

Horse Breed Reference List

The purpose of this list is to provide members of the model horse community with a system for grouping similar breeds, allowing judges to compare like with like. Breeds have been sorted into groups based on body proportions (most easily seen in a standing silhouette), purpose, and traditions related to tack and turnout. Those groups were then placed in the six most common sections used in American shows: Stock, Light, Sport, Spanish, Draft, and Pony. Because it is possible to add a catch-all “other” class in each horse section, a final section called “Other Equids” is included. This is where longears, exotics, decorators, and fantasy entries can be shown.

This list presents just one logical way to categorize the breeds; valid arguments can be made for alternative approaches. Additionally, although this list provides a framework for organizing breeds within sections, it does not lay out a prescribed set of breed classes. The breeds that are split out and those that are combined vary between divisions and from region to region. It is also something that can change based on what producers offer. Some breed groupings are given within each section, but these are intended to help judges and exhibitors place breeds—especially rare ones—in context. Showholders rightly have the final call on what classes will work best for their entrants.

Some notes on the structure of this list

Splits by body type or by region

This list favors splits by body proportions (silhouette) because it groups similar entries together. This also provides judges with some insight into the general appearance of rarely encountered breeds. However, showholders may still find it helpful to split breed groups by regions. For consistency, regional definitions have been listed in the sidebar below.

Gaitedness

The ability to perform a lateral intermediate gait is genetically controlled. The mutations involved are ancient. As a result, they are widespread across a broad range of body types. Breeds as diverse in shape as the Marwari (*revaal*), Icelandic (*tölt*), Walking Horse (running walk), and the Peruvian (*paso llano*) all perform alternate gaits. For this reason, “gaitedness” has not been used to group horses on this list.

Breeds missing from the list

Historical entries are considered valid at model horse shows, provided the entrant has documentation. For this reason, it is possible to show a breed like the Hanoverian Royal Cream, even though it ceased to exist as a separate population in the early 1900s. In general, listing lost breeds is beyond the scope of this document. That includes attempts to create breeds that failed due to a lack of interest, or older breeds absorbed into another registry.

Breeds with a governing body—typically a registry or a state stud—are standardized; they have a breed standard. Breeds without formal registries (landraces) have been included when they are well-documented. This list does not include non-standardized breeds for which adequate documentation is not available. This does not necessarily mean the breed is not legitimate. It only means there wasn't enough reliable information to include them.

Ponies and small horses

Size is not a factor in judging model horses. Although some shows use size when creating divisions, categories like “large” and “mini” do not correspond precisely with a specific scale. For that reason, assigning breeds to the Pony section based on average height would be meaningless. To meet the goal of grouping like with like, this list uses proportions and the typical silhouette of a breed to determine the most appropriate section. Breeds that have a silhouette indistinguishable from horses are placed in the appropriate section based on type. Those with pony proportions are placed in the Pony section, even when they are marketed (or even named) as horses.

This list was compiled by Lesli Kathman. Generous help was provided by Sofie Banister, Teddy Bates, Aleksander Freda, Elizabeth LaRose, L.K. Magga, and Amy Williams.

Breeds from the **United Kingdom** come from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Breeds from Ireland, like the Connemara and Irish Draught, would be excluded.

British Isle breeds can come from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland *and Ireland*.

South American breeds can come from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

European breeds can come from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. (When speaking of horse breeds, using the European Union rather than geographical location in the European continent produces a more practical split.)

Scandinavian breeds can come from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Nordic breeds can come from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Breed Relationships for Model Horse Shows

In this list, the shaded boxes represent groups that correspond with traditional American live show sections. Subsections within each of these group appear in boldface type. Breeds that share a common geographic origin or purpose, or that are closely related to one another, are grouped in bullet lists. Silhouettes represent common body proportions for breeds within the section (or sub-section), but may not closely match all breeds listed.

Breed type varies and breed relationships are complex. Arguments can be made for placing particular breeds in other categories. The rationale for this list is detailed in the supporting materials, but it is not intended as the only answer. Showholders should always consider the needs of their entrants when constructing classlists and rules for breed placement.

