Prepared and distributed by the Orange County Extension Office. Information compiled by Terry Floyd, 4-H Program Leader. Gratitude is expressed to Mrs. Betsy Penalosa, Mrs. Peggy Ross, and Mrs. Eliane Hannar, 4-H Program Assistant for the time they spent typing this information.

Grateful appreciation to Jim Gallagher, Animal Scientist, Pennsylvania State University; Wayne G. Hipsley, Superintendent of horses, University of Massachusetts; Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Bishop, Instructor, Animal Science Dept., OARDC, Wooster, Ohio; and Charles A. Hutton, Extension Horse Specialist, Ohio State University for the material included in this booklet.

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WHAT IS JUDGING

Horse judging consists of making a careful study of animals, measuring them individually against a commonly accepted ideal.

Before you start judging, try to make a mental picture of the perfect horse. You can do this by recalling the most desirable features of the fine horses you have seen, and thinking of them as belonging to one horse. Or you can study pictures of champions or ideal-type pictures available from the various breed associations.

In the contest system, four horses are used in each class. As you judge, you divide them into three pairs: a top pair, a middle pair, and a bottom pair. You make comparison between the various pairs. Really, as you look at a class you should have five horses to work with: the four standing before you, and the ideal or perfect horse in your mind.

Make your easiest placing first. This may be the top animal. It may be the bottom animal. Or, it may be any of the pairs.

You can place the class better from a distance of about 25 feet or more, where you can see all four individuals at the same time. You should learn to place the class from a distance, then get up close only to check your observations.

Learn to study a class carefully. Look especially for balance and type and for correctness of structure. Develop a system for judging. A keen horse judge is orderly, never haphazard.

In any contest or practice session, do your own work! Learn to depend upon your own judgment and not someone else's. If you want other people to have confidence in you, you must have confidence in yourself. You can improve your judging ability only by making your own decisions.

STEPS IN JUDGING

Judging consist of the following steps:

Information. Information is the basis for all intelligent procedure in the business of judging horses. This requires a mental image of an ideal.

Observation. In placing all kinds of livestock, observation must be both accurate and complete. Following a definite procedure in examining, each time he judges, will help the beginner to observe all points in judging horses.

Comparison. This is the step in judging which calls for judging soundly, balancing situations, and knowing where to place the emphasis. Evaluate and keep in mind faults and your ideal types. The judge must compare an individual to both the ideal and to other individuals in the class.

Conclusion. The fourth step in judging is based largely on the data which the judge gathered in taking the first three steps.
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Explain the difference between:

- Flexor-extensor
- Muscle-tendon-cartilage
- Tendon-ligament
- Origin-insertion

What happens to a tendon when it "bows"? Which tendon is most likely to bow? Why?

What situations might cause a bow?

Diagrams below show simplified propulsion. Color extensors blue, flexors red. Label each to denote its function:

1. Lifts forearm
2. Raises knee or hock
3. Pulls cannon forward and up
4. Pulls hoof forward and up
5. Pulls forearm back
6. Pulls knee or hock back
7. Pulls cannon back
8. Pulls hoof back and up
9. Pulls upper hind leg forward and up
10. Pulls upper hind leg back
D. Trapezius
C. Sterno-thyra-hyoideus
I. Superficial pectoral (anterior)
H. Superficial pectoral (posterior)
B. Sterna-cephalicus
A. Brachiocephalicus
K. Brachialis
E. Supraspinatus
G. Triceps, lateral head
F. Triceps, long head
L. Extensor carpi radialis
J. Cutaneous colli

B. Semitendinosus
K. Tail elevator
G. Gracilis
M. Tail depressor
L. Lateral tail muscle
D. Middle part of biceps femoris
C. Anterior part of biceps femoris
E. Posterior part of biceps femoris
A. Semimembranosus
I. Tensor fascia lata
F. Gemellus (covered by semitendinosus)
J. Gluteus medius
H. Patella
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LOWER LEG, lateral view
(side view, outside of leg)

2. First phalanx
   (long pastern)
3. Second phalanx (short pastern)
4. Third phalanx (coffin bone)
5. Dorsal groove
6. Proximal sesamoid (2)
7. Distal sesamoid (navicular bone)
8. Second metacarpal (lateral splint)
9. Large (third) metacarpal (cannon)

Large (third) metacarpal (cannon)

Fourth metacarpal (medial splint)

Cranial (front) view

Caudal (rear) view
HOCK, medial view
(side view, inside of leg)

3. Central tarsal
7. Third tarsal
10. Fibula
2. Fibular tarsal
4. Fused first and second tarsals:
9. Tibial tarsal
8. Tibial tarsal tuberosity
6. Third metatarsal (cannon)
5. Fourth metatarsal (splint bone)
1. Tuber calcis (point of hock)

KNEE, cranial (front) view

6. Epiphyseal plate
10. Radius
9. Radial carpal
7. Ulnar carpal
8. Intermediate carpal
2. Third carpal
7. Fourth carpal
5. Second metacarpal (lateral splint)
3. Large (third) metacarpal (cannon)
4. Fourth metacarpal (medial splint)
Judging is more than measuring against a standard; the element of comparison must figure in the observations from which definite conclusions can be drawn. It is balancing the total merit and deficiency of one individual against that of another.

Accuracy and rapidity. The quickness with which decisions are made is second only to the accuracy of the decisions themselves. A systematic method of making observations contributes both to accuracy and to speed in judging.

JUDGING HALTER CLASSES

Halter classes are primarily breed classes in which horses are evaluated for their value relative to their intended purpose (such as stock horses, pleasure riding, racing) and to how closely they approach the breed's standard of perfection. Halter judging has been a major tool in breed improvement. It also assists individual breeders in selecting and culling breeding stock. Halter classes should consist of horses of the same breed, sex and age classification. In a 4-H judging contest there will always be four animals in a class.

Factors or Considerations

Intelligent judging requires, above all, a keen sense of values. The judge must have a mental image of an ideal for each class he judges and then compare the animals to this ideal and to other horses in the class. Both desirable traits and faults must then be placed in perspective in order to decide on the best placing of the class.

THE PARTS OF THE HORSE

The first thing you must know in judging is the names and locations of the various parts of the horse. This is necessary so that you will know what to look for and will be able to tell someone else what you have seen. After you have learned the parts of the horse, you need to know three more things—first, the main points to consider in judging horses; second, how to evaluate the important parts of the horse; and third, how to develop a system to compare whole animals.

You must learn all of this before the contest. At the contest you will use this knowledge as you observe, evaluate, compare, and place each class, but, back to basics.

THE MAIN POINTS TO CONSIDER

In judging a class of horses the following points are to be considered:

* Saddle horse type and balance
* Soundness
* Breed type

* Sex Character
* Color
* Feet, legs and bone
* Size
* Quality
* Condition
* Way of going
TYPE AND BALANCE

TYPE is a term denoting the sum total of characteristics which make an animal useful for its intended purpose. A balanced, athletic appearance and strong breed characteristics are the foundations of good type.

SADDLE HORSE TYPE AND BALANCE

The horse is the athlete of the livestock world. Because of his athletic function, a definite conformation is desired. Regardless of breed, there are certain characteristics in horses that are common to all breeds. The head should be refined and clean cut, there should be great width between the eyes, and usually a short muzzle is preferred. A straight face is usually preferable to a concave or convex profile. (There are some breed differences on this point.) The jaw should be strong and well muscled and the throat latch clean. Other characteristics that are basic to all breeds and types of horses are correctness of and legs; well defined withers that are about the same height as the croup; a short, strong back, a moderately long neck; and a long underline. Balance is achieved when the head, neck, forequarters, barrel and hindquarters look as if they all belong to the same horse. To be correctly proportioned the horse should be symmetrical and smooth with a blending of all parts - essential for over-all balance, style, and beauty.

TYPE

Type might be a confusing term to the novice because there are many different uses of the term. Type, when used as a general term, means the purpose for which the horse is used such as stock horse type or hunter type.

The term, type, is also used to characterize breeds. This is spoken of as breed type, meaning that all animals of one breed should have the same common distinguishing characteristics. A horse with good breed type is instantly recognized because it closely approaches the breed's standard of perfection.

Sex type is used when describing animals in the breeding classes. Stallions should be masculine and mares should be feminine in appearance.

In a class, a horse may be spoken of as being off type. This term means it does not resemble in body form the other horses in the class. Before you must know what that breed or type of horse, you must know what that breed or type should look like and why.

REVIEW OF ANATOMY AND STRUCTURE

Part of this section is a review of what you have already learned. It is repeated again because of its importance in the overall picture in judging horses. A thorough knowledge of the anatomy of horses is the first step in being able to judge accurately.

Head. In all types of horses, the size of the head should be in proportion to the size of the body. In the case of foals, yearlings and two-year-olds, a big head, balanced in its proportions, is an indication of
growthiness and overall outcome. Good breed type and attractiveness of the head in all its features is a primary qualification in horses. Horses intended for breeding purposes should show masculinity or femininity in their head. Long, narrow heads with deeply dished faces or ugly Roman noses are undesirable because of their plainness. Width between the eyes and width of muzzle and jaws are taken to indicate good disposition and intelligence. Straight-faced horses are preferred over dished-faced or Roman-nosed types in most breeds.

Ears. The size, length, set, direction, and movement of the ear detract from the appearance of the head. A medium-sized ear, clean cut in design, that shows the blood vessels clearly outstanding, is characteristic of horses with high quality and refinement.
Set or location of the ear helps to determine the beauty of the head. Ears set well apart, not too low down over the eyes or too far back on the poll of the head, contribute to good looks.

The movements of the ear are indications of temperament, impaired eyesight, or total blindness. Motionless ears are indications of a slow, lazy, sluggish disposition.

**EYES.** Big, full, prominent eyes of a dark, rich hazel color are desired in all types of horses.

**Walleyes,** sometimes called glass eyes, are those in which the iris is of a pearly white color. Such eyes are objectionable on the basis of looks but are functional and are not considered disqualifications.

**Pig's eye** is the term applied if the eye is too small, narrow, and squinty. Such eyes usually have thick eyelids and are commonly associated with coarseness and a sluggish temperament.

**NOSE RILS.** Good sized nasal passages are considered indications of good breathing. Small nostrils are usually associated with short, flat ribs, and consequently a chest that lacks capacity.

The normal nostril should be large, the skin clear, the mucous membrane rose at rest, a deep red after exercise. The liquid discharged should be clear and transparent, the breath should be odorless, and breathing should be noiseless. The nostrils should be large because the nasal passages are the only avenues of air intake to the lungs.

**MOUTH.** The jaws of the mouth should meet evenly. Not only do protruding or receding lower jaws appear unsightly, but they interfere with the horse's eating. Two terms are applied: "parrot jaw," the upper jaw protrudes over the lower, and "monkey jaw," the lower jaw protrudes beyond the upper.

**TEETH.** The teeth are classified as incisors, canines, and molars. They are organs of mastication. Age can be estimated by inspection of the incisors.

The bars of the mouth occupy the space on each side of the lower jaw between the incisor and the premolar teeth or between the canine and the first molar teeth. The bars are covered only with mucous membrane.

It is against the bars of the mouth that bit pressure is brought to bear in the control of horses by the reins. Horses are said to be hard-mouthed when the mucous membrane of the bars becomes toughened and thickened, and the sensibility of the mouth is deadened because of the calloused condition of the bars.

**NECK.** Rather long, trim necks are associated with athletic ability in all types of horses. A trim throat-latch is very desirable, since it permits the horse to flex the head easily. Both vertical and lateral flexion are required in good head carriage. Horses with long, trim necks and well defined throats usually learn collection more readily, and are more agile.

Short necks—bulky, thick, and staggy in proportions—are undesirable in saddle horses because they mean a lack of suppleness and mobility. Commonly, a short neck makes a horse heavy-headed and less length of stride.

The neck is straight when the superior border from the poll of the head to the withers approaches a straight line. The neck is arched when the superior border is convex from the poll to withers. "Swan-necked" is the term applied
when the anterior portion of
the neck is strongly convex
and the whole neck imitates
in form and carriage that of
the bird from which it takes
its name.

"Ewe-necked" is the term
used when the superior bor-
der of the neck shows a dis-
tinct depression just in
front of the withers. The
eve-neck is the reverse of
the form desired; hence
horsemen refer to it by the
expression "set on upside
down."

"Lop-neck," "fallen neck,
and "broken crest" are terms
applied when the crest of the
neck becomes invaded with
adipose (fatty) tissue, re-
sulting in so much weight
that the neck cannot sustain
itself, and it breaks over
or falls to one side.

Eve-necked and broken crest
horses are unsightly and un-
desirable. The crest of neck
is demanded in all types of
horses where impressive fronts
are a requirement. The de-
gree of crest differs with the
breed and specific use of the
horse.

WITHERS. These comprise the
region between the two should-
ers on top, behind the crest
of the neck, and in front of
the back. The height of a
horse is measured from the
highest point of the withers
to the ground. Equine stature
is stated in hands and inches,
four inches constituting a
hand.

Withers that are fairly
prominent are desired be-
cause they ensure maximum
length of spinal and shoulder
muscles, also a longer stride
to the fore foot. Horses with
low, thick, rounding withers
which lack definition move
awkwardly and clumsily
in front. Such horses are
usually low-headed, too
heavy on the bit, inclined to
forge and interfere and are
unfit for movement at rapid
paces.

"Mutton withers" is
the term applied to
coarse, flat, rounding
conformation over the
shoulder top. In saddle
horses such withers are
objectionable, not only
because they affect per-
formance, but also be-
cause they fail to pro-
vide a good seat for the
saddle and do not furnish
the proper purchase for
the saddle upon the back.
Consequently, it is diffi-
cult to keep a saddle in
place.

BACK. The back is limited
in front by the withers,
behind by the loin, and
laterally by the ribs. In
saddlers, it is the part
of the top which receives
the weight of the rider.
In all horses, its func-
tion is to transmit to the front
end of the body the
efforts of propulsion which
are communicated to it
from the back legs through
the loin.

A straight back of pro-
portionate length is most de-
sirable. It is always a sign of
strength and provides for the
greatest freedom of movement of
the legs. A convex back is
termed a "roached-back." Such
backs are shorter than straight
backs and do not permit sufficient
extension and flexion of the legs
in taking long, rapid strides.
Roach backs and long legs are
a combination which results in
forging.

The back that is concave or
hollow is referred to as "sag-
ing" or as a "sway-back." It
is objectionable because it
harms appearance and suggests
weakness. The short, straight
back supported by ribs that
are well sprung, long, and deep
provides a middle that has ample
breathing and digestive space.
Such proportions indicate good
wind as well as good feeding
and staying qualities. Short,
flat ribs are characteristic of horses that are poor feeders and have poor wind and staying power.

LOIN REGION. The loin includes the portion of the top which extends from the last ribs to the hips. Short, heavy loin muscles are needed because they furnish the chief means of support for the lumbar vertebrae. Shortness of the loin is necessary to the best functioning of this part in carrying power from the hind legs forward.

All types of horses should have an abundance of muscling over the loin. "Coupled up good and close" describes ideal muscling of the loin. Horses that break across the top in front of the hips and that are long, narrow, and weak in loin conformation are spoken of as being slack in their coupling. Other terms applied are "light over the kidney," "long in the couplin," and wasp-waisted." Quite commonly, such horses are long-middled, shallow-middled, racy-middled, short in the back rib, cut up in the flank or hound-gutted.

CROUP OR RUMP. This includes the region from the hips back to the tail-head. In direction, the croup may be too steep, but it may be too nearly level, or it may even incline upward from the hips to tail. If a horse is too steep in the croup, the top line looks plain. Furthermore, the steep croup, tends to displace the hind legs too far forward beneath the body, weight. If the croup is too nearly horizontal or is set up a bit at the tail-head, the hind legs are displaced rearward. In the latter case, the back is not so well supported because the front and rear bases are spread farther apart.

The croup should carry the width as uniformly as possible from the hips rearward. "Goose-rumped" is the term applied to horses that taper from the hips to the tail-head, displaying peakedness and angularity in this region. Horsemen like to see the croups of their horses deeply creased. They associate this feature with heavy muscling and with easy-keeping and good feeding qualities.

FLANKS. To give balance to the middle, horses should be deep in the fore and rear flanks. Depth of flank in front and behind contributes to the balance of conformation. The best flanks are seen in horses that are well flesheed and highly fitted. The flank movements, which are indicative of a horse's wind and breathing, should be slow and regular without any signs of jerkiness. The normal number of movements when at rest is 12 to 14 a minute.

Age and physical condition are factors causing a variation in the number of flank movements. Excessive flank movement is quite commonly called panting. A horse that is easily winded and stays winded a long time is narrow in his chest, shallow in his rib, and cut up in his flank.

BREAST. Proportionate width is demanded in all types of horses. Too much width, even in draft horses, where width is greatly emphasized as a feature in conformation, constitutes a real defect. When the front legs are set too far out on the corners, a rolling, rocking, laboring, and ungainly gait results. With front legs so placed, horses are unfit for work at
speed.

The narrow-breasted horse whose front legs appear to have the same point of junc-
tion to the body is spoken of as being pinched or too close in front. A narrow
breast commonly accompanies a lack of muscling and constitution.

SHOULDER. The scapula is the skeletal base of the shoulder. The chief duties of the fore
legs are to support weight, to preserve the stability and balance of the body, to aid
the hind legs in propelling the body forward, and to resis-
t the injurious effect of wear and tear on their own
structures. Listed below are reasons why the shoulders
should be long and sloping, rather than short, straight, and steep.

1. A long, sloping shoulder makes possible a greater
extension of the forearm.

2. The front leg can be raised higher, allowing the stride to be fully completed be-
fore the foot strikes the ground.

3. A long shoulder gives power and strength to the swing of the forearm.

4. A long, sloping shoulder contributes to ease, freedom and style of action.

5. Long, sloping shoulders help to disperse the evil effects of concussion.

Straight shoulders, on the other hand, are objectionable for several reasons:

1. They are commonly accompanied by short, straight patterns, resulting in a stiltly set to the front
legs, a conformation which causes shorter steps and harder concussion.

2. Straight shoulders retard the rotation of the scapula, and horses commonly work their front
legs with less freedom.

Shoulders are sometimes referred to as pegged when shoulder action seems retarded rather
than free.

3. Short, straight shoulders produce a rough gait.

ARM. The humerus transverses the arm region. To permit a sufficient extent and rapidity of
action of the thoracic limb, the bone of the arm should be short in com-
parison with that of the shoulder.

If the length of the arm is excessive in com-
parison with the shoulder, the foot will cover less ground at a single stride, and action will not be
so reachy, free, and easy.

A long shoulder, a short arm, plus a long forearm makes possible maximum ex-
tension of stride and speed. The arm should operate in a plane parallel to the plane occupied by the
horse's body. If the arm deviates inward too much, a horse will stand toe-wide at the ground.
If the arm deviates outward too much, a horse will stand toe-narrow or pigeon-toed.

FOREARM. This is the name given to the region between the elbow and knee joints. Length of stride depends very largely upon the length of the forearm because the fore-
arm carries the knee forward and upward. Hence the longer the forearm, the longer the stride.

Short forearms in com-
parison with the cannon regions are objectionable because they result in shorter strides. They augment height rather than extension as a feature of the stride. Long forearms
and short cannons not only favor speed but contribute to stability on feet and legs. The knees are brought closer to the ground, making the support of the body easier during contact.

CHESTNUTS. These are semi-horned formations varying in size with the type of horse in question. On the front legs, they are located upon the inside face of the forearm a few inches above the knee. On the hind legs they are located on the lower inside face of the hock. They are not nearly as well developed in light-leg types as in draft horses. They are thought to be the rudiments of the internal digit, which once characterized the species.

KNEE. This joint should be wide, thick, deep and clean-cut in outline, properly placed and directed. Thickness of the knee is measured from side to side, width from front to rear. Width and thickness are desirable features because they increase the supporting area of the joint and furnish a more stable support for the body.

To distribute wear and tear properly, the knee must be correctly placed. If the joint breaks or deviates forward, a horse is termed knee-sprung, over on the knees, easy on the knees or "buck-kneed." If length of toe accompanies this knee-sprung configuration, there is a strong disposition to stub the toes, stumble, and fall.

If horses stand back on their knees, they are termed "calf-kneed." Such horses on the move usually bring their feet down hard, increasing concussion.

