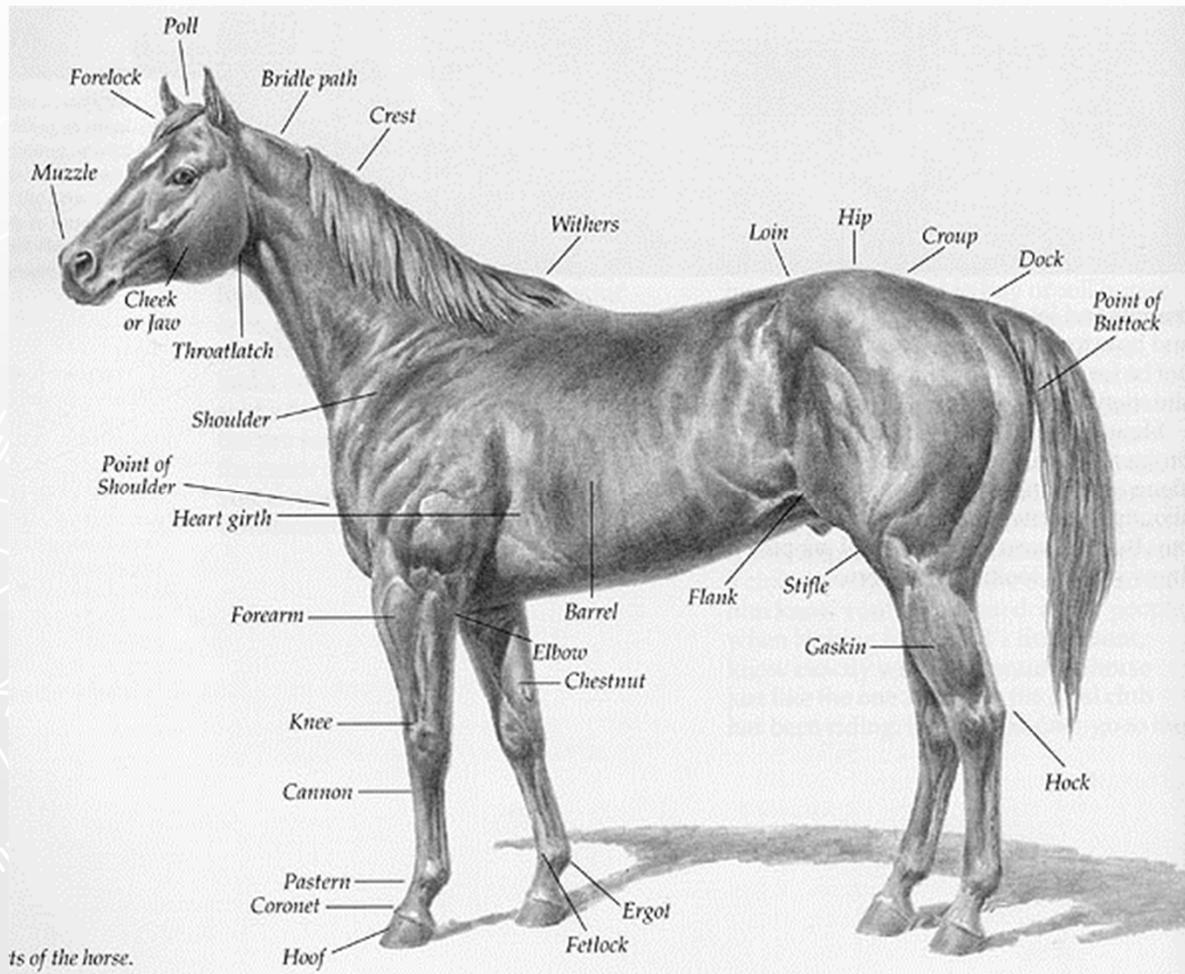
Equine Skeleton



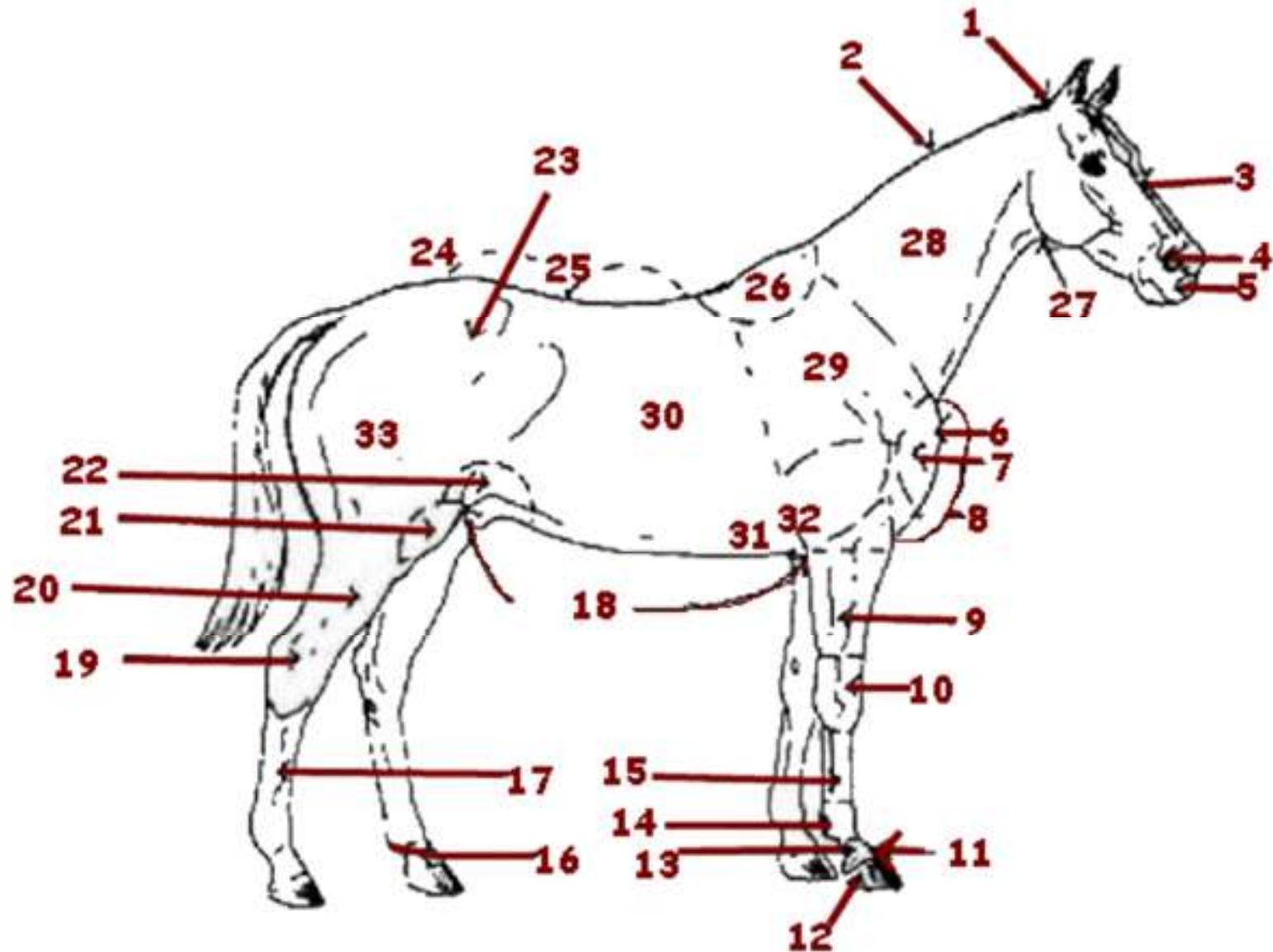
Parts of the Skeleton

- ▶ (1) Poll. (2) Atlas.(1st cervical vertebra) (3) Axis. (4) 7th (last) cervical vertebra. (5) Scapular Cartilage. (6) 18th (last) Thoracic vertebra. (7) 6th (last) lumbar vertebra. (8) Sacrum. (9) 1st coccygeal vertebra. (10) Pelvis. (11) Femur. (12) Fibula. (13) Tibia. (14) Calcaneus. (one of the tarsal bones forming the point of the hock) (15) Hind splint bone. (16) Hind cannon (metatarsal 3) (17) Sesamoids. (18) Navicular. (19) 3rd phalanx (pedal or coffin bone) (20) 2nd phalanx (short pastern) (21) 1st phalanx (long pastern) (22) Tarsal bones (hock or ankle) (23) Patella. (24) 18th (last) rib. (25) Costal cartilage. (26) Xiphoid cartilage. (27) Ulna. (28) Fore splint bone. (29) Sesamoids. (30) Navicular. (31) Fore cannon (metacarpal 3) (32) Carpal bones. (technically the wrist but always called the knee) (33) Radius. (34) Humerus. (35) Sternum. (36) Scapula. (37) Mandible. (38) Diastema. (bar) (39) Canine. (40) Incisors. (41) Cheek teeth. (42) Facial crest. (43) Orbit. (44) Cranium.