Stock Breeds

These breeds are traditionally used to work cattle. Most are crosses of blood horses (typically Thoroughbred) on native or colonial stock.



- Appaloosa
- Australian Stock Breeds
 - Australian Stock Horse
 - Brumby
 - Kaimanawa Horse
 - Waler
- Mustang
- Paint Horse
- Quarter Horse
- Other American Stock Breeds
 - American Bashkir Curly
 - Camarillo White Horse
 - Colorado Ranger
 - Florida Cracker Horse



American Saddle Breeds

These are riding breeds where the foundation was built on Morgans, Naragansett Pacers, and early Standardbreds. Many (but not all) are shown in saddleseat tack.

- American Saddlebred
- Boerperd¹
- McCurdy Plantation Horse
- Missouri Foxtrotter
- Morgan
- Mountain Saddle Horses
 - Kentucky Mountain Saddle Horse
 - Mountain Pleasure Horse
 - Rocky Mountain Horse
- North American Single-Footer
- Racking Horse
- Spotted Mountain Horse
- Spotted Saddle Horse
- Tennessee Walking Horse
- Walkaloosa

¹ Although not an American breed, the Boerperds are included here due to their percentage of American Saddlebred blood and shared showing traditions.

Light Breeds



Eastern Breeds

These are ancient populations of hot-blooded horses from arid regions of the Middle East and South and Central Asia.

- Arabian
- Caspian
- Dongola
- South Asian breeds
 - Baluchi
 - Desi Horse
 - Kathiawari
 - Marwari
 - Sindhi
- Other Asian breeds
 - Akhal-Teke
 - Deliboz
 - Iomud (also spelled Yomud)
 - Karabair
 - Karabakh
 - Turkoman
- Partbred Arabians
(not to include partbreds of clear sport type)
 - Morab
 - Pintabian
 - Araloosa
 - National Show Horse

Sport Breeds

Eastern-related Sport Breeds

These breeds are either Eastern or a mix of Eastern hot-blooded breeds. They are the lightest of the sport breeds.



- Anglo-Arabian
- Anglo-Kabarda
- Budyonny
- Pleven
- Russian Don
- Shagya Arabian
- Tersk
- Thoroughbred

Warmbloods

These breeds are a blend of hot-blooded horses and native stock which were often colder coach or draught horses.



- American Warmblood
- Australian Warmblood
- British Appaloosa
- British Warmblood
- Canadian Warmblood



Warmbloods (cont.)

German Warmbloods

- Bavarian Warmblood
- Brandenburger
- Hanoverian
- Holsteiner
- Mecklenburger
- Oldenburger
- Rottaler
- Senner
- Trakehner
- Westphalian
- Württemberger
- Zweibrücker

Kabardin

Orlov-Rostopchin (historical)

Other European Warmbloods

- Austrian Warmblood
- Belgian Warmblood
- Czech Warmblood
- Danish Warmblood
- Dutch Warmblood
- Frederiksborg
- Furioso-North Star
- Gidrán
- Hungarian Sport Horse (*Magyar Sportló*)
- Irish Sport Horse
- Kinsky
- Kisber Felver
- Knabstrupper, Sport type
- Malopolski
- Polish Sport Horse
- Salernitano
- Selle Français
- Swedish Warmblood
- Tori, sport type
- Wielkopolski
- Zangersheide

Polish Noble Half-bred

South African Warmblood

Swiss Warmblood

Ukrainian Riding Horse

Heavy Warmbloods

These heavy coaching breeds were once used to create modern warmbloods, but are now the focus of preservation efforts

Alt-Oldenburg
Anglo-Norman
Cleveland Bay
Danish Oldenburg
East Friesian
Groninger
Irish Draught
Nóniusz
Silesian
Spanish Norman
Tori, old type

Coaching Breeds

These breeds are historically bred for carriage driving.

Dutch Harness Horse (*Tuigpaard*)
Franches-Montagnes, also called Freiburger
Friesian and Friesian crosses



Gelderlander

Hackney Horse

Kladruber

Knabstrupper, Baroque Type

Vlaamperd

Harness Racing Breeds

These breeds are primarily bred for harness racing. (Heavier coldblooded harness racers are in the Draft section.)