If knees break inward, they are termed "knock-kneed." If its knees break outward, a horse is said to be "bow-kneed." or to stand open in its knees.

COMPARISON OF THE FRONT AND HIND LEG

The arm of the front leg corresponds to the thigh of the hind leg. The femur is the anatomical base of the thigh. The elbow, the forearm, and the knee of the front leg are the counterparts of the stifle, the gaskin, and the hock behind. Heavy muscling through the thigh, stifle, and gaskin is demanded. The hind legs are the propellers, so this muscle is required.

Horses that are turned out a trifle in the set of the stifle are preferred. This permits maximum extension of the hind leg, allows freedom of action, and turns the hocks inward beneath the body, permitting a horse to work his hocks close together and go collectedly. The gaskin should equal the forearm in length and, like the forearm, should be heavily muscled.

HOCK JOINT. The hock joint is referred to as the pivot of action in a horse. It plays an important part in propulsion and helps to decrease the harmful effects of concussion. It is called the pivot of action because it is the region upon which the extensor muscles concentrate their propulsive efforts. As the feet, carrying the body forward, rapidly strike the ground, the reaction from the movement bears mainly upon the hock joint. It is the hock joint that bears the burden of the weight when a horse rears from the ground.

The hock joint is satisfactory
when it is clearly outlined, appears lean in quality, is wide and deep in its proportions, is well opened as viewed from the side, and is properly directed as viewed from the rear. A hock is lean and dry in appearance when its prominences and depressions are well marked and when the skin is fine and close fitting.

Horses that stand with the points of the hocks turned inward and base wide at the ground are termed "cow-hocked." Horses with hocks that turn outward are called "opened in the hocks." Such hocks may cause a twisting, rotating action on the move and are also termed "rotating hocks."

If the angle formed by the hock as viewed from the side is too acute, a horse is called "crooked in his hocks," is said to have too much set to the hocks, or is called "sickle-Hocked." If hocks are rounding on the back side, they are called "curby" or saber hocked." A hock may lack set and be too straight. This condition is objectionable because it tends to shorten the stride. Improper set of the hock joint results in improper distribution of body weight and may lead to early unsoundness.

CANNON REGION. The cannon region extends from knee and hock to fetlock joints. The three bones, one large and two small, which transverse each front cannon are the metacarpals. The small metacarpals are commonly termed "split bones." The three corresponding bones in each of the rear cannons are the metatarsals. In general form and arrangement, they resemble each other closely. The metatarsals are longer, however.

The size of the cannons depends not only upon the size of the metacarpal or metatarsal bones but also upon the size and the set of the tendons that traverse the region. Horses that are constricted, "chopped away," or "tied in" beneath the knee are criticized by horsemen as lacking bone. Bone is an indication of substance and contributes to ruggedness. Big cannon bones and strong, well-set tendons are required to furnish ample support to knees and hocks. Clean-cutness and definition should characterize the cannons. Well developed flexor tendons produce the desirable appearance of "flat bone."

THE FETLOCK JOINT. This joint is the connecting link between cannon and pastern bones. It functions as an elastic support of the body weight and aids greatly in absorbing concussions.
Ankles set well back on springy pasterns are desired. Straight, stilty ankles mean hard concussions. They tend to knuckle or have cocked ankles. "Up on the ankles" and "over on the ankles" are terms referring to the same conformation of this joint. Clean-cut fetlock joints are desired in all types of horses. Thick, coarse, round ankle joints characterized primarily by fullness rather than leanness indicate the effects of hard concussion or interference.

**COMMON TERMINOLOGY**

- **SHOULDER**
- **POINT OF SHOULDER**
- **ARMS**
- **ELBOW**
- **FOREARM**
- **RADIUS AND ULNA**
- **KNEE**
- **CANNON**
- **FETLOCK JOINT**
- **PASTERN**
- **FOOT**
- **CONTRIBUTION**

**ANATOMICAL NAMES**

- **SCAPULA**
- **Humerus**
- **Radius and Ulna**
- **Carpus**
- **Metacarpal Bones**
- **Sesamoid Bones**
- **First and Second Phalanx**
- **Coffin or Pedal Bone (Third Phalanx)**

**FEATHER, FOOTLOCK, ERGOT.**

"Feather" is the term given to the hair which fringes the rear border of the cannon and fetlock joints. Among the draft breeds, Clydes and Shires have it in greatest abundance; they are termed the "feather-legged" breeds.

The footlock refers to the tuft of hairs which grows from the back of the fetlock. This tuft surrounds and hides from view the ergot, a semi-horny projection which protrudes from the rear base of the fetlock joints. Usually it is completely surrounded by the footlock.

**THE PASTERN.** Springy length and set of pasterns are primary requirements in both light and heavy horses. Extremely long, low pasterns are weak pasterns. Such pasterns in company with shallow heels, characterize horses that are termed "coon-footed." Short, straight pasterns increase concussion, stilty action, and rob the gait of spring and freedom, important features of the stride.

Straight pasterns and small, boxy feet with their narrow heels and their straight, upright hoof walls often lead to unsoundness. The pasterns serve as a base of attachment for extensor and flexor tendons; they function in locomotion as agents of extension and flexion. Snap, as a feature of the stride, due in no small part to the working of the pastern joints.

**THE FEET.** A working knowledge of the hoof is necessary to understand the principles of good hoof care. The hoof is a highly specialized horny-shell, covering sensitive bones, nerves, blood vessels, and tissues.

The visible covering of the hoof, seen when the horse is in a standing position, is the wall. If the horse's leg is picked up, it can be seen that the ground surface consists of the wall and bars, an inward continuation of the outer wall, the sole, a concave area inside the wall, and the frog, a V-shaped cushion in the middle of the hoof.

Each portion of the hoof has a specific function. The wall is designed to carry the bulk of the horse's weight as well as protect the underlying structures. The bars act as a brace to control over-expansion and contraction of the hoof; the sole covers softer tissues, and is somewhat concave to give grip and allow for expansion; while the frog aids in absorbing concussions.
circulation, and regulating moisture in the hoof.

Conformation of the hoof plays a big part in its ability to stand up under a long life of varied wear and tear. Selective breeding is one way to get good hoofs. Also, a good balanced diet, composed of sufficient essential vitamins and strong individual as well as individual structures.

A normal hoof has a strong, balanced, horny covering at the ground surface of each leg. Front hoofs are usually, and should be, larger, rounder, and stronger than those of the hind legs. This is natural because the forelegs of the horse support about two-thirds of its body weight.

STRUCTURE OF THE FOOT

The coffin bone, also called the third phalanx gives shape to the hoof. If shape is not consistent, damage or disease may have altered the normal growth of the hoof with the hair line, known as the coronary band. If this area is not smooth, regular, and healthy, there is little chance of having a sound hoof.

The wall of the hoof should be smooth and solid, continuing at the same slope as the pastern. The inside wall may be slightly steeper than the outside wall and still be normal. The wall, usually thicker at the toe and heel than at the quarter, should be free of any deep cracks or scars.
The next part of the hoof is the sole, just inside the wall. The wall and the sole unite at the white line. This line is important. All horseshoe nails should be driven outside the white line and stay in the outer wall. The white line is also the junction between the sensitive and insensitive tissues of the foot. This line can be separated or injured by infection or inflammation.

The sole should be concave, strong, and free of deep depressions; any discoloration would indicate excessive bruising or inflammation. Flat-footed horses, and particularly those that have had a case of laminitis or any degree of a dropped sole, bruise the sole more frequently, especially at the toe. Another common location of bruises is the angle formed by the wall of the bars, known as the corn. Corns are very often found after shoes have been left on too long, and, as the foot grows out, the heel of the shoe moves forward inside the hoof wall, causing pressure on the sole and development of a corn at that point. A corn is a bruise which can get tender and hemorrhage.

The V-shaped, spongy wedge in the center of the hoof, the frog, is a great indicator of the general health of the hoof. Without a good, full flexible frog, contraction of the hoof, and the normal physiology of all the other hoof members, may be harmed. The frog should be a firm, full, elastic cushion for the horse. Any puncture wounds which penetrate the frog are particularly serious, because the frog overlies very delicate structure. Any puncture of the sensitive tissue of the hoof certainly deserves protection, particularly against tetanus infection.

When judging, look for hoofs which are in proportion to the body size and leg structure of the horse. You want a hoof full and rounding at the toe and quarter and wide and deep at the heel. A foot which is narrow at the heel with straight upright hoof walls is called mule foot. This is objectionable because of appearance and is also very hard to shoe properly. The hoof wall should have enough flare to permit the driving of nails safely and easily.

**CORRELATED FEATURES**

**Relations of form and function:**

1. The proportions of the head in all kinds of horses are a rather accurate index of the body proportions to be expected. That is, long, narrow heads are commonly correlated with long, shallow, narrow bodies.

2. Long, sloping shoulders are correlated with long, sloping pasterns.

3. Short, straight shoulders are correlated with short, straight pasterns.

4. Long, trim necks and clean throatslatches are associated with balance, agility and ability to work off the hocks.

5. A deeply creased croup as a feature in horses is correlated with easy keeping, good doing, and satisfactory feeding qualities.

6. Depth of heart girth and spring of rib are associated with lung capacity and endurance.
Correlated structural features in horse make-up which enhance action:

1. Long forearms are correlated with long strides.
2. If horses stand toed straight away on their front feet, they are likely to have true action.
3. Sloping shoulders and sloping pasterns are features of the front leg which are correlated with a springy stride.
4. When horses stand with the points of their hocks turned slightly inward, with their hind toes turned slightly outward, and with their hind cannon bones occupying parallel planes, their hocks will be carried close together instead of wide apart. Such a position on the hind legs is therefore correlated with collected action instead of spraddled action behind. A more pronounced turning inward (cow-hocked) is undesirable.

Correlated structural features in horse make-up which lead to defective gaits or to unsoundness:

1. The calf-kneed position on the front legs is a feature that is correlated with hard concussion of the feet at the completion of the stride. The calf-kneed position on the front legs tends to make a horse pounding-gaited on the move.
2. Low, rounding withers are features which, correlated with the defect in gait, are known as forking. Thick-withered horses commonly hang in the bridle, go low-headed, and handle their front legs awkwardly and clumsily.
3. The pigeon-toed position on the front feet is correlated with a defect in gait known as paddling or winging out.
4. The toe-wide or splay-footed position on the front feet is correlated with the defect in gait known as winging in or dishing.
5. If horses stand with the points of their hocks turned outward, this faulty position on the hind legs is correlated with a defect in stride known as limber hocks or rotating hocks.
6. Short, straight shoulders and short forearms are features of the front legs that are correlated with short strides and hard concussion.
7. Buck knees and long toes are features of the front legs that are correlated with stumbling.
8. Short, straight shoulders and short straight pasterns, narrow, contracted heels are correlated with many unsoundnesses including ringbone and side bone.
9. Long, low, weak pasterns and shallow heels are correlated with the unsoundness known as ringbone, a bony deposit which appears on the pastern bones.
10. "Sickle hocks," a term which applies to hocks that have too much set as viewed from the side, are correlated with the hock unsoundness known as curbness.
SOUNDNESS - Horses should be servicable sound. In young animals there should be no indication of defects in conformation that may lead to unsoundnesses. You must first know and recognize normal structure and function before you can identify unsoundnesses. An unsoundness is defined as any deviation in form or function that interferes with the usefulness of an individual; a blemish is an abnormality which may detract from the appearance of the animal but which does not affect his serviceability.

You should be familiar with all of the common unsoundnesses and learn to recognize them. At the same time, keep in mind that the placings of most contest classes are not determined by soundness. Do not spend all of your time in a contest looking for and worrying about unsoundness.

PROBLEMS IN JUDGING HORSES

An important part of judging a horse lies in your ability to recognize common blemishes and unsoundnesses, and in your ability to rate the importance of each.

A thorough knowledge of normal sound structures makes it easy to recognize imperfections. Any abnormal deviation in the structure or function, which interferes with the intended use of a horse, constitutes an unsoundness. You must know the difference between abnormalities that do, and those that do not, affect the serviceability of the animal.

Blemishes include abnormalities that do not affect serviceability. Examples are wire cuts, rope burns, nail punctures, shoe boils and capped hocks.

Unsoundnesses include more serious abnormalities that do affect the serviceability of the animal.

Be sure to consider the use to which you intend to put the animal before you buy a blemished or unsound horse. Hereditary unsoundnesses are disqualifications in breeding classes.

A DESCRIPTION OF COMMON UNSOUNDNESSES OF HORSES

1. Undershot Jaw - A hereditary defect; in the mare, the teeth come together. The upper jaw is shorter than the lower jaw. The teeth fail to meet.
2. Parrot Mouth - The opposite of the undershot jaw. The parrot mouth horse has a deficient underjaw and cannot graze effectively.

3. Defective Eyes - The eyes should be examined closely with a flashlight in a darkened stall, or by standing the horse in an open doorway. Cataracts and cloudiness of the cornea usually are easily detected. Other defects are not so easily observed, but the general expression of the head, with unnatural carriage of the ears, may indicate poor eyesight. The horse that is partially blind usually shies at objects, keeps his ears constantly moving, and stumbles frequently.

Good vision is a primary requirement in horses and ponies of all types. Blindness handicaps horses in all areas of horse production. A blind horse is a special management problem. Disqualification of horses because of blindness is a common practice and is considered sound judgement. In judging at halter, if the forelock is draped over the eye, lift the forelock and look at the eye.

4. Moon Blindness - A pale blue or cloudy, water eye is characteristic of periodic ophthalmia or "moon blindness". Since the eye may appear quite normal after recovery from the first few attacks, an examination of the interior of the eye by a veterinarian is necessary to determine if the horse is suffering from this disease. Repeated attacks of ophthalmia usually produce permanent blindness in one or both eyes.

5. Poll-Evil - Poll-Evil is a fistula of the poll. It is similar to fistula of the withers except for location. Poll-Evil usually follows a severe bruise of the poll or constant irritation produced by a tight fitting halter or bridle. This condition must always be regarded as serious. Many cases of poll-evil can be cured; the treatment, however, in most cases must be continued for many weeks under the direction of a veterinarian. Permanent scars are sometimes left, and the horse may become touchy about the head and ears, making it difficult to halter or bridle him.

6. Fistula of the Withers - This condition is apt to occur when that area is submitted to a severe bruise or irritation. It may result from a saddle bruise in the case of light horses or an ill-fitting collar in the case of heavy horses. The fistula first appears as a large, hot, painful, fluctuating swelling upon the withers, which finally ruptures, permitting pus to escape. Some fistulas heal, leaving a large, fibrous tumor, but most continue to discharge pus indefinitely and show no tendency to heal. A large percentage of these cases may be successfully treated and cured by a veterinarian. The treatment, however, as in poll-evil, often has to be continued for many weeks. In cases where a surgical operation is necessary, permanent scars may be left.
7. **Stifle** - A horse is said to be stifled when the patella of the stifle joint is displaced toward the outside of the leg, the condition is serious and usually incurable. If the displacement is in an upward direction, the reaction to a sudden fright that causes the horse to jump may throw the patella back to its normal position. However, this condition is likely to recur frequently.

8. **Thoroupgin** - Is a soft, puffy swelling which occurs on each side of the gaskin just above the hock in the region known as the "hollow". Pressure exerted on one side decreases the swelling on that side but increases the swelling on the opposite side. Lameness does not usually occur, but the condition greatly decreases the sale value of a horse and renders him worthless as a show animal. Most thoroughpings are incurable.

9. **Stringhalt** - A nervous disorder characterized by a sudden, involuntary flexion of one or both hocks in which the foot is jerked up much higher than normal. The symptoms are noticed as the horse is backing from his stall, turning on the affected leg, or when suddenly frightened. The cause is unknown. Stringhalt may be so mild that jerking is noticed only occasionally, or so severe that the leg is jerking upward at each step. Some cases may be cured by surgery.

10. **Capped Hock** - A firm swelling which occurs on the point of the hock. This blemish may be as large as an apple or so small that it escapes notice.

    Capped hock usually results from constant irritation, such as might be produced by rubbing or kicking the walls of the stable; hence it may be indicative of the horse's disposition. Since lameness rarely occurs, the condition is not considered serious.
1. Curb - A hard, firm swelling on the back surface of the rear cannon, about a hand's breadth below the point of the hock. A large curb is easily seen by observing the hock and cannon directly from the side. A smaller one may be felt by passing the fingers over the region. Crooked or sickle hocks are most subject to this unsoundness since this faulty conformation throws a greater strain on the hock.

A curb usually follows strain or over-exertion, but may result from a kick or blow. The initial lameness may disappear after the formation of the curb, but the condition must still be considered an unsoundness because an affected hock is less likely to endure severe strain. Horsemen and judges look upon a curb with a great deal of criticism.

2. Bone Spavin or Jack - Bone spavin is a bony growth which may occur on any of the bones which form the hock, although it is usually found on the inside and lower portions. It is caused by an inflammation of the periosteum such as may be produced by strain or over-exertion. Since a pre-disposition to the disease may be hereditary, affected animals should not be used for breeding purposes.

The spavin may best be observed by standing directly behind or in front and a little to one side of the horse. In cases of doubt, lift the foot upward and forward in order to bend the hock as much as possible. After holding for two or three minutes, release the leg and start the horse at a brisk trot. A characteristic lameness will sometimes be noticed if the individual is affected.

3. Blood Spavin - A swelling over the front and inside of the hock caused by the dilation of the large vein which crosses that region. Since lameness never occurs, this condition may be regarded as a blemish of little significance.
14. **Bog Spavin** - A large, soft, fluctuating swelling which usually occurs on the front and inside of the hock. This condition is fairly common in high-fitted horses with soft, meaty hocks. It results from an excess secretion of joint fluids which produces a distention of the joint capsule.

A bog spavin is easily seen and is much larger than a blood spavin. Although a bog spavin does not usually cause lameness, its presence indicates a lack of wearing qualities and is the object of unfavorable comment among judges and horsemen.

15. **Contracted Tendons, Cocked Ankle or Knuckling** - A partial dislocation of the fetlock or pastern joint, produced by the shortening of the tendons at the back part of the cannon. The tendons may contract as a result of over-exertion, founder, or a local inflammation of the tendons. Knuckling must always be considered as very serious, although some cases may be cured by expert veterinary surgery. Colts usually have a better chance for recovery than mature horses.

16. **Quitter** - A decay of the lateral cartilage of the foot, characterized by a discharge of pus through a fistulous tract extending from the cartilage to the coronet or hoof head.

Quitter produces severe lameness and shows no tendency to heal. Quitter is more common in the front feet but may sometimes occur in the hind feet.

The degree of severity of this unsoundness is dependent upon the structures of the foot which are involved, although all cases must be considered serious. Many cases may be cured by an operation, but several months of rest are required for complete healing.

17. **Bowed Tendons** - The enlargement of a tendon just behind the cannon bone. It is more common on the front legs than on the rear legs. Soreness and lameness usually result from a pronounced bowed tendon. Bowed tendons are more common in light-legged speed or race horses than with pleasure or stock horses. Blistering and firing are the common treatments and should be administered by a veterinarian.
18. Sidebone - An ossification of the lateral cartilage of the foot. The lateral cartilages extend upward above the margin of the hoof so that they may easily be felt under the skin. These cartilages are normally firm and elastic but yield to the pressure of the fingers. Deposits of mineral salts in these cartilages change them to bone so that they become very hard and unyielding to pressure, producing the condition known as sidebone.

Sidebones usually occur on the front feet as a result of concussion or injury. They are common in horses more than two years old and vary greatly in size and severity. If lameness occurs, it is usually intermittent in character and rarely severe. Although sidebones are considered serious in show and breeding stock, they rarely produce lameness. Sidebones cannot be removed. "Nerving" is sometimes performed if severe lameness persists.

19. Ringbone - A bony growth on either or both of the pasterns which may involve the joints. The ringbone may appear as a hard, bony swelling on any part of the pastern. It may be so small that it escapes notice, or as large as a walnut or even larger. The outlines of right and left pasterns should always be compared in cases of doubt. Small ringbones may be felt by carefully passing the hand over the pastern.

Lameness usually develops gradually but may appear suddenly after a severe strain. The lameness produced may not be proportionate to the size of the growth, since a small ringbone can produce a more serious lameness than a larger one. The location of the swelling is of most importance. Ringbone at front or rear of the pastern usually produces severe lameness, because it interferes with free movement of the tendons. If on either side of the pastern, it is usually less serious.
Severe chronic lameness always results if the joints become involved. There is no treatment known which will remove the bony enlargement, but firing or blistering may cause the bones of the diseased bones of the diseased joints to grow together, thus relieving the pain. Nerving is occasionally performed as a last resort.