Parts of the Horse



Name the Horse Parts



Judging Draft Horse Halter

- ▶ Characterized by their massiveness
- ▶ Power, rather than speed, is desired
- ▶ Should be blocky & compact, low-set or short-legged & sufficiently heavy to throw weight into the collar & move a heavy load while maintaining secure footing
- ▶ Are often 16-17 hand in height & weigh ~1600 lbs or greater

Draft Horses at Halter

- ▶ Possess a deep, broad, compact, muscular form suited to pulling a heavy load at a walk
- ▶ Should have plenty of size, draftiness & substance
- ▶ Head should be shapely & clean cut
- ▶ Chest should be deep & wide
- ▶ Topline should include a short, strong back & loin with a long nicely turned & well-muscled croup, and a well-set tail
- ▶ Should be wide & deep in the middle with good depth in both the fore & rear flanks
- ▶ Muscling should be heavy throughout, especially in the forearm & gaskin

Draft Horse Ideal

- ▶ Shoulder should be sloping
- ▶ Legs should be straight, true & squarely set & the bone should be strong, flat & show plenty of quality
- ▶ Pasterns should be sloping & feet should be large with adequate width at heels & toughness in conformation
- ▶ Want hocks together but leg straight down from hock vs. cow hocked appearance
- ▶ If too wide move like a truck- not smooth mover- rough ride
- ▶ There should be style, balance & symmetry, an abundance of quality, an energetic yet manageable disposition, soundness & freedom from disease
- ▶ The action should be straight & true, with a long, swift & elastic stride both at the walk and trot.

Draft Horse Terms

- ▶ Exhibited more mass, volume, & substance
- ▶ Was a blockier, more compact individual
- ▶ Was a deeper, broader, more compact horse
- ▶ Showed more strength & substance throughout
- ▶ Showed more suitability to work
- ▶ Stood wider when viewed from front to back
- ▶ Showed more capacity to heartgirth & barrel
- ▶ Had a larger span across his hoof
- ▶ Had more depth to his heel

Draft Horse Terms, cont'd

- ▶ Had more depth to his heel
- ▶ Stood on a stronger, flatter column of bone
- ▶ Stood on a higher quality underpinning
- ▶ Was deeper & more angular in the shoulder, & had more depth & volume throughout
- ▶ Possessed more snap & elevation of his knees & hocks when on the move..

Miniature Horse Halter

- ▶ General impression of the ideal miniature horse should be one of soundness, balance, symmetry, strength, agility and alertness
- ▶ Breed objective is the smallest possible, perfect horse
 - Not pony-like
- ▶ Miniature horses must not measure > 34 inches at the withers
 - Any color & marking patterns as well as any eye color are all equally acceptable
- ▶ Proper conformation of the legs is the same as any light horse breed

Miniature Horse Head & Neck

- ▶ Head should be in proportion to the length of the neck and body with broad forehead and large prominent eyes, set wide apart
- ▶ Distance between eyes & muzzle should be short & end in a clean, refined muzzle with large nostrils and teeth should meet in an even bite
- ▶ Profile should be straight or slightly dished below the eyes
- ▶ Ears should be medium in size with pointed tips & be carried alertly with tips curving slightly inward
- ▶ Throatlatch should be clean & well defined, allowing ample flexion at the poll
- ▶ Neck should be long & flexible in proportion to the body & type and blend smoothly into the withers

Miniature Horse Body

- ▶ Body is balanced & well proportioned with ample bone, muscle & substance
- ▶ Topline is smooth & generally level with back & loin short in relation to the length of the underline and highest point of the croup the same as the height at the withers
- ▶ Deep girth & flank with a trim barrel
- ▶ Shoulder should be long, sloping & well angulated, allowing a free, swinging stride & alert head/neck carriage
- ▶ Hindquarters long with well muscled hips, thighs & gaskins
- ▶ Tail set smoothly rounds over the rump & is not too high nor too low

Miniature Horse Terms

- ▶ Possessed most expressive & functional athletic muscle design over a more ideally sized skeletal frame
- ▶ Was smaller, more proportional individual
- ▶ Exhibited more overall balance & style
- ▶ Possessed a great deal more miniature breed characteristics in terms of frame size & overall appearance
- ▶ Showed more femininity/masculinity
- ▶ Stood straighter on all four corners

Haflingers

- ▶ All around leisure horse for riding & driving
- ▶ A harmonious body structure that is suitable for an all around pleasure horse is desirable
- ▶ Noble, lean, expressive head proportioned to body; large eyes, well formed neck; good croup, not too divided; long & supple mid-section, wide nostrils, lg forward pointing ears; light blond to dark chestnut; white mane & tail, head markings are desired; no roaning
- ▶ Leg markings are not desirable
 - marking above legs is counted as negative; markings above hock result in exclusion

Haflinger specifics

- ▶ Forequarter- Pronounced withers tying in well into the back, long sloping shoulder, deep chest
 - Forelegs – clearly pronounced joints, straight from front & side views
- ▶ Midsection- Muscular back, average in length & load bearing
- ▶ Hindquarter- Tail set that is not too low, long muscular hind quarter
 - Hind legs-straight behind with well defined hock
- ▶ Long swinging stride with some animation of movement
- ▶ Want more stock type vs. draft