Coldblooded Trotter (all countries)

Finnhorse (*Suomenhevonen*)

French Trotter (*Trotteur Français*)

Orlov Trotter

Russian Trotter

Standardbred

Spanish Breeds

Spanish and Baroque Breeds

These riding breeds were strongly influenced by the North African Barb and the early horses of the Iberian peninsula. (Baroque driving breeds are in the Coaching and Harness section)

Lipizzaner

Lusitano (including Alter Real)

Mallorquin

Maremmano

Menorquin

Moroccan Barb / Berber (*Amazigh*)

Murghese

Andalusian / PRE (including Carthusian)

Sanfratellano

Sorraia

Spanish Spotted Saddle Horse

Warlander

New World Spanish Breeds

Breeds and feral populations based on early colonial Spanish horses.

American Indian Horse

Azteca

Banker Ponies

Brazilian Pampa Horse

Colonial Spanish (all varieties)

Campolina

Carolina Marsh Tacky

Costa Rican Saddle Horse

Criollos (all countries)

Galiceño

Lac La Croix Pony

Mangalargas

- Mangalarga Paulista (Mangalarga)
- Mangalarga Marchador (Marchador)

Pantaneiro

Pasos

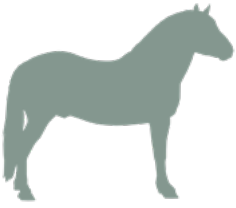
- Paso Fino (all countries)
- Peruvian Horse
- Caballo Criollo Colombiano (all types)

Persa Marchador

Spanish Mustang (all herds/groups)



Draft Breeds



Light Drafts and Cobs

These breeds are more active than the larger drafters and tend to be used for both riding and driving. Cobs are noted with a © for shows wishing to split this group.

American Cream Draft
American Drum Horse
American Suffolk
Belarusian Harness Horse
Black Forest Horse
British Spotted Pony, Cob type ©
Canadian Horse
Dole (*Dølehest*)
English Show Cob ©
Estonian Heavy (*Eestin raskas vetohevonen*)
Gypsy Horse / Gypsy Vanner/ Tinker ©
Irish Cob ©
Norman Cob (*Cob Normande*) ©
North Swedish (*Nordsvensk Brukshäst*)
Romanian Semi-Heavy (*Românesc Semigreu*)
South German Coldblood
Sugarbush Harlequin Draft
Welsh Cob (Section C and D) ©



Modern Show Breeds

This group of breeds are sometimes referred to as show hitch drafters. They are bred for flashy movement and tend to be tall and upright in their build.

American Percherons
American Belgians
Clydesdales
North American Spotted Draft
Shire



Heavy Draft Breeds

This group includes the breeds with a traditional, heavy draft type. Some American show breeds have working populations that more closely fit this group.

American Brabant
Ban'ei Draft
French heavy draft breeds

- Auxois
- Boulonnais
- Breton
- Comtois
- Percheron
- Poitevin Mulassier
- Trait du Nord

Other European heavy draft breeds

- Ardennes (multiple countries)
- Belgian Draught (*Trait Belge*)²
- Croatian Coldblood
- Croatian Posavac
- Dutch Heavy (*Nederlands Trekpaard*)
- Hungarian Coldblood
(*Magyar Hidegvérű*)

- Italian Heavy Draft
- Jutland
- Međimurje Konj
- Muraközi
- Noriker
- Rhineland Draft
- Silesian Noriker
- Schleswiger
- Polish Coldblood
(including subtypes: Sokólski, Sztumski)
- Russian Heavy Draft
- Soviet Heavy Draft
- Suffolk Punch
- Vladimir Heavy Draft

Pony Breeds



Riding Pony Breeds (all regions)

These pony breeds have been refined by infusions of Eastern blood (typically Thoroughbreds or Arabians), but still retain some degree of pony type.

Argentinian Polo Pony
Australian Pony
British Riding Pony
British Spotted Pony (Welsh type)
Connemara
Dartmoor Pony
Felin Pony
French Saddle Pony
German Riding Pony
Haflinger / Avelignese
Knabstrupper (Pony Type)
Landais Pony
Lewitzer
Lundy Pony
New Forest Pony
Welsh Mountain Pony (Section A)
Welsh Pony (Section B)



Traditional Pony Breeds

These are breeds that have not been influenced by infusions of Eastern blood. They can have a more primitive appearance and often display a more pronounced pony type.