20. Wind-Gall, Road-Gall, Wind-Puff, or Road-Puff—Wind-Galls are small, puffy swellings which usually occur on each side of the tendons just above the fetlock or knee. Wind-Galls are much more common in the young, light-legged breeds of horses than in draft horses. They are formed by an excessive secretion of synovia which distends the sheaths surrounding the tendons. Severe strain, over-exertion or infectious disease may be predisposing factors. Wind galls are not often considered serious since they usually disappear and cause no lameness unless pathological changes occur within them.

21. Splint—A splint is a bony enlargement usually found on the upper part of the cannon bone of young horses. It may occur on the outside of the front cannon bone but is rarely seen on the rear cannon. Splints usually follow kicks, over-exertion or concussions produced by working on hard surfaces. The bony growth may result from irritation between the large cannon bone and the small splint bone. Splints are easily seen if one stands directly in front of the horse and observes the outline of the cannon. Splints are common blemishes in draft horses.

A splint may be a serious defect in light-legged horses that are required to travel at high speeds. It is generally not of importance where heavy horses are concerned. Splints may occur in fast growing colts, but will usually disappear as the animal grows older.

22. Knee Spring or Buck Knee—The condition in which the knee buckles forward as the horse stands. The point of the knee is usually in front of the line from the shoulder through the forearm and to the pastern joint.
23. **Calf Kneed** - A condition in which the knees are sprung back. There is an angle in the joint between the forearm and the cannon bone as viewed from the side.

24. **Shoe Boil or Capped Elbow** - Capped elbow or shoe boil is a swelling at the point of the elbow. This condition is usually caused by constant irritation of the heel or shoe upon the point of the elbow when the horse lies with the front leg flexed underneath the body. Recovery usually follows proper treatment.

25. **Sweeney** - is an atrophy or decrease in size of a single muscle or a group of muscles. The term is commonly applied to the atrophy of the shoulder muscle. It is usually caused by a blow, ill-fitting collar, severe strain, or lameness. Sweeney of the hip may follow difficulty in foaling or an attack of azoturia. Some cases of sweeney recover after a few months' rest. Blisters and subcutaneous irritants applied under the direction of a veterinarian may hasten recovery.

26. **Quarter-Crack or Sand-Crack** - Quarter-crack or sand-crack is a vertical split in the wall of the roof which results from a dry or brittle hoof or improper shoeing. Proper treatment hastens recovery, but lameness sometimes remains severe until the new hoof has formed. About 12 months are required for the growth of a new toe, while the heels grow in less than half that time. Treatment involves the burning of a crescent through the hoof wall over the crack with a hot iron. The foot is shod so as to remove the pressure from the area of the crack.
27. Founder or Laminitis - Founder or laminitis is an inflammation of the sensitive leaves which attach the hoof to the fleshy portion of the foot. It is usually the result standing in a stall for long periods because of some other lameness. Founder may also follow foaling, as a result of infection and inflammation of the uterus. All the feet may be affected, but the front feet are more susceptible.

If laminitis is properly treated as soon as it occurs, most cases will completely recover in a few days. If the disease is neglected, however, it will often become chronic, resulting in a dropping of the hoof soles and a turning-up of the toe walls (chronic deformities of the hoof that are incurable). A veterinarian should always be called immediately when founder or laminitis occurs.

28. Thrush - Thrush is caused by decomposition of stable manure and other filth that is allowed to collect in the cleft of the horn frog, between the frog and the bars. Old, severe cases of thrush occasionally produce lameness, but most cases respond to cleanliness and proper treatment.

29. Scratches or Grease Heel - Scratches or grease heel is an inflammation of the posterior surfaces of the fetlocks, characterized by extensive scab formations. Highly-fitted horses seem most susceptible to this condition. Most cases respond to treatment.

30. Navicular Disease - Navicular disease is an inflammation of the small navicular bone and bursa inside the hoof just behind the coffin bone and small pastern bone of the front foot. The symptoms of this condition are "pointing" when at rest and a short, stubby, painful stride which may give the impression that the horse is lame in the shoulders. Navicular disease is incurable. In selected cases, veterinarians sometimes perform a nerving operation that will relieve the lameness of the horse for a time.

31. Corns - Bruised and discolored areas of the sole of the foot, usually located in the angles between the bars of the foot and the hoof wall.

32. Osselets - Hard calcified deposits on the joint capsule of the fetlock, often caused by interference.

GENERAL:

Heaves - (Broken Wind) - Heaves is a form of difficult breathing where the horse inhales normally but has difficulty in exhaling. The condition is also characterized by a jerking of the flanks and a peculiar cough. Dusty and moldy hays and feeds tend to aggravate the condition. Heaves is more common in older horses. The onset of the disease is usually gradual even though the symptoms of this ailment usually appear suddenly. The condition is usually noticed after a strenuous exertion. The condition is incurable but horses can usually continue to do light work.
Hernia - (Rupture) - A hernia is the protrusion of an internal organ through its containing cavity. Intestinal hernias are the most common. However, scrotal, umbilical and inguinal hernias are also found, especially in young foals. Hernias in foals will often disappear with age. Intestinal hernias are usually caused by overexertion and blows or kicks in the abdominal area. Death may result in extreme cases. Many hernias can be cured by surgery.

Roaring - (Thick-Wind) - Roaring is a condition of difficult respiration due to a defect or obstruction in the air passages. A "roar" or "Whistle" sound can be detected when respiration is forced. This condition can easily be detected after a horse has trotted a sufficient distance to force rapid respiration. Surgery is the most effective treatment for this condition.

EVALUATION OF UNSOUNDNESS AND DEFECTS

| Blindness--disqualification | Monkey mouth--serious disqualification |
| Bone spavin--disqualification | Stifled--Disqualification |
| Capped hock--discrimination | Bowed tendon--serious discrimination |
| Filled hocks--discrimination | Cracked feet--discrimination |
| Bog spavin--serious discrimination | Broken wind--disqualification |
| Cocked angles--serious discrimination | Curb--discrimination |
| Hip down--discrimination | Parrot mouth--serious discrimination |
| Stringhalt or crampiness--disqualification |

Breed Type - Certain characteristics of horses will vary among breeds. It is not possible to go into detail on this subject here. You can refer to the various breed associations for details.

Horses may be classified as light horses, ponies, or draft horses, according to size, build, and use.

Light horses stand 14½ to 17 hands high, weigh 900 to 1400 pounds, and are used primarily for riding, driving, racing or for utility purposes on the farm. Light horses generally are more rangy and are capable of more action and greater speed than draft horses.
LOCATION OF POINTS OF COMMON UNSOUNDNESS IN HORSES.

1. Undershot jaw
2. Parrot mouth
3. Blindness
4. Moon blindness
5. Poll evil
6. Fistulous withers
7. Stifled
8. Thoroughpin
9. Capped hock
10. Stringhalt
11. Curb
12. Bone spavin or jack
13. Bog spavin
14. Blood spavin
15. Bowed tendons
16. Sidebones
17. Cocked ankles
18. Quittor
19. Ring bone
20. Windpuffs
21. Splints
22. Knee sprung
23. Calf kneed
24. Capped elbow
25. Sweeney
26. Contracted feet, corns, founder, thrush, quarter or sand crack, scratches or grease heel

General: Heaves, hernia, roaring, thick wind

(Courtesy - United States Department of Agriculture)
Ponies stand under 14½ hands high and weigh 500 to 900 pounds. Draft horses stand 14½ to 17¼ hands high, weigh 1400 pounds or more and are used primarily for drawing loads and other heavy work.

**BREEDS AND CHARACTERISTICS**

A breed of horses may be defined as a group of horses having a common origin and possessing certain well-fixed distinctive, uniformly transmitted characteristics that are not common to other horses.

They have been bred for a particular purpose; individual ancestry is recorded by a registry association.

Some characteristics of the better known breeds of horses are as follows:

**Quarter Horse.** The American Quarter Horse is the most popular breed in the U.S. today with annual registrations about equal to all other light horse breeds combined. Quarter horses are used for a variety of jobs including use in working cattle and other livestock, short distance racing, rodeo and contest mounts, hunters and especially as western and English pleasure horses.

This versatility requires the Quarter horse to be unusually adaptable in disposition, conformation and athletic ability.

Quarter horses are stout in build; however, extreme "bulldog" type is undesirable. They seldom exceed 15½ hands in height; they weigh 1000 to 1200 pounds. Their build makes them ideal stock horses-agile and speedy animals that have enough weight and power to hold heavy steers that have been roped. They have a calm disposition. The predominating colors are chestnut, sorrel, bay, and dun; palominos, blacks, browns, roans, and copper-colored animals are not uncommon.

The head of a Quarter horse reflects alert intelligence. This is due to its short, broad head, topped by little "fox" ears and by its wide-set, kind eyes, and large, sensitive nostrils, short muzzle, and firm mouth. The head of the horse joins the neck at a near 45 degree angle, with a distinct space between jawbone and neck muscles, to allow it to work with its head down and not restrict its breathing. The medium length, slightly arched, full neck blends into sloping shoulders.

The Quarter horse's unusually good saddle back is created by its medium-high but sharp withers, extending well back and combining with its deep sloping shoulders, so that the saddle is held in proper position for balanced action.

The Quarter horse is deep and broad chested, as indicated by its great heart girth and wide-set forelegs which blend into its shoulders. The smooth joints and very short cannons are set on clean fetlocks and the medium length pasterns are supported by sound feet. The powerfully-muscled forearm tapers to the knee, whether viewed from the front or back.

The short saddle back of the horse is characterized by being close coupled and especially full and powerful across the kidney. The barrel is formed by deep well-prung ribs back to the hip joints and the underline comes straight to the flank.

The rear quarters are broad, deep, and heavy, when viewed from either side or rear and are muscled so they are full through the thigh, stifles, gaskins, and down to the hocks. The hind leg is muscled inside and out, the whole indicating the great driving power the Quarter horse possesses. When viewed from the rear, there is great width extending evenly from top of thigh to bottom of
the stifle and gaskin. The hocks are wide, deep, straight, and clean.

The flat, clean, flinty leg bones are free from fleshiness and puffs, but still show much substance. The foot should be well-rounded and roomy, with an especially deep open heel.

The Quarter horse normally stands perfectly at ease with its legs well under it; this explains its ability to move quickly in any direction.

The action of the Quarter horse is uniquely collected. It turns or stops with noticeable ease and balance, with its hocks always well under it.

Common faults include coarseness, mutton withers, short necks, straight pasterns and extremes in type.

Halter Classes - Horses to be shown in hand at a walk or jog are to be judged on type, conformation, quality, substance and soundness. Hereditary or transmissible unsoundness shall disqualify a horse.

THOROUGHBRED. Thoroughbreds possess a high degree of quality and refinement and are built for speed. Their bodies are long, deep chested, rather narrow, upstanding, and often a bit angular. They are active, energetic, and often nervous. They are 15 to 17 hands high. In racing form, they may weigh 900 to 1025 pounds. They are bay, brown, chestnut, black, or less frequently, gray. White markings on the face and legs are common. Many are used as hunters, polo ponies, and pleasure horses.

All breeding classes shall be judged on conformation, quality, substance and suitability to become or in the case of sires and dams apparent ability to produce or beget hunters. Transmissible unsoundnesses only to be considered in case of sires and dams or prospective sires and dams. Horses to be moved on the line.

Breeding classes may be divided as to thoroughbreds and non-thoroughbreds.

AMERICAN SADDLE HORSE. These animals furnish an easy ride with great style and animation. They may be either three- or five-gaited. Three-gaited horses are usually shown with their manes roached or clipped short and the upper part of their tails clipped or sheared close. Five-gaited horses are shown with flowing manes and full length tails. Members of this breed usually are bay, brown, chestnut, gray, or black. Most of them are 15 - 16 hands high and weigh 1000 to 1200 pounds.

Good judges agree that a good saddle horse is a beautiful horse with graceful style and intelligent appearance. It must have good sized, well-formed substantial feet; clean flat-boned legs; a short back with smooth loin; a compact body, deep through the heart; and a barrel ribbed close to the hips which should be well muscled with full quarters and high level croup; and a big flowing tail coming out high and carried straight. It should have well shaped finely chiseled head, with lean smooth jaw, large bright eyes set wide apart, small ears well set upon the head, preferably sharp and dainty and used alertly.

The horse's neck should be medium to long, nicely arched, fitting on the head correctly with fine small throatlatch. The neck should also fit properly into a sloping shoulder. The withers should be prominent and not beefy; the horse should have a wide breast with the legs
coming out of the corners with plenty of width between them, and should be set on the feet straight and have true, straight, high, smooth action. The patterns should be long and sloping with a spring action.

Common faults observed in this breed include narrow heels, narrow chests, plain heads and shallow-bodied, poor-keeping individuals.

**APPALOOSA.** Colorful spotting is characteristic of the breed. Most Appaloosas are white over the loins and hips and have dark, round or egg-shaped spots ranging in size from specks up to 3 to 4 inches in diameter. The skin is mottled; hoofs are striped black and white, vertically; and the eye shows more white than in the other breeds, especially in the sclera. The Appaloosa breed was developed by the Nez Perce Indian tribe. They are popular as trail and pleasure mounts, stock horses and parade horses. Appaloosas also race at short and intermediate distances.

Appaloosa judging standards follow their primary use in stock, pleasure and trail work. They usually stand 14-2 to 15-2 hands, weigh 1000 to 1200 pounds, and are noted for good feet and flat bone. Common faults include a lack of quality in the head, rangy body conformation, and light muscling.

**APPALOOSA TYPE AND CONFORMATION**

In general appearance the Appaloosa horse is symmetrical and smooth. Their weight ranges from 950 to 1175 lbs. and height form 14.2 to 15.3. The minimum height for a mature Appaloosa (five years or older) is 14 hands. There is no maximum height. Appaloosas have solid colored or mottled roan foreparts being light with dark round or egg shaped spots over the loin and hips, some are white with spots over the entire body. Mares are often less colorfully marked, being a mottled roan over the entire body. Appaloosas often carry a fine thin mane and tail. If the tail is heavy it should be trimmed to fall near the hocks.

The head is straight and lean showing parti-colored skin about the nostrils and lips. The forehead is wide. The sclera of the eye is white, giving the eye prominence and adding distinctiveness to the appearance of the head. The ears are pointed and of medium size.

The neck shows quality, having a clean cut throat latch and large windpipe. It blends into a deep chest and long sloping shoulders. Excessive width in the chest is counted against. The withers are prominent and well defined. Low poorly defined withers are counted against. The forearm is well muscled, long, wide and tapered down to a broad knee. The cannons are short, wide and flat, ending in wide, smooth and strongly supported fetlocks. The pattern is long and sloping. Short straight pasterns are counted against. The hoof is rounded, deep, open and wide at the heel.

Viewed in front a perpendicular line from the point of the shoulder should fall upon the center of the knee, cannon, pastern and foot. From the side, a perpendicular line dropping form the center of the elbow joint should fall upon the center of the knee and pastern joints and back of foot.

The back should appear short and straight and the loin short and wide. The underline is long with the flank well let down. The hips are smoothly covered, being long, sloping and muscular. The thighs are long, muscular,
and deep, giving the quarters a smooth, well-rounded appearance. The gaskins are long, wide and muscular extending to clean, clearly defined, wide, straight hocks. The back feet are a trifle narrower than the front, the hoof is dense having a large elastic frog, strong bars, concave sole and wide, high heel.

Viewed from behind a perpendicular line from the point of the buttock should fall upon the center of the hock, cannon pastern and foot. From the side, a perpendicular line from the hip joint should fall upon the center of the foot and divide the gaskin in the middle, and a perpendicular line from the point of the buttock should run parallel with the line of the cannon.

HALTER CLASSES

Horses shall enter the ring and be lined up at the discretion of the judge. Entries are to be judged individually, standing, and then at a walk and trot on the line. Horses should stand squarely on all four feet, not to be stretched. Horses are to be judged: Conformation 40%, type 20%, soundness 20%, action 20%.

A blemish is a disfiguring defect which does not interfere with the usefulness of the animal and is not considered in judging. Common blemishes are scars.

The Appaloosa is a western stock horse and pleasure horse—sometimes we refer to them as the stock horses that are a pleasure to ride. Too, we advertise them as the world's best "rough country stock horses."

The Appaloosa should be deep but not wide, have well-defined prominent withers, and have length and slope to the pastern, shoulder and hip. He should have balance and a "saddle" back. He must be sound, have good conformation, and have action that is long, brisk, elastic and straight.

We do not want to sacrifice conformation, action, or anything of importance for coat markings, but people do expect winners and champions to "look like Appaloosas." Coat markings do contribute some to Appaloosa breed type—the same as a Hereford's markings contribute to Hereford breed type. Therefore, if a pair is equal in points, the nod should go to the one that is "more easily recognizable" as an Appaloosa.

PALOMINO. Palomino horses are the color of a newly-minted gold coin (horses three shades lighter or darker are acceptable), having light-colored manes and tails (white, silver, or ivory with not more than 15 percent dark or chestnut hair in either). White markings on face or below the knees or hocks are acceptable. The preferred height is 14½ to 16 hands and the preferred weight, 1000 to 1200 pounds. Animals of draft horse or albino breeding are not eligible for registry. Primary uses are as stock horses, parade, pleasure, saddle, and fine harness horses.

STANDARDBRED. While animals of this breed generally have smaller, longer bodies and are less leggy and less refined than Thoroughbreds, they show more substance and ruggedness and have more tractable dispositions. They range in weight from 900 to 1300 pounds and in height from 15 to 16 hands. Bay, brown, chestnut, and black are the most common colors; grays, roans and duns occur.
WALKING HORSE. The typical Tennessee Walking horse stands about 15-2 hands in height and will weigh 1000 to 1200 pounds. They can do a flat-foot walk, a running walk, and a canter. There is a wide range of colors: sorrel, chestnut, black, roan, white, bay, brown, gray, and sometimes, Palomino. All kinds of head markings characterize the breed. Splashes of white on the body are sometimes seen, especially in the case of roan horses. Walkers are shown with long manes and long tails. In general conformation, the Tennessee Walking horse should have an intelligent and neat head, well shaped and pointed ears, good big bright eyes, and tapered muzzle. They should be short in the back, deep in the body and well ribbed, full in the flanks and of good proportion and width in the chest. Necks should be long and graceful and should be on well muscled shoulders that are sloping. Legs should be flat and cordy and feet of ample size. Hair should be soft and silky, hides thin and bone smooth, dense and hard.

Certain features of the breed makeup call for the breed to be sharply criticized. The breed needs refinement and finish. Coarseness as a feature of general makeup appears too frequently. In many instances, the set of underpinning calls for improvement. Backs need to be shortened. Long backs, splayfootedness, and sickle hocks are features which occur too often.

PAINT. The American Paint is a stock horse breed best known for their spotted color patterns of two types--tobiano and overo. Paints share common purposes and ancestry with the Quarter horse. Since they parallel the Quarter horse so closely in use, the judging standards are practically identical. They differ from Pintos which may be of various types and breed backgrounds.

MORGAN HORSE. The Morgan is an American breed, but unfortunately very little is known of his ancestry. The average height is 14.1 to 15.1 and weight is about 900 to 1100 pounds. The Morgan has good saddle conformation. In general, the Morgan should be compact, of medium length, well-muscled, smooth and stylish in appearance. It should have clean, dense bone with sufficient substance, well-developed joints and tendons, with fine coat.

The head should be of medium length, well-crested, clean-cut at the throat latch, smoothly joined to the shoulder and deep at the point of shoulder. The mane and foretop should be good and full.

The shoulders should be of good length and slope, blending into smooth, well-defined, but not too high withers. The withers should be slightly higher than the point of the hip.

The foreleg should be short, squarely set, well apart, with short muscular arms. As viewed from the front, the legs should be thin and must be straight; and as viewed from the side, should be wide and sinewy.

The forearm should be wide, flat and muscular and the knees should be wide and flat. The cannons should be short, flat, wide and free from meat. Fetlock joints should be round but rather wide. Pasterns should be clean and strong, of medium length with the slope to be correlated with the slope of shoulder. The hoof should be of medium size, nearly round, open at the heel, smooth and dense but not brittle.
The body conformation of the Morgan is distinctive, with chest of good depth and width, and with a short back that is broad and well muscled. The loin should be wide and muscular and closely coupled. The barrel should be large and rather round, with well sprung closely joined ribs and deep full flank.

The hind legs of the Morgan should be squarely set and so placed that he turns on his hindquarters with legs well under him. The hips should be well rounded with hip bones not showing. The croup should be rounded gently with a fairly high-set tail that is full and well carried. The quarters and thighs should be deep and well muscled with strong muscular stifles and medium length, wide muscular gaskins.

**TYPE AND CONFORMATION**

A Morgan is distinctive for its stamina and vigor, personality and eagerness and strong natural way of moving. The head is made up of a straight or slightly dished face; big, prominent eyes set wide apart; small ears set rather wide apart carried alertly; small muzzle with firm lips and large nostrils; prominent jaw. In body conformation the Morgan gives the appearance of a very strong powerful horse with great shoulder angulation and depth, short back, broad loins, muscular and well developed croup and with tail set in high and carried gracefully. Head is carried proudly and neck slightly crested, meeting the head at a well defined throatlatch. Legs are straight and sound with short cannons, flat bone, medium length patterns and an appearance of over-all substance with refinement. The Morgan ranges from 14.1 to 15.1 hands with occasional entries over or under.

**IN HAND CLASSES**

Entries are to be judged individually, by standing, then at a walk and trot on the line and must be serviceably sound. Horses must stand squarely on all four feet. Emphasis shall be on type and conformation, with consideration given to horse's ability to move correctly on the lead.

**SHOEING REGULATIONS**

Except for weanlings and yearlings which must be shown barefoot, horses may be shod or barefoot. If shod, shoes must be open heeled without bars, turnbuckles or bands. In all Pleasure and Stock Horse classes shoes including pads must not exceed 14 oz. and the length of toe must not exceed 4 3/4". In all other classes than Pleasure and Stock there is no specific shoe weight limits but the length of toe must not exceed 5 3/4" including pad and shoe. The length of toe and weight of shoe including pad for "In-hand" classes must not exceed the maximums.

**ARABIAN**

The distinctive characteristics of the Arabian breed are medium to small size, from 14.1 to 15.1 with an occasional individual over or under. The profile of the head should be straight or (preferred) slightly concave below the eyes with small muzzle and large nostrils that extend when in action. The eyes should be large, round, expressive and dark, with comparatively short distance between eye and muzzle. The distance between eyes should be wide with large, prominent, flat forehead. The deep jowls should be wide between the branches. The
small ears (smaller in stallions than in mares) should be thin and well shaped, tips curving slightly inward.

The neck should be long and well arched, set on high and running well back into moderately high withers. The shoulders should be long and sloping, well laid over with muscle. The chest should be long, broad and deep with ribs well sprung. The foreleg should have long, broad forearm and short cannon bone with large tendons. The back should be short; loin broad and strong and croup comparatively horizontal. There should be a natural high tail carriage.

As viewed from the rear, the tail should be carried straight; the hips strong and round with well muscled thigh and gaskin. The rear leg should be straight and sound with flat bone and large joints that are strong and well defined. The pasterns should be sloping and of good length. Feet should be proportionate in size.

The skin should be dark with the body color solid except legs and face (white spots on body permissible but very undesirable in breeding classes). A fine coat is wanted.

Stallions especially should have an abundance of natural vitality, animation, spirit, suppleness and balance.

TYPE and CONFORMATION

Comparatively small head, profile of head straight or preferably slightly concave below the eyes; small muzzle, large nostrils, extended when in action; large round, expressive, dark eyes set well apart (glass eyes shall be penalized in breeding classes); comparatively short distance between the eyes and muzzle; deep jowls, wide between the branches; small ears (smaller in stallions than in mares), thin and well shaped, tips curved slightly inwards, long arched neck, set on high and running well back into moderately high withers; long sloping shoulder well laid over with muscle; ribs well sprung; long broad forearm; short cannon bone with large sinew; short back; loins broad and strong; croup comparatively horizontal; natural high tail carriage. Viewed from rear, tail should be carried straight; hips strong and round; well muscled thigh and gaskin; straight, sound, flat bone, large joints, strong and well defined; sloping pasterns of good length; round feet of proportionate size. Height from 14.1 to 15.1 hands, with an occasional individual over or under.

HALTER CLASSES

Horses to be shown in hand at a walk and trot, should stand on all four feet, not stretched. Handled and shown throughout an entire class by only one individual. A suitable headstall equipped with throat latch is mandatory. Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be penalized. Emphasis shall be placed upon type, conformation, substance and quality, transmissible weaknesses and/or unsoundness to be counted strongly against breeding stock.

GENERAL

Entries must be serviceably sound and in good condition and must wear long, natural unbraided mane and natural, untangled, ungroomed tail. Horses shall be shown without artificial appliances. The use of pads, any device between hoof and shoe, chains, rollers or similar devices on the show grounds during or before the show are prohibited and the show committee shall bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the show. Maximum length of toe is 4 1/4" and maximum weight of shoe is 12 oz. excluding nails.
PONIES

Generally speaking, the term "pony" refers to small horses under 14.2 hands high and weighing 500 to 900 pounds. Not every small horse is a pony. Some small horses are merely small animals of established light horse breeds. Others are nondescript runts. In ponies, there is a distinct conformation; in miniature, they are of either of draft horse, heavy harness horse, saddle or harness type horse.

Breeding, feeding, care, and management are essentially the same for ponies as for larger light horses.

SHETLAND PONY

There are two distinct types; one resembles a small draft horse, and the other a small road-type horse.

Good Shetlands are ponies with substance—muscle and bone—but are not coarse.

Quality and refinement—especially of feet, legs and joints—is associated with long-time service. Refinement about the ears, head, throat latch and neck contributes to good looks, style, and beauty. The Shetland's ears should be short, sharp and erect; his eyes prominent; his jaw fine.

Definite sex character is shown by good ponies. Stallions show a heavier crest to the neck than mares and have a bolder look. Mares should appear sweet, feminine and broody. Normal sexual development is required in both sexes.

Shetlands may be of any color, either solid or mixed. No particular color is preferred nor is any color to be considered undesirable. No discrimination should be made because of the color of the eyes.

In practical selection, temperament and disposition are important considerations.

A calm, stable temperament and a mild disposition may very well be the first qualities looked for in a pleasure pony. The shape and position of the pony's feet and legs determine in large measure the way in which he moves. The forelegs, when viewed from the front, should be straight, and the feet should point directly ahead. When observed from the side, the forelegs should be almost straight down to the pasterns, which should be strong and springy and slope at an angle of 45 to 50 degrees.

Long, sloping shoulders promote freedom and style of action. The knees, cannons, fetlocks, and pasterns should be lean, clean and well-defined—not meaty or thick and coarse.

The feet should be full and rounding at the toe and quarter, wide and deep at the heel. The hoof should be tough in texture, smooth and free from cracks and ridges.

When a pony stands in a normal position on a level surface, his hind leg will be correctly set if a straight line dropped from the point of the buttocks hits the point of his hock, follows the hind cannon, and hits the ground in back of the heel. Many Shetlands are sickle-hocked. A sickle-hock is usually weaker than one with the correct angle; therefore, it is more likely to suffer some unsoundness if the pony is used hard.

The hind legs, when viewed from the rear, should be parallel down to the fetlocks. Normally the hind pastern and feet toe out a little.

All ponies should have muscular thighs and quarters. All ponies should have a short strong back, a short coupling, and a reasonably level croup. All ponies should be deep and full through the heart, have well sprung ribs and a deep roomy middle.
As far as Shetland size is concerned, a height of 46 inches at the withers is the maximum permitted in the United States. Many Shetland shows hold classes for ponies 42 inches and under and similar classes for ponies 42 inches and up to 46 inches in height.

The height limit for yearlings is 10.1 hands (41 inches) and under; and over 10.1 hands and not exceeding 10.3 hands (43 inches). The height limit for two year olds is 10.2 hands (42 inches) and under, and not exceeding 11.0½ hands (44¼ inches). The height for three year olds and over is 10.3 hands (43 inches) and under and not exceeding 11.2 hands (46 inches).

GENERAL CONFORMATION

Shetland conformation should be that of a strong, attractive, versatile pony, blending the original Shetland type with refinement and quality from selective breeding. The barrel should be well rounded, back short and level, with flat croup. The head should be carried high and on a well arched neck; and should be symmetrical and proportionate to the body, with width between prominent eyes; a fine jaw, short, sharp and erect ears; small muzzle, with flaring nostrils and a refined throat latch. The pony shall have a full mane and tail; coat should be fine and glossy; no discrimination should be made because of color of coat or eyes.

The pony's structure should be strong with refinement; high withers; sloping shoulders; flat boned; muscular legs (not cow or sicle hocked); strong springy pasterns, and good, strong serviceable feet.

HALTER CLASSES

Shetlands on entering the ring are to be lined up in the location indicated by the ringmaster, and after being examined by the judge, are to be worked as requested — usually at a walk or trot.

Stallions, three years and older, to qualify in breeding classes, must have all the fully developed physical characteristics of a stallion.

Shetlands, one year of age and older, should be shod when shown and ponies under one year of age must not be shod.

All appliances, including false tails and braces are prohibited except standard tack.

Single breeding classes shall be judged 60% on conformation and 40% on performance, quality and manners except foals of the current year and yearlings which are to be judged 75% on conformation and 25% on performance, quality and manners.

When model classes are held they shall precede breeding classes and are to be judged on breed character and conformation only, being designed as a pattern or standard of ideal Shetlands which is to be followed in all other classes.

HACKNEY PONY

Usually these ponies are in reality miniature harness horses. Commonly, the shows provide classes for heavy harness ponies whose height varies from 11 to 14 hands.

Hackney ponies should be at least serviceably sound, balanced in conformation, refined about their fronts, lean and clean in quality of bone and joint. Of course, they must be able to work their legs. Folding of knees and flexing of hocks are very important features in the stride of the best Hackney ponies.

Stiff-kneed or lazy-hocked ponies cannot furnish much competition for ponies that have high all-around action, that can set their
chins, go straight in front, work their hocks close together and go collectedly. Ponies that sprawl and paddle, that spraddle and point and labor in front, that hitch and dwell and hop behind, that leave their hocks behind them - such ponies will have a tough time on show day if the competition is keen.

The top - heavy harness ponies are a happy combination of shape, quality and action. Dressy fronts that result from long, lithe necks, clean-cut head features, and smartly carried ears are requisites of the best ponies. Sharp withers, long sloping shoulders, short backs and couplings, level croup and heavily muscled thighs, width of rib and depth of rib both in front and behind - such features should be well marked characteristics, as a judge searches a pony posed for inspection.

WELSH PONY
Welsh ponies are intermediate in size between Shetland ponies and other light horsecrosses. They usually range from 10 to 12 hands in height and weigh less than 600 pounds. They have the build of miniature coach horses and are hardy, spirited and pony-like.

They can be any color except piebald or skewbald. The head should be small and clean cut, well set on and tapering to the muzzle, a slight dish is desirable; eyes bold set wide apart, ears well placed, small and pointed, well up on the head; nostrils prominent; jaws and throat clean and finely cut.

The neck should be lengthy, well carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be creasty in the case of stallions. The shoulders should be long and sloping well back; with withers moderately fine but not "knife-like," the humerous upright so that the foreleg is not set under the body. Foreleg should be set square and true, not tied in at the elbow, with long, strong forearms, well developed knee and short flat bone elbow.

The back and loins should be muscular, strong and well-coupled; girth deep and ribs well-sprung; hindquarters lengthy and fine, not cobby, ragged or goose rumped, with tail well set on and carried gaily. The hind legs should have large hocks, flat and clean with points prominent, to turn neither inwards nor outwards, the hind legs not to be bent, hocks not to be set behind a line from the point of the quarter to the fetlock joint. The pasterns should have medium slope and length, and feet should be well-shaped with round, dense hoofs.

No Welsh pony shall exceed 14.2 hands in height and shall not be shown in a performance class unless the owner is in possession of a current measurement card of valid measurement form issued by the A.H.S.A.

Any pony wearing turnbuckles, equipment or devices other than those permitted in specific classes and any pony showing evidence of the use of ginger or other irritants to produce a higher tail carriage than the natural position shall be disqualified from the class in which it is showing.

Foals and yearlings must be shown barefoot. In breeding classes when two year olds are shod, the shoes shall be unworn and the foot natural with frog close to the ground, and additional weight of any description shall disqualify.
Ponies to be shown in hand at a walk and trot except in group classes.

Stallions three years old and older must have all the fully developed physical characteristics of a stallion. Ponies must be serviceably sound, in good condition and well groomed. To be shown in halter or bridle. Transmissible weakness and unsoundness to be counted against in breeding classes.

In junior breeding classes (two years and under) ponies are to wear long natural unbraided mane and long natural unset, ungingered tail. The fetlock and long hair of the ears may be clipped. Actual age to be taken into consideration in judging foals and yearlings.

In senior breeding classes (three year olds and over) ponies may be presented in the same manner as they are in classes of the Welsh section in which they perform. However, any ponies wearing spoon cruppers, quarter boots, hamane tail braces, switches and wigs or any ponies whose tails have been nicked, gingered or put in a tail set for the class entered, shall be disqualified. Stallions may be shown in tack. Emphasis shall be on breed characteristics. Natural reaching action is desired.

To be judged on breed type, conformation, quality and substance; 25% on way of going, disposition and manners.

SEX CHARACTER

All sex classes - mares, geldings and stallions - are unique in that several factors must be considered for each sex class.

Mares -
1. They must give an overall feminine appearance particularly in the head, neck and bone.

    2. They must be sound and free of any problem which would prevent a mare from carrying a foal to parturition.

    3. They must conform to the "ideal" type and conformation accepted by the breed.

    4. They should be discriminated against if their external genitals show some predisposition toward breeding unsoundness. Example: A mare with a recessed anus, exposing the vulva more prominently, will usually have fecal material lodged on and in the vulva. This will eventually cause vaginal infection.

    5. They must be physically developed for their age.

    6. They must have a disposition which is suited for a mare of her particular breed.

Geldings -
1. They must display masculine characteristics without having a disposition similar to a stallion.

2. They must be sound, as geldings are of no value if they are lame.

3. They must conform to the "ideal" type and conformation accepted by the breed.

Stallions -
1. They must give a masculine appearance and be physically developed for their age.

2. They must be sound, otherwise they may not be suitable for breeding and/or riding purposes.

3. They must have a disposition which is suited to a stallion of their particular breed.
a deep open heel. They should be set directly under the knees and hocks and should be straight as viewed from the front and rear.

The bone should be flat, clean, hard and free from fleshiness and puffiness. It should be of adequate strength and substance to properly support the horse during strenuous activity.

Conformation is the relationship of form to function. It is a fact and not just an opinion. Conformation is inheritable. There are some definite factors that we may use. There must be an optimum angle for the shoulder in relation to the horse's front leg and his total body. There is an optimum length to the arm or the humerus. Why do you want a straight legged horse?

Simply to utilize all the bones and tissues he has so that the fantastic amount of stress coming down that horse's leg can be disseminated. If the leg is straight then the stress can be evenly disseminated, if it is crooked, one part gets abused and the other neglected.

The degree of unsoundness of the limbs will end many a working horse's career. This is why many brood mares are brood mares and not working mares. Most unsoundness is a direct effect of stress, strain and concussion. How a horse will withstand this stress is conformation.

There must be a standard of excellence. This will vary from one breed to another.

1. Balance - This involves the total body of the horse with the legs as part of that mass. Then you add a neck and head as a balancing arm. Horses use their neck and head for balance. Short necked horses are undesirable as are extra long necked horses. Especially if they have a large dumb head at the end of that neck because of the excess weight.

2. The Center of Gravity - This is important when you think about the dynamics of equine locomotion. The center of gravity is that point at which the horse is perfectly balanced. There is more weight on the front end of the horse - 60-65%. This is why you see more problems on the front legs than on the rear legs. The center of gravity changes as the horse moves.

3. The Shoulder - We want the shoulder to be angled with angulation between the scapula and humerus.

a. Because they act as a shock absorber.

b. If he is too straight shouldered, then his stride will be shortened.

4. The Front Legs - This leg bears 60-65% of the animal's weight and its conformation is very important. We want the shoulder to be sloping. A line dropped from the tuber spinae on the spine of scapula should equally divide the leg to the fetlock joint, then carry to a point just behind the heel. The carpus should not deviate
4. They should be discriminated against for not having properly developed external genitals for a stallion of that age. Example: A stallion which has retained a testicle.

5. They must conform to the "ideal" type and conformation accepted by the breed.

BASIC HORSE COLORS

Bay - characterized by a black mane and tail, black feet and legs, with the black extending as high as the knees and hocks, a red colored body with several shades which vary from a light bay through various intermediate shades to a dark, cherry red.

Chestnut - This color is variable in shade and is commonly divided into two classes: the liver chestnut and the chestnut or sorrel. This color is characterized by a reddish-brown color varying in shade from a dark chocolate (black chestnut and liver chestnut) to a lighter reddish, golden-brown of the sorrel. The mane and tail may be the same color as the body, yet in some cases they are nearly white. The pasterns and legs are generally lighter in shade than the body.

Brown, brown-black, or seal brown - Sometimes the brown color is confused with bay and, if the individual is dark, may be confused with black. The mane, tail, feet and legs are black. The body is brown varying to black, but the muzzle, the region about the eyes, the flanks and the underline, especially in the groins, are a lighter shade of brown.

Black - This is a color that is particularly subject to bleaching in sunlight. Bleach - black horses may give the appearance of having a reddish hair coat and possibly be confused with a bay or brown in color. Some true blacks do not fade.

Palomino - The color of a palomino is a cream or "golden" body color with the mane and tail being light or white.

Buckskin - It is a light yellow body color with a black mane and tail.

Claybank (red dun) - Characteristics are a reddish yellow color with mane, tail, and legs a slightly darker shade, but not black.

Albino - The light colored body appears white. The eyes are bluish-pink; skin of the body is pink.

Gray - Horses are black at birth, but white hairs appear when the foal hair is shed. The individual becomes whiter with age.

FEET, LEGS AND BONE

In order for the horse to perform properly he must have sound feet and legs. The legs should be straight and the knees and hocks should be deep, wide, and free from coarseness. The feet should be well rounded, tough, and roomy with
anteriorly or posteriorly. The masculature of the forearm should be well developed and balance the limb. The area just below the carpus should not cut in on the anterior or posterior surface. The hoof wall should slope at the same angle as the pastern. The angle of the scapula with the body will vary from 50 to 75° and there is an angle of 85 to 100° between the scapula and the humerus at the point of the shoulder. An angle of about 128 to 132° is present between the humerus and radius at the elbow joint. The angle between the third metacarpal bone and the first phalanx is approximately 130-135°. The angle between the ground surface of the foot and the anterior line of the hoof wall and the pastern (foot axis) should be approximately 45 to 50°. These angles will vary among the breeds, i.e., Arabs have more sloping shoulders and pasterns than do Quarter horses.

Points of fault in conformation of the forelimbs:

a. Over at the knees - referred to as anterior deviation, bucked knees, knee sprung, or goat knees. It causes less trouble than calf knees. Crossed leg contracted tendons in the carpal flex or groups of muscles. Extra strain is placed on the sesmoid bones, the flex or tendons and the suspensory ligament.

b. Posterior deviation of the carpus - Calf knees or sheep knees. Very bad fault in conformation. The legs seldom remain sound under heavy work. Strain placed on the check ligament, anterior parts of the carpal bones and other areas. Chip fracture of the carpal bones are common.

c. Too straight on the pastern - The line of concussion is in the middle 1/3 rd of the frog. Navicular disease is more common in these horses.

d. Camped under - This is a deviation in which the entire forelimb from the elbow down is placed back perpendicular and too far under the body when the animal is viewed from the side. It may be caused by disease or by a fault in conformation. The horse cannot balance himself well. There is a diminution of speed and the horse is predisposed to stumbling and falling.

e. Camped out in front - This is the opposite of d. This horse is predisposed to navicular disease.

f. Tied-in knees - The cannon bone is small and the flexor tendons are small in comparison to the rest of his body.
From the Front: Both limbs should bear weight equally. The legs should be straight. A line dropped from the point of the shoulder should equally bisect the leg. The chest should be well developed and well muscled. The toes should point straight forward and the feet should be as wide apart on the ground as the space between the limbs at their origin in the chest. Deviations from a straight limb will cause strain to be placed on the collateral ligaments of the hinge joints in the forelimb. The carpal joints should be balanced and not deviate toward, or away from, one another. The cannon bone should be centered under the carpus and not to the lateral side as in bend knees.