British Isle Pony Breeds

- British Spotted Pony
- Carneddau Pony
- Dales Pony
- Dartmoor Hill Pony
- Eriskay Pony
- Exmoor Pony
- Fell Pony
- Highland Pony
- Kerry Bog Pony
- Shetland Pony

European Pony Breeds

- Aegidienberger
- Asturcón
- Bardigiano
- Bosnian Mountain Horse
- Camargue

² Although called Brabants in the United States, these horses are called Belgian Draughts in their country of origin.



European Pony Breeds (cont.)

- Dülmener
- Estonian Native
- Galician Horse (*Caballo Galega*)
- Garrano
- German Classic Pony
- Henson Horse
- Hucul Pony
- Konik
- Losino
- Mérens / Ariegeois
- Peneia Pony
- Pottok
- Sardinian (*Cavallino della Giara*)
- Skyrian Horse
- Žemaitukas

Nordic Breeds (Ponies and small horses)

- Faroe Pony
- Icelandic
- Norwegian Fjord
- Finnhorse, Pony type
- Gotland Pony (*Gotlandsruss*)
- Nordland (*Lyngshest*)
- Knabstrupper, Miniature Type

Other Breeds (Ponies and small horses)

- Bali
- Balikun
- Batak
- Hokkaido Native Horse (*Dosanko*)
- Manipuri Pony (*Meitei Sagol*)
- Sandalwood Horse
- Spiti
- Nooitgedachter

Primitive Steppe Breeds

These rustic breeds are primitive in their shape. Many have less refined heads that lack the pronounced pony type found in most of the traditional (largely Western European) breeds.



Altai

Heck Horse (recreated Tarpan)

Hequ

Java Pony

Jeju Horse

Kazakh Horse

Kyrgyz Horse

Mongolian Horse

Russian Bashkir

Tibetan Pony

Timor Pony

Transbaikal

Vyatka

Yakut

Pony Breeds of the Americas

American pony breeds often do not fit neatly into the Riding or Traditional categories. In terms of type, this is a very varied group.



American Shetland Pony (all divisions)

American Walking Pony

Chincoteague Ponies

Falabella

Grayson Highland Pony

Hackney Pony

Miniature Gypsy Vanner

Miniature Horse

Newfoundland Pony

Pony of the Americas

Quarter Pony

Petiso Argentino

Sable Island Pony

Welara

Other Equids



Current and extinct species of equids are traditionally shown in a Longears class, or in some combination of classes for donkeys, mules and “exotics.”

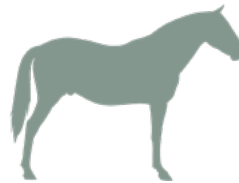
Current Species

- Donkeys (all breeds)
- Kiang (Tibetan Wild Ass)
- Onanger (Asiatic Wild Ass)
- African Wild Ass
- Mule (all types)
- Przewalski's Horse (*Takhi*)
- Zebras
- Rau Quagga (recreated)
- Zebra hybrids

Extinct Species

- Tarpan
- Quagga
- Yukon Wild Horse
- Hagerman Horse
- Siberian Horse
- Eohippus
- All other prehistoric equid species

Color Breeds and Registries



These “breeds” register horses based on color or texture and not breed type. For that reason, horses from this group do not form their own section, but rather belong in the “other” class in whichever section most closely matches their body type.

Buckskin Horse

Champagne Horse

North American Curly Horse

Pinto Horse

Palomino Horse

Pintaloosa Horse

Members of the model horse community are welcome to share and print copies of this document. Please leave attributions and contact information intact. If alterations are wanted, a text version of this document suitable for editing is available at leslikathman.blogspot.com. Click on the “Horse Breed Reference List” tab.

This is a living document. Questions, suggestions and corrections are welcome and can be sent to Lesli Kathman at blackberrylane@earthlink.net. Updated files (formatted and editable) will be posted yearly prior to BreyerFest.

Last updated on August 4, 2025.