Faults:

a. Base narrow - In the base narrow horse the feet are closer together than the arms are. This is found most commonly in horses having a large chest and well developed pectoral muscles, such as the Quarter Horse. The outside of the limbs usually takes most of the strain. Articular windpuffs of the fetlock joint, lateral ringbone, and lateral sidebones and common pathological conditions resulting from this conformation. In nearly all cases, base narrow conformation forces the horse to land on the outside wall of the hoof, regardless of whether the feet toe-in or toe-out. This requires the inside wall to be trimmed to level the foot.

b. Base wide - Found most frequently on narrow chested horses such as the American Saddlebred and the Tennessee Walking horse. Here the feet are wider spaced than the arm is at the chest. These horses, often affected with toe-out conformation, strain the medial aspect of their limb getting the same problems as the base-narrow horse except on the inside of the limb.

c. Toe-in (Pigeon toed) - The feet point toward one another when viewed from the front. It is congenital and the limb may be crooked as high as the origin at the chest, or as low as the fetlock down. Usually it is accompanied by a base-narrow conformation but is rarely present in base-wide conformation. In the young foal, the condition may be partially corrected by proper trimming of the feet and young horses may be correctively shod to prevent its worsening. When the affected horse moves there is a tendency to "paddle" with the feet. This is an outward deviation of the foot in flight. The foot breaks over the outside toe and lands on the outside wall. If a horse toes in, he will usually "paddle" whether he is base-narrow or base-wide.

d. Toe-out or splay footed - When viewed from the front the toes point away from each other. The condition is usually congenital and is usually due to crooked legs from their origin down. It may be accompanied by either base-wide or base-narrow conformation. It also may be controlled or partially corrected by corrective shoeing. The flight of the foot goes through an inner-arc when advancing and may cause interference with the opposite forelimb. This horse will usually wing-in whether it is base-narrow or base-wide. When this condition is combined with base-narrow conformation there is greater likelihood of limb interference and plaitting.

-50-
1. OED OUT
2. PIGEON-TOED
3. NARROW CHEST
4. CORRECT
5. KNOCK KNEED/BASE WIDE
6. UNBALANCED MUSCLING

7. BOW-LEGGED
8. TWISTED FOREARMS
9. BASE NARROW/KNOCK-KNEED
10. TOO WIDE AT CHEST

11. IN
12. Calf-Kneed
13. STIFF KNEE
14. STRAIGHT, STUBBY
15. PASTERN, DUCK-KNEED
16. CORRECT
17. POST-LEGGED
18. LEG SET TOO FAR
19. BACK UNDER BODY/AT FOREARM TOO STRAIGHT.
Front Leg Sketches of Common Skeletal Defects: left, Base Narrow, Splay Footed, Too Wide; right, Too Close at Ground.

Front Leg Sketches Showing Common Skeletal Defects: left, Pigeon Toed; center, Knock Kneed; right, Bow Kneed.

Front and Rear Views of Horse Standing in Correct Position.

Rear Leg Skeletal Defects: left, Cow-Hocked; right, Bandy-Legged.

Side Views of Horse Showing Sickle-Hocked Position, right, Rear Legs Too Far Back, center, Correct Position, left.
Ideal  Toes out  Bow-legged  Stands close  Toes out  Knock-kneed  Pigeon-toed

Ideal  Stands wide  Bow-legged  Stands close  Cow-hocked

Ideal  Camped under  Camped out  Knee-sprung  Calf-kneed

Ideal  Stands under  Camped out  Hind leg too straight
nor too angulated. A stifle and hock which are too straight may cause bog spavin of the hock and upward fixation of the patella. Excessive angulation of the hock (sickle hock) may cause curb and bone or bog spavin. A line dropped from the tuber ischii (from the buttocks area) should hit the point of the hock, go down the posterior aspect of the metatarsal area and then strike 3 to 4 inches behind the heel.

Faults of conformation of hind limbs viewed from the side:
   a. Sickle hocks - too much angulation to his hock. Stress on the ligaments may result in curb formation. When accompanied by cow hock they constitute one of the worse forms of conformation.
   b. Camped out behind - this means that the horse stands too far to the rear when viewed from the side.
   c. Post legged horse - this horse does not have proper angulation to the stifle. This is a straight legged horse and is prone to have upward fixation of the patella.

Faults of conformation viewed from the rear:
   a. Cow hocks - this means that the limbs are base narrow to the hock, and base wide from the hock to the feet. This is a common defect. Cow hocks is one of the worst hind limb conformations because there is excessive strain on the medial side of the hock joint and this may cause bone spavin.
   b. Base narrow - here the distance between the center lines of the feet is less than that of the thigh region. Most common in heavily muscled horses where there is a strain on the lateral aspects of the limb. The feet may tow in or have straight toes. May be accompanied by bowed legs. When an animal has good conformation in front and is base narrow behind many different types of interferences may result between fore and rear legs.
   c. Base wide - the distance between the center lines of the feet at their placement to the ground is greater than the distance between the center line of the thigh. Most commonly related to cow hocks.

Conformation of the Foot:

Good conformation of the foot is essential to normal activities of the horse. "No frog, no foot - no foot, no horse" is not incorrect at all.

In some breeds the foot is forced into abnormal conformation, i.e., as showstock of the American Saddlebred and Tennessee Walking horse. Because of the artificial action that these horses have they allow the wall to grow excessively long. This removes frog pressure and contraction of the heel results. Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds often have feet that are too small to bear the weight of the animal.

The Fore Foot - It should be round and wide in the heels and the shape of the heels should correspond in size to the shape of the toe. The base should be well developed. The wall should be thickest at the toe and gradually thin toward the heels and the inside wall should be slightly straighter than the outside wall. The sole should be slightly concave, medial
e. Basal-narrow, toe-in conformation - causes excessive strain on the lateral collateral ligaments of the fetlock and pastern joints. Articular windpuffs, lateral ringbone, and lateral sidebones and common pathological conditions.

f. Basal-narrow, toe-out conformation - is one of the worst types of conformation in the forelimb. Horses with this can seldom shoulder the strain of heavy work. The hoof breaks over the outside toe, swings inwardly and lands on the outside wall. This causes great strain on the limb below the fetlock. Plating may be evident. Plating is the tendency to place one forefoot directly in front of the other. It can produce interference and stumbling resulting from an advancing forelimb hitting the one in front of it.

g. Basal-wide, toe-out conformation - The greatest strain is placed on the inside of the limb. Medial sidebones and ringbone are common pathological problems. The foot usually breaks over the inside toe deviates ("wings") to the inside, and lands on the inside hoof wall.

h. Knock knees or knee narrow conformation - This is a medial deviation of the carpal joints toward one another. Strain is placed upon several groups of ligaments in and below the knee.

i. Bow legs or Bandy-legs conformation - This is an outward deviation of the carpal joints when viewed from the front.

j. Open knees - This is an irregular profile of the carpal joint when viewed from the side. Usually seen in young horses (1 to 3 years of age) before full maturity and often is accompanied by epiphysis from a mineral imbalance.

k. Bench knees or offset knees - Here the cannon bone is offset to the lateral side and does not follow a straight line from the radius. It is congenital and should be considered a weak point of conformation. Medial splint bones suffer more stress and are subject to more injuries.

Below the fetlock as to conformation: The proper angle on the forelimb is 45-50° and on the hind limb 50-55°. The angle of the hoof should be the same as the angle of the pastern. This gives the most utilization of the shock absorbing system of the limb. Excessive sloping pasterns causes undue strain on the fetlock joint, suspensory ligament and tendons. Excessively straight up pasterns put the line of concussion right down through the center of the foot. An excessively long pastern with a broken angulation commonly called coonfootedness. Such horses are going to have a tendency to run down, stick their pastern down into the sand and their fetlocks into the dirt, break sesamoid bones and rupture ligaments.

The Hindlimb -

Rear View - Viewed from behind, the limb should have a pleasing, well balanced appearance. The hocks should be large enough to hold the weight of the animal, but smooth. The musculature on the inside of the thigh should carry down into the medial side of the gaskin so that the tibial area does not appear to be thin. A line dropped from the point of the pelvis should divide the leg into equal parts.

Lateral View - Viewed from the side, the limb should have a well balanced appearance. The musculature should not end abruptly at the stifile and hock should be neither too straight
to lateral, and anterior to posterior. The foot and pastern axis should be between 45 to 50. The angle of the heels should correspond to the angle of the toe and there should be no defects in the wall. The frog should be large and well developed with a good cleft, have normal consistency, elasticity, and show no moisture. It should divide the sole into two equal halves and the apex should point to the center of the toe. Unequal size of the two halves may indicate base wide or base narrow conformation.

The Hind Foot - Should present a more pointed appearance at the toe than the fore foot. The foot axis should be 50 to 55 and there should be no defects in the hoof wall. The sole of the hind foot is slightly more concave than the fore foot.

**Faulty Conformation of the Feet**

a. Flat feet - the foot lacks the natural concavity in the sole and is not a normal condition in light horses, but is present in some draft breeds. Flat feet may be inheritable and are much more common in the front feet than in the rear. Sole bruising and lameness are common. Corrective shoeing can be done.

b. Dropped sole or pumiced foot - when the sole has dropped to, or beyond the level of the bearing surface of the hoof wall, this is called dropped sole. The sole is flat and may be convexed. Usually a sequel to laminitis. Laminitis will be discussed in detail at a later date.

c. Contracted foot or heels - the foot is narrower than normal. This is especially true in the posterior one half of the foot. It is more common in the front feet. It is always due to a lack of frog pressure which may be produced by improper shoeing, and by shoeing a horse unnecessarily.

d. Brittle feet - usually associated with dryness. Complications with toe or quarter cracks may result. This requires almost daily treatment with non-drying agents such as lanolin, fish oils, olive oil or a good commercial preparation.

e. Bull-nosed foot - a foot that has been rasped down in front to fit a shoe, is called bull nosed.

f. Buttress foot - this is an exostosis, extra bone formation, on the proximal anterior pastern of P-3.

g. Rings in the wall of the foot - some rings are normal and indicate changes of seasons or planes of nutrition. Laminitis is the most common cause of pathological rings. Large single rings may be the result of a past fibride reaction due to a systemic disease. Blistering of the coronary band may cause it also. Dietary changes may cause it. No treatment is necessary but the hoof may be dressed to remove them. This may, however, dry the hoof.
LAMENESS OF HORSES

1. Carpitis (popped knee)—Carpitis is an acute or chronic inflammation of the carpal joint involving most of the structures of the carpal joint. It is caused by concussion and trauma to the joint. The condition is especially common in race horses. Horses that are not in condition or are worked too hard are prone to develop carpitis. Poor conformation of the carpus may be an important factor in the development of the condition. Bad conformation, such as calf-knees or bench knees show poor bone alignment which is probably a predisposing cause of the condition. Changes in the bone primarily occur on the anterior surface of the bones forming the carpas. The damage usually is in the form of new bone growth in these areas. In the acute case, lameness is very evident. Swelling of the joint capsules is usually present. In the chronic case lameness may not be evident until the horse is used at a fast gait.

2. Contraction of the Digital Flexor Tendons—This may be either congenital or acquired and may involve the deep and/or superficial digital flexor tendons. The degree of contraction is highly variable. Congenital types of flexor contraction result from inheritable characteristics, malposition of the fetus in the uterus, or nutritional deficiency of calcium, phosphorus, Vitamin A, and/or Vitamin D. If only the superficial digital flexor contracts, the fetlock and pastern area knuckle forward causing "knuckling" of the fetlocks. This may occur on either the front or hind limbs. When the deep digital flexor tendon contracts, the heels tend to lift from the ground. If the contraction in the newborn foal is not too severe, the tendons may stretch as he grows. If the horse's fetlock and pastern areas knuckle over severely and the horse has difficulty maintaining a flat foot, then correction should be attempted.

3. Tendosynovitis (Bowed Tendon, Tendinitis, tendovaginitis)—This condition results from an injury to the deep and/or superficial flexor tendons and their associated tendon sheath. The condition has been described as a telescoping of the tendon sheath surrounding the deep and superficial tendons. The resulting tearing causes hemorrhage and inflammation to take place. Hemorrhage occurs within the tendon, and varying degrees of tendon tearing take place. Actual stretching of the tendons occurs. The bowed appearance from which the disease gets its name, results from the fibrous adhesions on the posterior aspect of the metacarpal area. This is one of the most common reasons for retirement of horses from racing. Tendosynovitis occurs as a result of a severe strain to the flexor tendon area and is relatively common in the foreleg, but not so common in the hind leg. Predisposing causes include: long, weak pasterns; forced training procedures; speed and exertion; muscular fatigue at the end of a long race; improper shoeing; toes which are too long; muddy tracts and horses that are too heavy for their tendon structure. The superficial flexor tendon is the most common one involved. Acute signs of the injury occur shortly after the injury
infection without retention of the membranes. This is always a serious form of laminitis and very difficult to treat.

5. Grass Founder - Grass founder is common in horses which are grazed on summer pastures. Pastures containing clover and alfalfa apparently are more apt to cause the condition than grass pastures. Those horses that develop grass founder are usually overweight. Shetland ponies, Welch ponies, or fat horses of other breeds are especially subject to disease. Gelidings are more susceptible than are mares. The cause could be similar to grain founder. It could be hormonal since legume grasses contain a hormone called estrogen, which could account for the larger number of gelidings being involved.

6. Miscellaneous causes—This area catches those areas where none of the etiological causes listed above can be found. Acute laminitis—may affect both front feet of all four feet. If all four feet are involved, the horse tends to lie down for extended periods. When standing, the horse carries his hind feet well up under him and carries the forefeet posteriorly so that there is a very narrow base of support. If only two feet are involved the hind feet are carried well up under the horse and the front feet placed well forward with the weight on the heel of the foot. Heat is present over the sole, the wall, and the coronary band and there is an increase digital pulse. Death may result from acute laminitis, but it is not common. Early treatment is a must.

Chronic laminitis—Rotation of the third phalanx will occur. This rotation may cause the toe of the third phalanx to push out through the sole of the foot. Rotation of the third phalanx occurs as the result of the pull of the deep digital flexor tendon on the third phalanx concurrent with the driving force of the weight of the horse, and the tearing force of the ground pressure on the wall when the foot strikes the ground. Diverging lines of growth on the wall of the hoof is evident in chronic laminitis. The lines will diverge because there has been more heel growth.

Treatment involves an accurate diagnosis and proper treatment by a veterinarian in the acute phase of the disease to decrease the chance for third phalanx rotation. This is one disease problem that is a true emergency in the early acute phase. The first 3 hours can be extremely important. In the chronic case, rotation of the coffin bone can be partially corrected by special shoeing procedures involving a realignment of the coffin bone. The heel should be lowered and toe cut long to place the coffin bone parallel to the ground. The use of a bar shoe can prevent rotation by keeping constant pressure on the frog. Once a horse has suffered an attack of acute laminitis he seems more subject to recurring attacks. Horses suffering from chronic laminitis exhibit a tendency to land on the heel in an exaggerated motion. "Seedy toe" resulting from separation of the sensitive and insensitive laminae is usually present in chronic laminitis. With seedy toe, the white line increases in thickness. A technic for returning the hoof to nearly normal after rotation of the coffin has been developed. It involves rasping the toe off, lowering the heels, then a shoe is placed on the foot. The toe is elevated and the defect is repaired with a plastic material. Through several months of this treatment it is possible to place the coffin bone back in correct alignment. The prognosis is always
occurs. There is diffuse swelling over the involved area, and heat and pain are evident upon palpation. The horse will stand with its heel elevated to ease pressure upon the tendon. Signs of acute injury will remain for several months in some cases. Rest sometimes must be as long as 1 year. Treatment and diagnosis is complex and a veterinarian should be consulted as soon after injury as possible for instructions in care and treatment.

4. Traumatic arthritis of the fetlock joint (osselets)--Osselets are a traumatic arthritis of the fetlock joint. Concussion is probably the main factor responsible for osselets. A horse having upright patterns is more apt to develop the condition than one having sloping patterns because greater concussion is exerted on the fetlock joint as a result of the upright conformation. New bone growth results from the tearing of the periosteum which occurs and this should be kept in mind. Treatment should be left to a veterinarian.

5. Pyramidal disease (Buttress foot)--Pyramidal disease, due to new bone growth in the area of the extensor process of the third phalanx. The extensor process is located on the anterior surface in the dorsal area of the coffin bone and is the attachment for the common digital extensor tendon. The new bone growth may be due to a fracture or periostitis of the extensor process. Healing produces the new bone growth, causing an enlargement at the coronary band at the center of the foot. Treatment is usually unrewarding.

6. Laminitis (founder)--Laminitis is an inflammation of the laminae of the foot. It may be caused by either infectious or noninfectious agents. Severe pain results from the inflammation caused by pressure on the sensitive laminae. Laminitis due to systemic causes may be acute or chronic and may involve two feet or all four feet; usually it affects both forefeet. Laminitis is caused by numerous factors not all of which are fully understood. Commonly recognized causes include:
   1. Grain founder--This is caused by ingestion of greater quantities of grain than can be tolerated by the horse. The amount varies with each horse. The founder may occur suddenly in a horse that’s ration consists of considerable amounts of grain or it may be accidental ingestion. This type of founder is associated with a gastroenteritis with toxins released that are thought to cause laminitis. Grains most often involved are wheat and barley. Oats are usually not as serious and founder may be mild or not present.
   2. Water founder--Ingestion of large amounts of cold water by an overheated horse is considered to be a cause of laminitis. It may be due to a gastroenteritis or to toxin formation. Horses that are overheated should be allowed only small amounts of water until they have cooled.
   3. Road founder--Road founder is the result of concussion to the feet from hard work or fast work on a hard surface. Unconditioned animals are especially subject to this type of laminitis, as are those with thin walls and soles.
   4. Postparturient laminitis--A mare may develop this type of laminitis shortly after foaling as a result of retaining a portion of the fetal membranes or a uterine
guarded, but if symptoms continue for more than ten days, the prognosis unfavorable.

7. Navicular disease—Navicular disease begins as bursitis of the navicular bursa between the deep flexor tendon and the navicular bone. As the disease progresses, degenerative and erosive lesions of the febrocartilage begin on the tendinous surface of the bone. Pathological changes are confined to the tendinous area of the bone. The surface of the tendon is progressively destroyed and may eventually rupture spontaneously, especially after a neurectomy. Navicular disease affects only the front feet so no description is available of the disease in the hind legs of horses. It is one of the most important causes of lameness in horses. Navicular disease has been described as an inheritable disease resulting from upright conformation and a weak navicular bone. Concussion also is a definite factor in the cause of navicular disease. Horses that perform hard work, such as racing, cutting, roping and barrel racing are especially prone to the disease. Puncture wounds of the navicular bursa can cause the disease. The affected horse often has a history of intermittent lameness which decreases when he is rested. Following heavy work the horse may be noticably worse the next morning. Both front feet usually are involved in navicular disease; however, one foot often shows more lameness than the other. During movement the horse tends to land on the toe of the foot to avoid concussion to the heel. Avoid frog pressure causes the heels to contract and to raise. The sole becomes more concave both anterior to posterior and medial to lateral, and the foot will become smaller due to contraction. Treatment may involve a neurectomy of the posterior digital nerves to stop the pain. It does not alter the disease, but may return the horse to servicable condition.

8. Corns and bruised sole—A corn is an involvement of the sensitive and insensitive tissue of the sole at the angle formed by the wall and the bar. Corns must frequently occur on the inner angle of the front feet and rarely are found in the hind feet. Corns are usually due to improper shoeing. When shoes are left on the feet too long, the heels of the shoe are forced inside of the wall and causes pressure on the sole at the angle of the wall and the bar. Bruised sole is similar in many respects to corns. A cleaning of the flaky sole from the bottom of the foot with a hoof knife will reveal red stains in the sole indicating a bruised area.

9. Azoturia (Monday Morning Disease)—Azoturia is a severe destruction of muscle that occurs in horses kept on full feed when they are not worked. It is characteristically associated with a full diet of grain and a period of rest of one or two days or more while kept on full rations. When the horse is put back to work, signs appear even though the amount of work may be very light. It can also be a sequel to casting a horse. The cause is related to the amount of glycogen, a carbohydrate used by the body as food storage, accumulates in the musculature. Upon exertion, this glycogen is broken down and large amounts of lactic acid, a chemical released in the breakdown of glycogen that is toxic, accumulate. Lactic acid causes muscular destruction and releases myoglobin with subsequent destruction of the muscle.
SIZE
Acceptable size varies among the breeds. Refer to 
breed descriptions for standards.

QUALITY AND STYLE
Quality and style make a 
horse attractive and justify 
an owner's pride. Refinement, 
alertness, carriage and sex 
character create this 
important impression. Quality 
is denoted by flat, clean 
bone, well-defined tendons 
and joints, refined head and 
ears, and fine skin and color. 
Good quality in a horse 
indicates easy keeping and 
good endurance.

CONDITION
Both reproduction and 
performance are hindered by a 
thin, run-down condition or 
an over-fat and highly 
fitted condition. A vigorous, 
thrifty condition is conducive 
to the best work and breeding 
success.

ACTION AND WAY OF GOING
Although the degree of 
action of the horse will vary 
somewhat with type, the 
usefulness of all horses is 
dependent upon their action and 
their ability to move in various 
types of racing, driving, 
hunting, and riding. In all types 
and breeds, the motion should 
be straight and true with a long, 
swift, and elastic stride. Action 
is a key to usefulness and 
soundness. Both freedom and 
correctness of stride are 
important.

The term "way of going" 
is self-defining. The pace 
refers to the rate at which a 
horse moves. Action implies flexion 
of knees and hocks.

1. Length - the distance 
from the point of 
breaking over to the 
point of contact of 
the same foot.

2. Directness or trueness - 
the line in which 
the foot is carried 
forward during the 
stride.

3. Rapidity or promptness - 
the time consumed 
in taking a single 
stride.

4. Spring - the manner in 
which the weight is 
settled upon the 
supporting structures 
at the completion 
of the stride.

5. Balance - the ability 
of a horse to 
coordinate his action 
and go in form.

The value of a horse depends 
largely upon what he can do. 
Horses earn their living on the 
move, not by standing still. 
Therefore, horse judging 
consists in a large part of a 
study of form in relation to 
function. Horses should be 
judged as athletes.

Good looks may enhance 
value. But a good looking horse 
unable to meet performance 
requirements in a special field 
is never a top horse in his 
field. A saddle horse, posed 
for inspection at the end of 
bridle reins, may be as good 
looking as saddle horses ever 
are. But if this same saddle 
horse fails to give a good 
account of himself in motion, 
he will never be a high-class 
pleasure horse or a top show 
horse. To satisfy the trade 
in any division of the industry, 
horses must be able to do 
something.

The performance of a horse 
depends a great deal upon the 
way in which he is put 
together. There is a definite 
relationship between form and 
performance. If a horse is 
defective in the set or 
position of his legs, there 
will be a predisposition to 
defect in gait.
Common defects in way of going or action

The feet of a horse should move straight ahead parallel to an imaginary line drawn in the direction of travel. Any deviation from this way of going constitutes a defect. Some defects are:

1. Cross-Firing - A "scuffing" on the inside of the diagonal forefeet and hindfeet; generally confined to Pacers.

2. Forging - Striking forefoot with toe of hindfoot.

3. Interfering - Striking fetlock or cannon with the opposite foot; most often done by a base-narrow, toe-wide, or splay-footed horse.
   A. Brushing - mild, no solid contact
   B. Striking - severe contact around coronet

4. Lameness - A defect detected when the animal favors the affected foot when moving. A limp results in a characteristic bobbing of the head as the affected foot touches the ground.

5. Paddling - Throwing the front feet outward as they are picked up; most common in toe-narrow or pigeon-toed horses.

6. Pointing - When foot is extended, it pauses slightly in the air.

7. Dwelling - Same as pointing but foot seems to stop in mid-air.

8. Pounding - Heavy contact with the ground instead of the desired light, springy contact.

9. Rolling - Excessive lateral shoulder movement; characteristic of horses with protruding shoulders.

10. Scalping - The hairline at the top of hind foot hits toe of forefoot as it breaks over.

11. Speed Cutting - The inside of diagonal fore and rear pastern make contact; sometimes seen in fast-trotting horses.

12. Stringhalt - Excessive flexing of the hind legs; most easily seen and detected when the horse is backed.

13. Trapping - A short, quick, choppy stride; a tendency of horses with short, straight pasterns and straight shoulders.

14. Winding or rope walking - A twisting of the striding leg around in front of the supporting leg, which results in contact and action like that of a rope-walking artist; often occurs in horses with very wide fronts.

15. Winging - An exaggerated paddling, particularly noticeable in high-going horses.

GAITS

Various breeds of horses have the inherent ability to travel at several ways of going, called gaits. Watch your horse in action at several gaits to assure that he has no defects. Some of the gaits are:

1. Walk - a four-beat gait, each of the four feet leaves and strikes the ground at separate intervals.
2. Pace - a two-beat gait. The front and hind feet on the same side start and stop at the same time, causing a swaying motion. Not suited to travel in mud or snow.

3. Stepping Pace (slow pace) - The two feet on each side do not move exactly together and as a result the swaying effect is eliminated. A four-beat gait with each hoof striking the ground separately. The hind foot touches the ground slightly ahead of the front foot on the same side.

4. Trot - A two-beat diagonal gait. The front leg moves in unison with the opposite hind leg.

5. Jog - A slow, easy trot done on a loose rein, in western work.

6. Canter - A very slow, restrained gallop; three-beat gait.

7. Lope - A slow, easy canter done in western work.

8. Hand Gallop - A fast canter with good rider control.

9. Run or Gallop - All out, fast, three-beat gait. Two diagonal legs are paired and strike the ground together producing a single beat between the two beats of the other two unpaired legs. The two unpaired legs that act independently - the forefoot with which the horse leads and the diagonal hind foot - bear more weight and are subject to more fatigue than the paired legs.

JUDGING TERMS

Following is a list of terms used in judging. You should select the most accurate and concise terms. The terms you use do not necessarily have to come from this list. The terms are not listed in any order of importance. For simplicity, they are presented in only one manner, but can be modified and used in a variety of ways. For example, the term "more stylish" can be used in at least three ways:

1. - 2 is more stylish about the front
2. - 2 has a more stylish front
3. - 2 is a more stylish fronted gelding

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Ideal
More breed type
More balance, symmetry
Smooth muscled
More stylish
More quality
Closer coupled
Deeper bodied
Bigger
More rugged
More size
More compact
Wider
Deeper
Thicker
More substance (muscle and bone)
Lower set
Shorter-legged
Heavier muscled

Fault
Lacks breed type
Lacks muscled
Lacks smoothness of muscling
Upstanding, leggy
Plain, lacks quality
Lacks substance
Shallow bodied
Leggy
Long-legged
Upstanding
Rangy
Shallow
Off the ground
Light-muscled
Too fine in bone
Too light in bone
Rough
Plain
Ideal

More uniform in body lines
More even in body lines
More balanced in conformation
Smother
Longer, cleaner muscled

HEAD AND NECK

Shorter, more fox-like ears
Larger, brighter eye
More width between the eyes
Sharper chiseled features
Longer neck
Clean throat latch
Well crested
More refinement about the head
Shorter, broader head
More alert eye
Neater muzzle
More massive jaw
Smother-necked
Neck blends smoothly at shoulder
More desirable set to neck

SHOULDER, ARM AND FOREARM

Longer, more sloping shoulder
Heavier muscled arm
More powerful forearm
Wider chest
Smother muscled arm and forearm
Deeper chest
Broader chest
Wider set forelegs
Heavier forearm
Longer tapering forearm muscle
Smother shoulder

FRONT END

More upheaded
More stylish about the front
More dressy about the front
Cleaner cut about the head and throat
Finer featured
Longer necked
More slope of shoulder
More definition at the withers
Finer at the withers
Sharper at the withers
Higher at the withers

Fault

Coarse, low quality
Poorly balanced
Short, bunchy muscling

Long, coarse ears
Dull eye
Coarse, plain head
Thick throated
Ewe necked
Short, thick neck
Long ears
Poorly set ears
Long, Narrow head
Sleepy eyed
Coarse muzzle
Small jaw
Long, mule ear
Coarse throated
Coarse, thick neck
Rough at shoulder
Plain head
Short neck
Low headed, high headed

Steep shoulder
Narrow chest
Flat chest
Lacks muscling in arms, forearm or chest
Shallow chest
Narrow-set forelegs
Light forearm
Short, bunchy forearm muscle
Shallow shoulder (short...
Ideal

FRONT-END

A more masculine front
A more sturdy front
A nicer more front
A more feminine front
More broody about the front
More refinement about the
head and neck

BODY

Shorter topped
Wider topped
Stronger back
Wider ribbed
More arch of rib
Stronger ribbed
Stronger loins
Stronger coupled
Closer coupled
Deeper flanked
More muscle on the arms
Longer, wider croup
A nicer turn of croup
Stronger in the stifles
Thicker in the breechings
Sharper over the withers
Higher at the withers
More prominent at the withers
Shorter back
Shorter coupling (kidney area)
Stronger coupling
Deeper heart girth
Deeper-ribbed
Greater spring of rib

REAR QUARTERS

Longer croup (hip)
More level croup
Wider through the stifle
Heavier-muscled thigh
Heavier-muscled quarter
Heavier-muscled gaskin, both inside and out

Fault

Coarse at the withers
Rounding at the withers
Low at the withers
Mutton withers
Too straight in the shoulder
Rough-shouldered
Too straight on top of the neck
Too straight from poll to
withers
Low-headed
Low-fronted
Plain about the front

Too long in the back
Low in the back
Weak in the back
Sags in the top
Narrow at the loin
Slack in the coupling
Low in the coupling
Long in the coupling
High-hipped
Plain-hipped
Steep-rumped
Steep in the croup
Too short and steep in the croup
Shallowed-middled
Light-middled
Racy-middled
Short-ribbed
Needs back rib
Too short in the back rib
Light-waisted
Wasp-waisted
Hound-gutted
Thick over the withers
Low at the withers
Long back
Weak coupling
Weak over the kidneys
Shallow in the heart girth
Shallow-ribbed
Lacks spring of rib

Short croup
Steep croup
Short, steep croup
Lacks muscling through the thigh
Lacks muscling through the
quarter and gaskin
Ideal

REAR QUARTERS
More powerful driving muscle
Longer smoother-muscled quarter and gaskin
Turned nicer over the croup
Heavier-muscled croup
Higher tail set

UNDERPINNING
Shorter cannon
Stronger pasterns
More desirable slope to the pasterns
Rounder foot
Tougher foot
More shapely foot
Wider, deeper heel
More roomy foot
Straighter legs
Squarer-placed legs
Stands more correctly on the feet and legs
Cleaner bone
Higher quality bone
Cleaner about the hocks
Cleaner in the bone and joints
Flatter bone
More flinty (harder) bone
Well-defined tendons
More substance of bone
Takes a nicer position on legs and feet
Has legs more squarely placed beneath him
Stands more squarely on the feet
Cleaner in the legs
Cleaner in the underpinning
Has more quality in bone and joints
Has harder bone
Has sharper bone
Has cleaner bone
Has flatter bone
Has long pasterns
Has more sloping pasterns
Has bigger more shapely feet
Bigger, more nicely proportioned feet
Bigger feet, wider and deeper at the heel
Has tougher feet
Cleaner in the hocks
Leaner and cleaner about the ankles

Fault
Lacks width and muscling through the stifle
Pear-shaped quarters
Poorly muscled quarters
Lacks muscle inside the gaskin
Rough over the hip
Low tail set

High hocks
Long cannon
Weak pasterns
Long, flat feet
Narrow foot
Shallow heel
Brittle foot
Stubby pastern (too short and straight)
Stands too close at the hocks (cow-hocked)
Stands too wide at the hocks
Sickle-hocked
Stands too close in front
Knocked-kneed
Toes in (pigeon-toed)
Toes out (splay-footed)
Over on the knees (buck-kneed)
Back at the knees (calf-kneed)
Puffy hocks
Coarse bone
Round bone
Rough at the hoof head
Stands too close in front
Pinched between front legs
Too close in front legs
Too close at the knees
Easy on the knees
Sprung in the knees
Knee-sprung
Stocked in the legs
Coarse in the ankles
Thick in the ankles
Coarse in the pasterns
Short in the pasterns
Too straight in the pasterns
Toe-wide
Toe-narrow
Base-narrow
Too light in the gaskins
Crooked in the hocks
Too straight in the hocks
Crooked in the hind legs
Ideal UNDERPINNING

Fault

Too much set to the hocks
Rounding in the hocks
Knuckles on ankles and pasterns
Buckles on ankles and paterns
Over on the ankles
Too straight on the ankles
Cocked ankles
Up on the ankles
Shallow-footed
Flat footed
Short, stubby feet
Small, narrow feet
Boxy feet, (small, steep, and narrow)
Pinched at the heels
Narrow at the heels
Soft, shelly feet
Contracted in the feet
Rough at the hoof heads
Coarse at the hoof heads
Hard at the hoof heads
Has sidebones
GUIDES FOR JUDGING THE HALTER CLASS

1. Remember you are allowed only a certain amount of time to judge, place and take notes.
2. Follow the directions given by your group leader.
3. Be aware of whether the class you are judging is a class for placement only or for placement and reasons. Take notes on reason classes only.
4. Do not spend too much time on one individual horse.
5. Always approach horses cautiously. All horses are capable of kicking.
6. Do not speak to other contestants during the contest. It could result in the immediate disqualification of you and your team.
7. Keep in a position of vantage where the class can be seen at all times. This helps when making comparisons.
8. Keep in mind the particular class you are judging. Examples: Quarter Horse Broodmares.
9. Be sure you stand directly behind or in front of horse as it is walked and jogged or trotted.
10. Do not stand too close to any horse, but instead stand away so you can see the entire horse.
11. It may help on occasion to view the horse moving from the side as well as directly in front or behind.
12. Listen for wind soundness after or before the horse is moved.
13. Be sure to examine eyes to make sure the horse is not blind or has impaired eyesight.
14. Do not let showmanship tricks influence your selection. Example: facing a horse uphill or not standing hind legs parallel.

JUDGING PERFORMANCE CLASSES

The variety of performance classes in the show ring today seems almost infinite. Certain types of classes predominate, however, and emphasis is placed on the most popular classes in 4-H horse judging. Pleasure classes will receive most of our attention in learning to judge horses under saddle. Advanced members who wish to become judges of open and youth shows will need to learn the rules and procedures for many other performance events.

FACTORS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Pleasure classes in 4-H judging events are judged on the following factors:

- Manners refer to the behavior and attitude of the horse.
- Good manners are especially vital to the pleasure horse, which—by definition—"is a pleasure to ride."
- Performance includes correctness of gaits, leads, and required maneuvers. A pleasure horse should give an easy ride, possess a light mouth, and respond readily to the rider's command.
- Suitability and "ring presence" make up a favorable impression in the eye of the judge. Athletic ability begins with a long, free stride. The yearling colt at play illustrates the freedom of motion and balance that judges seek in a prospective performance horse.
PROCEDURE FOR JUDGING PLEASURE CLASSES

Pleasure horses of various types are judged at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. They may also be required to halt, stand quietly, and back readily in a straight line. Pleasure horses are frequently asked to extend the trot, and Arabian pleasure horses must also extend the canter (hand gallop).

The three main types of pleasure horse classes are western, saddle and hunt type. The latter two types are often combined as "English Pleasure" but are difficult and confusing to judge in this manner. The following discussion of gaits, manners and suitability apply to all three types of pleasure horses.

GAITS. In all pleasure classes, you are looking for the horse which would be a pleasure to ride. For this reason, balance and trueness of gait and stride are of major importance. Manner and/or ease of handling are also very important. The horse which is hard to restrain and is unruly soon ceases to be a pleasure to ride. All gaits should be of proper speed--neither slow and sluggish nor rapid and lacking control.

In all pleasure gaits, the length of stride is important. The short, choppy stride gives a rough ride. This is the reason long forearms, sloping shoulders and pasterns and correctness in the rear quarters are essential for they give the long, easy going riding gaits we want to see in a pleasure or performance horse.

All gaits should be straight going, not the side winding way of movement that is seen in some horses. The horse should be alert and watching where he is traveling.

Always be sure that the horse is in the correct lead at the canter (leading with the inside fore and hind legs). The wrong lead at the canter will eliminate a horse in a pleasure class very quickly.

Another fault to watch for is the horse that canters in front and trots behind. This usually happens when a horse is slowed too much in the canter.

Basically, the walk should be brisk, ground-covering and balanced. The trot should be smooth, rhythmic and fairly collected. If asked to extend the trot, the horse should move out at moderate speed but retain smoothness, balance and control. The canter should be collected and smooth, with the horse balanced on the hindquarters.

MANNERS. The general attitude of the horse and its response to the rider are the best expression of manners. The pleasure horse must be relaxed but alert and responsive. Proper head set and a good mouth are extremely important. The horse's head should be carried at the proper height.

Western and hunt type horses should carry their heads such that the horses eyes are about level with the withers. Saddle type horses (such as Arabians, Morgans and American Saddle Horses) should have higher head and tail carriage.

In all types the horse should flex vertically at the poll to about a 45° angle. Lateral flexion, turning the nose slightly toward the inside of the circle, is also important to a good mouth.

Finally, the horse should always give to a tightening of the reins--never pushing or resisting the bit. Watch for a good mouth when the horse is asked to change gaits, reverse, halt and especially when backing.
SUITABILITY. About 10% credit is usually given in pleasure classes for the suitability of horse to rider. The horse and rider should be matched in size, temperament and general appearance. The horse should also fit the equipment being used, especially the saddle and the bit.

The horse should also fit the class. Western pleasure horses should be more relaxed and handle fluently; hunter pleasure horses (hacks) should be free-moving and athletic in appearance; saddle type English pleasure horses should be animated and display natural knee and hock action. All types must appear pleasant to ride.

THE PLEASURE HORSE

A pleasure horse cannot be simply defined, due to differences in breed requirements. These differences complicate the job of judging, thus a full knowledge of the breed descriptions of pleasure horses are necessary. However, the Breeds do agree that the pleasure horse should give the appearance of an enjoyable drive or ride.

In general, the "ideal" pleasure horse is the horse that gives you the appearance of the most pleasurable and relaxed ride. A horse that you could ride all day and enjoy every minute. A pleasure horse should look pleasant and go with the least amount of effort from the rider. The "ideal" horse should not be mouthing the bit, ringing its tail, kicking at other horses and exhibiting other undesirable traits.

To further define a pleasure horse the rules from the American Quarter Horse Association (A.Q.H.A.) and the American Horse Shows Association (A.H.S.A.) will be quoted.

The performance division is scored identically as is the halter division. Taking notes and giving oral reasons are identical except for the terminology used.

JUDGING THE PLEASURE CLASS

1. The rules of the class must be fixed in your mind prior to and as you judge the class.
2. Remember when judging the pleasure class the rider is not being judged. Do not let a rider completely influence your decision. A good rider can make any horse give a pleasurable appearance, mainly by sitting with a firm seat. A bouncing or loose legged rider can give an appearance of a non-pleasurable ride. Be sure to look through the riders faults or complements.
3. Position yourself at a vantage point where you can always keep the majority of the class before you. You can do this usually by standing at one end or corner in the show ring. You can rapidly make comparisons of horses this way.
4. Do not speak to other contestants during the contest. It could result in the immediate disqualification of you or your team.
5. Listen for wind soundness after and during the performance.
6. If you have the opportunity, be sure to examine the eyes to make sure the horse is not blind or has impaired eyesight in the line-up.
7. The head should not be "nosed" out nor should there be extreme flexion at the poll as a Park Horse. The ears should be erect or semi-erect giving a pleasant appearance.
8. At the walk the horse should move reasonably "free" at the shoulder. In other words; the horse should move without the appearance of restriction.

9. When advancing to the faster gaits, jog and lope, you must watch for the transitions. This means watch to see which horse easily and quickly changes gaits without undue restraint. Once the horse jogs or lopes he should settle back to a walk without problems. The rider should not "run" the horse into the lope. The rider should not require the entire length of the ring to walk the horse from the lope. (Western Pleasure only). The same may be applied to English Pleasure, by simply replacing English terminology for Western.

10. The reverse should be accomplished without the rider using two hands turning the horse. (Western Pleasure only).

11. When the horses are asked to line-up in the center, the horses should stand quietly. They should not be "dancing around" but stand quietly with all feet placed squarely on the ground.

12. Look for faults such as wrong leads, turning the incorrect direction on the reverse, cross cantering, throwing the head, mouth ing the bit, bucking or kicking out.

13. Keep in mind neck and head position as well as the ease and freedom in the movement of the legs, shoulders and rear quarters.

14. Never forget the pleasure horse should give an overall appearance of ease and comfort.

I. APPALOOSA ENGLISH PLEASURE - as quoted from the A.H.S.A. Rule Book

   a. Walk: true and flat-footed for pleasure classes.
   b. Trot: brisk, smart, cadenced and balanced without loss of form. Smoothness more essential than extreme speed.
   c. Canter: smooth, slow, collected and straight on both leads with the ability to push on if so required.

Horse shall be shown at all gaits both ways of the ring as directed by the judge. Special emphasis shall be placed on a reasonably loose rein at all gaits but still maintaining contact with mouth so that horse is under control at all times.

To be judged 60% on performance and manners, 30% type, conformation, quality and substance, and 10% on appointments. No martingale, tie-down or draw reins.

I. ARABIAN ENGLISH PLEASURE - as quoted from the A.H.S.A. Rule Book

In English Pleasure Classes, light contact must be maintained with all reins at all gaits. It is imperative that the horse give the distinct appearance of being a pleasure to ride. To this end, all gaits must be performed with willingness and obvious ease, cadence, balance and smoothness.

To enter ring at a normal trot. To be shown at a walk, normal trot, strong trot, canter and hand gallop.

   a. The 4-beat walk: brisk, true and flat-footed with good reach.
   b. The normal trot (2-beat gait): to be performed at medium speed with moderate collection. The normal trot must be mannerly, cadenced, balanced and free moving. Posting is required.
   c. The strong trot (2-beat gait): The strong trot is faster and stronger than the normal trot. It is performed with
a lengthened stride, powerful and reaching, at a rate of speed which may vary between horses since each horse should attain his own strong trot in harmony with his own maximum natural stride. The horse must not be strung out behind. He should show moderate collection without exaggeratedly high action in front. He must present a willing attitude while maintaining form. The strong trot must be mannerly, cadenced, balanced and free moving. Posting is required.

d. The canter (3-beat gait): Smooth, unhurried, with moderate collection, correct and straight on both leads.

e. The hand gallop: The hand gallop is performed with long free ground covering stride under control. The amount of ground covered may vary between horses due to the difference in natural length of stride. The hand gallop is not a fast collected canter, but a true lengthening of stride, correct and straight on both leads. Extreme speed to be penalized.

III. HUNTER DIVISION - BIRDLE PATH HACKS (Hunter type)

To be shown at a walk, trot, canter, and hand gallop. To hack easily and stand quietly while rider dismounts and mounts. Emphasis shall be placed on actual suitability to purpose. Judging percentages are left to the discretion of show management.

IV. MORGAN ENGLISH PLEASURE - as quoted from the A.H.S.A. Rule Book

Stallions are prohibited in Ladies' and Junior exhibitors classes.

To be shown at a walk, pleasure trot, road trot and canter, with light rein, but still maintaining contact with horse's mouth. To be judged on performance and apparent ability to give a good pleasure ride, with emphasis on manners and gait 60%; type and conformation 40%. (Prize lists to specify whether or not horses are to be tested on obstacles).

a. walk: flat-footed, rapid, elastic.

b. trot: square, collected and balanced.

c. pleasure trot: easy going trot with elasticity and freedom of movements.

d. road trot: balanced ground covering form should not be sacrificed for speed. Excessive speed should be penalized.

e. canter: smooth, collected and straight on both leads.

Easy ground covering motion is desired in Pleasure and Working events. Judges must severely penalize any horse with laboring motion, at any gait, resulting from excessive weight or any horse that shows a tendency to pace.

V. QUARTER HORSE BRIDLE PATH HACK (Hunt Seat)

Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and canter both ways of the ring. Horses are required to back, but the judge may require, at his discretion, the backing of only the finalists in the class. Emphasis shall be placed on actual suitability to purpose.

It is the judge's option to require an exhibitor to extend any gait.

Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or trot at the discretion
of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope. Horses are to back easily and stand quietly.

Horses must be brought to a flat-footed walk before changing gaits. Light contact with the horse's mouth is recommended. At the option of the judge the top eight horses may be required to gallop collectively one way of the ring but never more than eight at one time. At the hand gallop the judge may ask the group to "halt" and stand quietly on a free rein (loosened rein).

a. walk: true and flat-footed for pleasure classes.
b. trot: brisk, smart, cadenced and balanced without loss of form. Smoothness more essential than extreme speed. Extreme speed shall be penalized.
c. canter: smooth, collected and straight on both leads with the ability to push on if so required in a hand gallop.
d. hand gallop: The hand gallop should be a brisk gallop with horses under control, after which the horses will pull up (not a sliding stop) and stand quietly on the rail for a few moments, before being asked to line up for final inspection.

NOTES:
XII. WESTERN PLEASURE DIVISION RULES

I. APPALOOSA WESTERN PLEASURE - as quoted from the A.H.S.A. Rule Book

   a. Walk: true and flat-footed.
   b. Jog Trot: square, slow and easy. (A ground covering gait)
   c. Lope: smooth, slow and easy on both leads with the ability to
      push on if so required.

Horses shall be shown at all gaits both ways of the ring as directed
by the judge. Special emphasis shall be placed on a reasonably loose
rein at all gaits but still maintaining contact with mouth so that horse
is under control at all times.
To be judged 60% on performance and manners, 30% type, conformation,
quality and substance and 10% on appointments.

II. ARABIAN WESTERN PLEASURE - as quoted from the A.H.D.S. Rule Book

To be shown on a light rein at at flat-footed walk, a slow easy free-
moving jog-trot, a smooth easy lope and a hand gallop; extreme speed to
be penalized. To be judged on manners, performance, substance and con-
formation.

   a. the walk: true, flat-footed and ground covering.
   b. the jog trot: free, square, slow and easy.
   c. the lope: smooth, slow, easy and straight on both leads.
   d. the hand gallop: a real hand gallop, not merely an extended
      lope; extreme speed to be penalized.

Qualifying Gaits: To enter ring at walk or jog, trot at judge's
discretion. To be shown at a walk, jog trot, lope and hand gallop.

III. MORGAN HORSE WESTERN PLEASURE - as quoted from the A.H.S.A. Rule Book

To be shown at a walk, jog, trot and lope, with light rein, but
still maintaining contact with horses' mouth. To be judged on performance
and apparent ability to give a good pleasure ride, with emphasis on manner
and gait 60%; type and conformation 40%. (Prize lists to specify whether
or not horses are to be tested on obstacles.)
Easy ground covering motion is desired in Pleasure and Working events.
Judges must severely penalize any horse with laboring motion at any gait
resulting from excessive weight or any horse that shows a tendency to pace

In pleasure classes horses may be asked to back.

Qualifying gaits:  a. walk: flat-footed, rapid, elastic
                  b. jog trot: free, slow, easy without a tendency
                     to mix gaits
                  c. lope: smooth, slow, straight, with a three-beat cadence

IV. QUARTER HORSE WESTERN PLEASURE - as quoted from the A.Q.H.A.

To be judged on the performance and conformation of the horse at the
discretion of the judge. Entries will be penalized for excessive speed
or wrong leads.
Horses are to be shown at a walk, trot, and lope on a reasonably loose
rein without undue restraints. Horses must work both ways of the ring at
all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. Horse
shall not be asked to extend the lope. Horses are to be reversed or trot at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope. Judge must ask that horses be backed.

NOTES:
JUDGING REINING CLASSES

Judging reining classes is rather simple and easy provided that the judge is thoroughly familiar with each test that is included in the reining patterns. The judge needs a clear mental picture of a good working horse and how each movement should be performed. With this knowledge each performance can be evaluated and scored according to the overall quality of the run. In reining you are comparing each entry to the ideal, your image of a perfect run of the particular pattern. Only one horse needs to be watched and considered at a time.

Form is a key word. A good reining horse is a broken horse that obeys the rider promptly and properly. Each movement is executed in form and in response to a signal. A light horse is one that obeys a signal quickly and willingly. The total performance should be smooth, light, and in form.

Let's consider each part of the reining patterns and what we can expect. Every reining pattern consists of a few simple elements - straight lines, circles, stops, turns, and back-ups - arranged in combinations to test the horse and rider. The 4-H reining program is progressive in that a beginning rider runs a simpler pattern (Pattern 1), and then advances to more difficult patterns (Patterns 2, 3, 4, and 5). Each pattern requires the basic tests of straight lines, circles, stops, and backing. Lead changes are required in Pattern 2 and stop-and-turn-arounds (roll backs) are required in Pattern 3.

Each entry is scored between 60 and 80 points, with 70 denoting an average performance. If a horse is "off pattern" then the entry is disqualified, and a score of zero is recorded. It is helpful to make a preliminary score in your mind after the first stop and back, and then add or subtract points from this score as the action proceeds. For example, if an entry on Pattern 3 has a preliminary 70 and then drops a hind lead (-1); opens his mouth and resists on roll backs (-2); and finishes with a good stop (+1); the final score would be 68. The size of the penalties and credits must be determined by your own judgement.

When asked to lope in a straight line, a good reining horse moves straight and willingly with no anticipation, tail wringing, or charging. Stops should be prompt and balanced with the hindquarters dropping well under and the neck raised and the head tucked. A 3' slide in good form should receive more credit than a 6' slide in poor form in response to a heavy hand. Backing should be willing, collected, and fairly fast.

Good circles are fundamental of reining and are emphasized in the 4-H patterns. A good circle is round and even with the horse's entire body slightly bent toward the center of the circle. The horse should neck rein easily and change the size and speed of the circle as required by the pattern. If an entry takes the wrong lead, fails to change leads both front and hind, or drops a lead it should be penalized accordingly. Turns on the hindquarter and roll backs should be light. In a correct turn, the horse sets his inside hind leg and turns around this pivot foot. In a turn, the horse's head and neck should be slightly bent into the turn, not turned out or tilted by a heavy rein.

In summary, remember that a good reining horse is supple, light and correct. Don't be dazzled by speed and force, and do give credit to the horse and rider that work smoothly as a team.

At the end of each performance each entry should be checked for proper equipment. Attire, tack and conformation are not judged. If a rider has an improper bit (see Uniform Rules) or has run off pattern, it is usually best
to point this out tactfully before dismissing the rider from the ring.

In addition to the 4-H reining patterns you may also judge reining horses in AQHA, AHSA or other patterns. The same basic elements occur in any reining pattern, so these same judging principles will apply.

SOME POINTS ON SHOWING AND JUDGING THE CUTTING HORSE

The following questions and answers are included in this Rule Book as an aid to a clearer understanding of the Rules for Judging Cutting Horses.

The opinions expressed are based on surveys and judging clinics conducted by the National Cutting Horse Association, and have the endorsement of the Association's Executive Committee.

1. What is the desired number of cattle to work? - The number of cattle be cut in the two and one-half minute time limit is not over three head or, on fresh cattle, two head. If a man can do as much on two head as another can do on three, the man working the two head should have the higher score because he has not spent as much time in the herd.

2. Approaching the herd. - Walking, trotting or loping to the herd is acceptable, provided the horse loped or trotted to the herd is taken up very easily before getting close enough to disturb the cattle. A horse that is loped or trotted to the herd for the purpose of being set down hard (and have a lasting effect on staying back) should be marked down. The horse should display no hesitation, weaving or reluctance to approach and enter the herd.

3. Entering and working the herd. - The true cutting horse enters the herd with ease, concentrating on the job to be done. Not looking over the back fence or biting. Alert, but quiet, making no unnecessary movements that might disturb the cattle. Here are some specific points on herd work:
   a. How far should a horse to into the herd to cut a cow? He should go deep enough to show his ability to get one out.
   b. Is it all right to enter the middle of the herd or either side and go to the middle or back side and get the one wanted? Yes.
   c. Is it all right to go behind the herd and bring out the one wanted? Yes.
   d. Is it all right to get back of the herd and let all of the cattle go past, then take the last one? No.

4. When should a horse be turned loose? - A rider entering the herd may have a light-rein contact with the horse, and maintain this contact while he is in the herd and while he is in the process of cutting the animal from the remaining cattle. When the animal has been cut, he should let his horse alone, and the horse should be given enough slack so that it would be obvious to the judges that the horse was on his own.

5. Bringing the cow from their herd. - The cutting horse should stay a reasonable distance from the cow if possible, showing a great deal of expression but no ill will toward the animal being cut. He should be on his toes, making counter movements to the cow regardless of the distance separating them. The horse should not rush or push cattle excessively in bringing one from the herd unless the cow turns around and tries to get back at the edge of the herd. The horse should bring the cow a sufficient distance from the herd toward the center of the arena, so the herd will not be disturbed while working, and set the cow up.

6. When is a cow set up (in working position)? - The cow should be in the middle of the arena or as near this point as possible with the horse making movements to counteract movements of the cow. This does not mean that the horse should be moving while the cow is standing still. When the cow moves the horse should make faster moves so that he will hold the cow, not only
from returning to the herd but also from going from side to side (wall to wall), without excessive help from his turnback men. When the turn-back men are heading the cow and not the working horse, he should be marked down and receive a lower score.

7. When is a horse out of position? - A horse is out of position when he has gone past an animal further than necessary to force the animal to turn. One must also take into consideration the speed the animal and horse are traveling; must also take into consideration whether the animal being worked is a rank cow or one that is merely just running, or a slow-moving, easy to hold animal. If the animal is running at a fast rate of speed, it is almost impossible to turn this animal without going by its head at least as much as a third or half a length. But, if an animal is working slow, then the horse should be able to turn this animal without going more than a neck. It should also be taken into consideration, the distance the cow has traveled before it is turned. For if a cow only goes a short distance, a horse should be able to work head to head with this animal. But, if a cow makes a long run, then it is almost impossible for a horse to turn head to head with an animal making such a run. The general working position of a horse should be such that he can counter any move in any direction so as to prevent the animal from returning to the herd.

8. Picking up cattle. - After a horse has cut a head of stock and has moved it to working position, and one or more cattle come from the herd through no fault of the horse working, and he quits the stock he is working in good shape, there should be no penalty. However, if the horse will not drive his stock to a working position and gets in trouble with stock moving out, then he should be penalized.

9. What is considered a bad quit? - This can be summed up in two statements. When the horse does not have complete control of the animal he is working. When the cow is moving toward him.
JUDGING TERMS FOR ACTION

Features of the stride to consider

Length
Directness or trueness
Height
Rapidity (snap, promptness)

Power
Spring
Regularity
Balance

Ideal

Moves out freer and easier
Truer stride
Truer mover
Straight mover
More collected stride
More coordinated mover
Longer stride
Goes closer at the hocks
More direct stride
A prompter stride
An easier, freer stride
Folds his knees and works his hocks
Lifts his knees and drives with hocks
Has more knee and hock action
Is more stylish on the move
Goes more collectedly
Works his hocks closer together
Goes closer in the hocks
Is more upheaved on the move
Has more style at walk and trot

Faults

Stubby mover
Choppy stride
Too short-strided
Lacks coordination
Paddles in front
Goes too wide at the hocks
(open at the hocks)
Moves too close in front
Dishes (wings in) in front
A short, choppy stride
A short, stilty stride
Goes short in front
Goes sore in front
Paddles
Wings out
Spraddles in front
Goes open in the knees
Goes too close in front
Walks the rope
Crosses over in front
Goes wide at the hocks
Goes open in the hocks
Goes spraddle-gaited behind
Drags the hocks
Rotates the hocks
Goes stringy behind

QUALITY

Smooother-muscled
Higher quality bone
Cleaner bone
Finer hair coat

Coarse muscling
Coarse bone
Lacks quality
DEVELOP A JUDGING SYSTEM

In placing a class of horses, the primary goal is to find in the class the animal that conforms most closely to the ideal type in the judge's mind, then select the other individuals that follow the type established in the first placing. Certain factors, such as hereditary-unsoundness, interfere to the extent that the class cannot be set up altogether on type.

Any class is a comparison of the animals that make up the class. When the type is established, the purpose then is to determine which other animal is nearest like the one in first position and so on down the line.

The first thing to look for is general appearance, type and balance. This can best be done by watching the horses from a distance as they enter the ring.

A judging class will consist of four horses. They are always numbered 1 to 4 from left to right as viewed from the rear when lined up. The horses will be led into the ring, circled once or lined up as they come in. You should observe the horses from a distance first, as they come into the ring. The side view, moving into the ring, will show the over-all balance of each animal and will be the only time you will see them all move together. The first impression you get will usually be quite accurate. However, you must be analyzing the whole animal and not just seeing which one is the prettiest.

When observing a horse from the front, rate the temperament and disposition, all the features of the head, the width and depth of chest, position and conformation of the fore legs and the fore feet.

From the side view, the observer should consider the stature and scale, length, the depth (especially in the flanks), the carriage and shape of head and neck, the shortness of back and coupling, the levelness of the top line, the length and straightness of the underline, the height and shape of withers, the length and slope of shoulders, the position and conformation of fore legs and fore feet, the back, the rib, the loin, the flank, the coupling, the croup, the tail, the stifle, the thigh, the position and conformation of the hind legs and hind feet.

From the rear, the symmetry, the levelness, the width and rounding of hips, the fullness of thighs and quarters, the position and conformation of hind legs, and the set of the rear feet may be determined.

At no time during the class will you be allowed to touch the horses. During the class, each horse will be moved individually at a walk and trot. Watch for correctness of movement. If you have observed any incorrectness of leg placements, this is the time to check to see how these faults affect the way of going of the horse. Know the correlated features, related to the way of going, as they will be helpful in determining what defect in gait you should look for.

The horse should then be moved away from the observer in order that the length, directness, and rapidity or promptness of stride may be seen. Then as the horse returns to the observer, he should recheck the features of the stride displayed as well as the height, spring, and regularity of stride, all of which contribute to a balanced, coordinated way of going. Most defects observed (or suspected) when the horse is walking will be magnified at the trot.

Be sure you are aware of the sex of the horses in the class. Don't ever refer to mares as "he" or geldings and stallions as "she" when giving reasons or when talking to horse people.

A good judge should have the courage of his convictions and be able to give a full account of the reasons for his placings.
VALUE OF FIRST IMPRESSION. If the first impression in judging is the result of careful analysis that is accurate and complete, a student will seldom reach a sounder conclusion.

Your first impression of the class is usually the best one, if based on correct and complete observation and knowledge of the ideal.

Study the class for three or four minutes and get a good impression of the class as a whole. You will be given three standing (side, rear, and front) views and you will have an opportunity to check the action of each horse at the walk and trot.

Remember to stay 25 to 30 feet from the class for your initial observation. As you look at the class from the side, check:

Type and balance
Muscling
Straightness of feet and legs and slope of pastern
Amount and kind of bone
Proportional depth of body to length of leg
Breed character
Quality and smoothness
Style

Size
Slope of shoulder
Length of underline
Length and strength of back
Shortness of Coupling
Length of rear quarter
Length and turn of croup
Length and set of neck, head and ears
Depth of heart girth and barrel
As you view the horses from the rear, compare:

Muscling (thigh, stifle, gaskins)
Straightness of rear feet and legs
Quality and smoothness
Width

As you view the horses from the front, compare:

Muscling
Straightness of front feet and legs
Breed character
Quality and smoothness
Depth and width of chest

You will be given a chance to check the action of each horse at the walk and trot as they are individually moved toward and away from you. Check for:

Straightness of action
Ease and smoothness of action
Lameness
You will be given a chance to move in around the horses for close inspection. Check for:

Unsoundness
Muscling
Quality of feet and legs
Withers

**SCORE CARD FOR JUDGING HORSES***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perfect Score</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**General Appearance (20 points)**

- Breed type -- good saddle conformation. In general the Morgan should be compact, of medium length, well muscled, smooth and stylish in appearance. 6 points
- Quality -- clean, dense bone with sufficient substance, well developed joints and tendons, and with a fine coat. 5 points
- Size and height -- 14.1 to 15.1, 900 to 1,100 pounds. 5 points
- Temperament -- tractable but with good spirit. 4 points

**Head and Neck (10 points)**

- Head -- medium size, clean cut, tapering from jaw to muzzle. The profile can be straight or slightly dished, never Roman nosed. Wide, clean cut, lower jaw, medium fine muzzle with small and firm lips and large nostrils. 3 points
- Ears -- small, fine pointed, set wide apart and carried alertly. 1 point
- Eyes -- full, bright and clear. 1 point
- Neck -- medium length, well crested, clean cut at the throat latch, smoothly joined to shoulder and deep at the point of the shoulder. 5 points

**Forequarters (16 points)**

- Shoulders of good length and slope blending well. 2 points
- Arms -- short muscular. 1 point
- Forearms -- wide, flat and muscular. 3 points
- Knees -- wide and flat. 1 point
- Cannons -- short, wide, flat and free from meat. 1 point
- Pasterns -- clean and strong, of medium length, the slope to correlate with the slope of the shoulder. 1 point
- Hooves -- medium size, nearly round, open at the heel, smooth and dense but not brittle. 2 points
- Legs -- thin and straight from front; wide and muscular from side. 5 points

**Body (10 points)**

- Withers -- smooth, well defined but not too high. 3 points
- Chest -- good depth and width. 1 point
- Ribs -- well sprung and closely joined. 1 point
- Back -- short, broad, well muscled. 2 points
- Loin -- wide, muscular, closely coupled. 2 points
- Flank -- deep, full. 1 point
Hindquarters (24 points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hips -- well rounded with hip bones not showing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croup -- rounded gently</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tail -- set fairly high, well carried</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarters -- deep, well muscled</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stifles -- strong, muscular</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thighs -- deep, well muscled</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaskins -- medium length, wide, muscular</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hocks -- wide, deep and clean</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannons -- short, wide, flat with tendons standing well out from bone and well defined</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasterns -- strong, medium length, not too sloping</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feet -- should resemble the fore feet; round, medium size</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legs -- perpendicular with the hocks when viewed from the rear, neither closer together nor wider apart</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Action (20 points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk -- flat footed, elastic and rapid with a long, straight, free stride</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trot -- square, free-going, collected and balanced</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canter -- smooth, easy, collected and straight on both leads.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This score card is to give you an idea where the major points of emphasis of the conformation might be found. It is by no means designed for you to score each part of each horse in a class.
GIVING REASONS

WHY DO YOU GIVE REASON?

You give reasons to explain why you placed the class as you did. You want your reasons to be impressive, interesting, and sincere. You will want to present them in a pleasing and confident manner that is easily understood and easy to follow. Your reasons should be brief. Place emphasis on the big things. Again, the main objective of reasons is to let you tell why you placed the class as you did.

GIVING REASONS WILL HELP YOU TO:

- Develop a system for analyzing a class of horses
- Think more clearly on your feet
- State your thoughts more clearly
- Improve your speaking poise and presentation
- Improve your voice
- Develop your memory

HOW GOOD ARE YOUR REASONS?

The judge will determine the value of your reasons by:

Accuracy - You must tell the truth. This means that you need to see the big things in the class correctly. Accuracy is very important. Incorrect statements will cost you points.

Presentation and Delivery - Present your reasons in a logical, well-organized manner that is pleasant to hear, and clear and easy to follow. If reasons are poorly presented, the value of accuracy may be lost because most of what you say doesn't "get through" to the listener. Speak slowly and clearly in conversational tone. Speak loudly enough to be understood, but avoid talking too loudly or too rapidly. Use well-organized statements. Be sure to use correct grammar.

Completeness - Bring out all the major differences in your reasons. Omit small things that leave room for doubt.

Length - A well-organized, properly delivered set of reasons should never be more than 2 minutes in length.

Terms - Use correct terms. Incorrect terms detract from the value of your reasons. Study and use the terms in this manual.

OTHER RULES IN GIVING REASONS

Do not claim strong points for one animal unless he has them. Claim the points where one is superior, and then grant to the other animal his points of advantage.

Emphasize the major differences strongly. Present the big differences first on each pair.

Be concise and definite. Don't hunt for things to say. If you don't remember, go on to the next pair you are to discuss.

Talk your reasons with confidence and without hesitation. Talk with enough vim and vigor to keep the judge interested, but do not yell or shout.

End reasons strongly. Give a concise final statement as to why you placed the last animal last, and finally end your reasons by repeating the placing of the class.

Be sure you have your reasons well organized, so you will not hesitate when you present them to the judge.
Stand 6 to 8 feet away from the judge as you give your reasons. Stand erect with your feet spread apart, hands behind you, and look him straight in the eyes.

ORGANIZING YOUR REASONS

The organization of a set of reasons largely determines how easily the reasons may be followed. There are many different systems of organizing reasons. The system presented here is logical and clear, and may be used by anyone. Below is listed the basic organization outline for an entire set of reasons, followed by comments on specific steps. (Placing of 1-2-3-4)

OUTLINE FOR A SET OF REASONS

In giving reasons, a class of four animals is divided into three pairs - a top pair, a middle pair, and a bottom pair. So the basic outline for an entire set of reasons (for a placing of 1-2-3-4) is as follows:

1. Give name of class and how you place it.

TOP PAIR

2. Reasons for placing 1 over 2, using comparative terms.
3. Grants for 2 over 1, pointing out advantages of 2 over 1. Comparative terms.
4. Criticisms of 2. Comparative or Descriptive terms.

MIDDLE PAIR

5. Reasons for placing 2 over 3.

BOTTOM PAIR

11. Repeat how you placed the class.

Step 1 - Give the name of the class and how you placed it. For the purpose of this discussion let's assume we have a class of Welsh Pony mares placed 1-2-3-4.

Step 2 - Reasons for placing 1 over 2. This should be done much the same as in a newspaper story - with the important general points first, followed by details to complete the story. In judging horses, examples of "general" terms are "typier," "larger," "heavier muscled," "higher quality," "more nicely balanced," and "more stylish." Differences in regard to these general factors should be mentioned in the lead statement, then details in the succeeding sentence or sentences. Example: "In my top pair I placed 1 over 2 because she is a typier, more nicely balanced mare that is more correct in her underpinning. She has a more-sloping shoulder, is sharper in her withers, more closely coupled and longer and leveler in her croup." Note, above in the long sentence, that terms are divided by the words "more" and "that." This breaks up the continuous sequence of terms and makes the reasons easier to follow.

Step 3 - Grants for 2 over 1. "I grant (or realize, or admit) that 2 is
more stylish in her front, has a smaller more refined ear, and is cleaner in her throat."

Step 4 - Criticisms of 2. "But I fault 2 because she is flat in her withers, short and steep in her croup, and is slightly sickle hocked."

The same procedure is used on the middle and bottom pairs. Notice in the example that complete sentences are used. Reasons must be made of sentences, rather than phrases. A basic principle to keep in mind is if something is not grammatically correct, it isn't correct in a set of reasons.

DON'T USE THESE WORDS AND PHRASES IN ORAL REASONS

There are, of course, differences of opinion regarding the use of some of these words and phrases in reasons. Several of those listed below are not considered objectionable by all people. However, each of them is considered undesirable by some people, and all of them is considered undesirable by some people, and all of them can admittedly be replaced with better words and phrases. You will have a better set of reasons if you eliminate all of them.

ANIMAL OR INDIVIDUAL. Instead, say "mare," "stallion," "gelding," "colt," or "filly."

IT. Use, instead, either "he" or "she."

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE. For example, instead of saying "I would like to see 2 sharpur in the withers," point out the fault directly: "I criticize 2 because he is mutton-withered."

LACKS. This term should be used sparingly. Ordinarily, instead of saying an animal lacks something, it is more effective to directly point out the fault. For example, instead of saying, "I criticize 4 because she lacks depth," say, "I criticize 4 because she is shallow."

KIND OF... ("Mare, "colt," or "gelding."). For example, instead of "a better balanced kind of a gelding," it should be a "better balanced gelding."

IS A MARE THAT IS. For example, "I is a mare that is typier." The phrase, "is a mare that is," only adds unnecessary words and emphasis that I is a mare. Say instead, "I is a typier mare."

I PLACED NUMBER 1 GELDING OVER NUMBER 2 GELDING. Certainly the words "gelding" and "number" can be left out. It is sufficient to say, "I placed 1 over 2."

LEAVING OR LEFT. For example: "I left 4 third because..."Say "I placed 4 third because..."

I AM PLACING. It is more correct to say "I placed..."

I AM CRITICISING. Simply say "I criticize..."

SAMPLE REASONS

QUARTER HORSE REASONS

I placed this class of Quarter Horse Mares 2-4-3-1

Referring to my top pair, 2 and 4, I placed 2 over 4 because she is more nicely balanced. She is a longer-necked mare that is stronger in her jaw and cleaner about her throat. She's shorter coupled, shorter backed, and more nicely turned over her croup. She has more muscling over her forearm and gaskin. She's shorter in her cannons, stands on cleaner, flatter bone and has a more shapely foot. She goes with a longer, truer, more-collected stride. I grant that 4 is sharper over her withers, but I fault her for lacking the refinement and quality of my top mare.
Regarding my middle pair, 4 and 3, I placed 4 over 3 because she is a more heavily muscled mare that shows more definition at her withers. She has a longer, more-sloping shoulder and is deeper in her heart. She stands more nearly correct on her feet and legs as viewed from the front, side, and rear. She is cleaner in her hocks and leaner in her ankles. She has a longer, more-sloping pastern and goes with a springier stride. However, I will admit that 3 has a smaller, foxier ear and is cleaner in the throat latch. I fault 3 for being slightly filled in her hocks. She is narrower at her heels and wings slightly at the trot.

In the case of my bottom pair, 3 and 1, I placed 3 over 1, because she more closely follows the type of the mares placed above her. She shows more Quarter Horse type about her head and front. She's a wider-fronted mare that is more nearly level from her withers to her tail. She stands more nearly correct on her hind legs as viewed from the rear. She has a bigger, tougher foot that is deeper at the heel. She moves with a longer, snappier stride. I will grant that 1 is a truer moving mare in front, and is wider at the heel. But, I fault her for being plain-headed and heavy-eared. She is weak in her back, bowed in her hocks, and goes with a short sluggish stride.

For these reasons I placed this class of Quarter Horse Mares, 2 - 4 - 3 - 1.

MORGAN HORSE REASONS

I placed this class of Morgan mares 3-1-2-4.

In the case of my top pair, 3 and 1, I placed 3 over 1 because she is more nicely balanced, shorter-coupled mare. She is more stylish about her front, sharper at her withers, and more nicely turned over her croup. She is cleaner in her hocks, leaner in her ankles, and goes with a longer, truer stride. However, I will grant that 1 is a more rugged mare. I fault 1 because she lacks the style and quality of the top mare, is longer in her coupling and coarser in her ankles.

Referring to my middle pair, 1 and 2, I placed 1 over 2 because she is longer necked and has more substance. She is deeper in her heart and more heavily muscled through her stifles. She stands more nearly correct on her front legs as viewed from the side. She has more rugged bone and moves with a prompter, more animated stride. I admit that 2 stands on bigger, tougher feet.

I fault 2 because she is lightly buck kneed and lacks the ruggedness of the mare I placed above her.

Regarding my last pair, 2 and 4, I placed 2 over 4 because she has a more ideal head with a smaller, foxier ear. She shows more definition at her withers, is shorter and stronger in her back, and is more nearly level in her croup. She stands on harder, flatter bone and is leaner in her ankles. She has bigger, tougher feet that are wider and deeper at the heel. She moves with a longer, springier stride. I admit that 4 goes closer at the hocks and stands on heavier bone. But I fault her because she is mutton-withered, coarse in her underpinning, and low in her back.

For these reasons, I placed this class of Morgan mares 3 - 1 - 2 -
ORAL REASONS—PREPARATION AND DELIVERY

PURPOSE. Defending and explaining your placing of a class in a set of oral reasons is one of the most valuable and challenging experiences in the judging process. You will learn to observe more critically and compare more carefully when you realize that you must be able to convince someone else that you are right! It is not easy to learn to do this job, but the rewards are great. Everyone can benefit by learning to "sell an idea" by giving a well-organized, logical and persuasive defense of their opinion.

In a judging contest you will have two minutes to do this job. You must learn to take good notes, use proper terminology, organize your thoughts, and then speak in a confident, convincing delivery.

HOW TO TAKE NOTES

Sixteen minutes are given to place a non-reason class and for a class on which oral reasons are to be given, two additional minutes are allowed for note taking. This time limit means speed and accuracy are very important.

You will find the form given in this book on which to take notes very helpful when studying to give oral reasons. It is well to become familiar with this form and use it to organize your notes. Be sure to make as complete notes as possible, noting only differences which are true. It is better not to mention something you are not sure of than to put untruths in a set of oral reasons.

It will be helpful to make note of any distinguishing marks or color on each horse in the class, as this will help you remember the class later when you are studying your notes. Always make the correct headings on your notes as to breed, sex, age and date of judging. You then can go back to your notes much later and be able to remember the class and give reasons for practice.

The top section of the notes (Observations) are used to record your first impressions of each horse, to help you remember the horses, and to record their action. You should complete these notes in the first few minutes of judging. The second part is the true Reason Notes or comparisons of each pair as they are placed.

SAMPLE NOTES FOR ORAL REASONS

NAME - John Doe

CLASS JUDGED - Arabian Mares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse No.</th>
<th>General Appearances</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Grey, Typey head, light muscling. cow hocks.</td>
<td>Rotates hocks, choppy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Placing 2-4-3-1**

### Reason Notes-Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pair</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Criticisms</th>
<th>Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>Femininity. Longer neck, trimmer throat. Truer stride.</td>
<td>Low croup.</td>
<td>Flatter croup, higher tail carriage, muscling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Stands more correctly, (esp. hind) longer stride. Stronger muscling in thigh and gaskin.</td>
<td>Long ears, narrow chest</td>
<td>Tyquier head, style.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(Admissions first on last horse) More classic head than 3, more stylish.</td>
<td>Weak pasterns; cow hocks; choppy action.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sample Reasons

**NAME - John Doe**

**CLASS - Arabian mares**

**PLACING - 2-4-3-1**

I placed this class of Arabian mares 2-4-3-1. I felt that the class had fairly obvious top and bottom placings, with a close-middle pair.

I placed 2 over 4 because she is better balanced and moves with a longer, freer stride. 2 has more slope of shoulder than 4 and the shortest back in the class. She is longer and more level at the croup, and has more style and higher tail carriage than 4. I will grant 4 is trimmer at the throat, and has a slightly longer neck.

In my middle pair, 4 and 3, I placed 4 over 3 because she is more feminine and shows more Arabian breed character in her head. 4 moves with a truer stride than 3, especially at the trot. I criticize 4 for dropping off at the croup, and grant that 3 has a higher tail setting and stronger muscling in her thighs and gaskins.

I placed 3 over 1, in a rather easy bottom placing, because she stands and moves more correctly. 3 is especially stronger in her muscling than 1, and is more structurally correct throughout. I faulted 3 for being narrow in her chest, and will grant that 1 has a wider chest and shorter ears.
Although number 1 does have an excellent head and stylish carriage, I placed her last because she is cowhocked, weak in her pasterns, and light in her muscling. I rotates her hocks and moves with a choppy stride.

For these reasons I placed this class of Arabian mares 2-4-3-1.

SAMPLE SET OF REASONS FOR WESTERN PLEASURE CLASS

I placed this class of western pleasure horses 2-1-3-4.

Referring to my top pair 2 and 1, I placed 2 over 1 because she moved with more collection and balance. She had a brisk, flat-footed walk, trotted squarely and smoothly both ways of the ring and cantered with a long, true easy going canter. She responded rapidly to the rider's signals, lined up and stood squarely and backed easily. I faulted 1 for being a little slow in taking the left lead at the canter.

Regarding my second pair, 1 and 3, I placed 1 over 3 because he moved more nearly like my top horse. This gelding responded well to the rider and moved correctly at the walk, trot and canter. He had a long, ground-covering trot and canter that looked like it was a pleasure to ride. I will admit that 3 backed straighter and with less jawing, but I faulted him for being low headed and having a shorter, rougher trot.

Moving to my bottom pair, 3 and 4, I placed 3 over 4 for being a responsive gelding. He took his leads rapidly, moved on a good flat-footed walk and had a canter that was true and collected. I will admit that 4 had a longer, freer trot but I faulted her for missing the right lead for trotting behind at the canter several times. She was too sluggish at the canter and did not respond to the rider's signals.

For these reasons, I placed this class of western pleasure horses 2-1-3-4.

These notes will be used to prepare your actual statements on each pair. Read the Sample Notes For Oral Reasons carefully and notice how these notes were used to prepare the Sample Reasons given on a class of Arabian mares.

Organizing Your Reasons

Good reasons must be easily understood by the official judge. In order to do this you will learn to follow the same form in discussing each class. The key to form is to compare horses rather than describing them. Each class consists of three pairs - top, middle, and bottom - and each pair must be compared.

You stress or argue the strong points of the first place horse and then admit or grant any way the second place horse might excel the first horse and then fault the second place horse. Repeat the same order of arguments, admissions and faults for the second pair and then the last pair.

Start your reasons by saying "I placed this class of whatever age, breed and sex of horses" the class consisted of and give your placings. Finish by saying, "For these reasons, I placed this class of age, breed and sex of horses and your placings." A complete set of reasons can only be given after you have mastered the terminology required to describe all parts of the horse properly.

You will find in this book, sample sets of oral reasons that show the correct form, terminology, etc. However, never memorize a set of reasons for being placed and will not fit any other class of horses being judged.
DELIVERY

Two minutes are allowed for giving a set of oral reasons during the contest. They should be given in a clear, concise manner while standing squarely on both feet and looking directly at the person listening to your reasons. Your placing card will be returned to you when you enter the room where the reasons are being given. Your notes and all other material you might have should be left outside while you give your reasons. You will only have your placing card in your hand. When you have completed your reasons, you will hand the card back to your listener. Thank him for listening to your reasons and leave. He will keep your placing card, mark your score on it and turn it in to the contest officials for tabulation.

High scoring reasons are convincing, truthful and easily understood. Your job is similar to that of a lawyer arguing his case before a jury - you must not lie nor offend the listener. The key to developing your delivery is practice - before your mirror, your coach, and anyone who will listen.

Be sure to emphasize the big differences between horses, stressing the comparisons in which the top animal in each pair is superior. Grant or admit any characteristics in which the second horse is more desirable than the first placed horse in the pair. Use enough detail to show that you saw the class accurately, but avoid unnecessary or misleading details.

USING CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

It is extremely important to know and speak the "language of the horseman" in oral reasons. Correct terms will tell the judge exactly what you observed. Remember to use mostly comparative terms rather than descriptions. Be careful not to confuse sexes and colors in your reasons.
Every 4-H member should have the ambition to become a good judge of horses. You can learn to judge if you will think and make use of your time in training work. Really, learning to judge horses is not difficult if you will learn to become a keen, careful observer. You will also need to develop a desire to learn to recognize the big things that make an animal desirable or undesirable.

Through Judging You Learn-
To make accurate observations and see the differences in animals.
To weigh and evaluate these differences for comparison with an ideal.
To arrive at a definite decision.
To make an organized set of notes.
To explain your decision in a pleasing, well-organized, and convincing manner when giving oral reasons.

Achieving skills in judging horses will help you in selecting better animals for your 4-H projects. It will be very valuable if you choose a career in the livestock industry. The skills developed in careful comparisons, making decisions, and in giving oral reasons will be invaluable in any career you may enter.

JUDGING HORSES

Remember that the four horses in the class are always assigned a number. Number 1 is always on your left and Number 4 on your right as you view the class from the rear. In most contests, the showmen will be wearing an identification number.

There are two types of placing cards that may be used. On all placing cards there will be space to write your name or number. You should do this when you first receive your cards so they may be identified as yours. There will also be a space to write the name of the class being judged. Do this when you are presented the class.

On one type of card there is a space to write the numbers of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place animals, mark an "X" beside the placing you have decided upon. Suppose your placing is 1-2-3-4, then you would mark the card as shown. This designates the Number 3 mare as your first place, and the Number 4 as your fourth.

The second type card is a written reason card. It gives spaces for your placing and also spaces to write the reasons for your placing of your top pair, middle...