

International Miniature Horse & Pony Society

**STANDARD OF PERFECTION**

**Breed Objective**

To promote, maintain and improve the breeding of Miniature Horses, being equines 34"or less in height through the registration of their pedigrees and details.  Midi horses in a supplementary register over 34" and up to 42", and standard horses in a supplementary register over 42"

**Breed Description**

International Miniature Horses are small scaled-down horses in proportion to their larger counterparts.  Elegant, with sound movement, flowing and exuding athleticism in their paces. Mares show feminine and refined qualities, stallions are bolder and show their masculine traits.  In action, they show use of their shoulders and hocks to give ongoing, straight and positive movement.  In judging when horses show similar good traits preference should be given to the smaller horse.

**Temperament**

This is portrayed with gentleness and curiosity.  Learning is good as they are intelligent and wish to perform well.  Handling at an early stage is recommended to achieve these aims.

**Size**

Measured internationally at the last hair of the mane.  In the UK and some European countries, the wither bone is used to measure.  Method of measuring should be defined.

**Colour**

All colours are acceptable.

**Head**

Small, not coffin shaped.  Wide at the eyes which should be approximately one third of distance from poll to muzzle.  Held high and not level with body so proud and bold appearance.

**Bite**

For perfection, the bite should be true, and teeth meet when horse is mature at four years.  Young immature horses deviate sometimes with under or overbite.  If more than a few millimetres this is a serious defect.

**Ears**

Medium in size and carried alertly, positioned well on head with top of ears usually turning in slightly.

**Neck and shoulders**

The neck is positioned on top of sloping shoulders.  Curving from wither to poll and well arched to the head, which should be carried by the neck well above the height of the body.  Straight shoulders and neck lines are defects as prevent flowing action.

**Body**

Compact with short back in stallion.  Mare can be slightly longer for breeding purposes and having comfortable room for foals. Should be well muscled throughout, conformation correct as scaled down riding type horse.  Tail should be set high.  Width of body is medium.  Top line should be clean and straight with only slight deviation behind wither and on top of loins.  Rib should be well sprung and deep flank.

**Legs**

These appear slightly longer than the body depth. Overall flat-boned with the appearance of strength and refinement. Draught type miniatures have more bone, and length of leg equals that of body. Legs should be parallel when viewed from back or front and hooves in straight line with legs. Deviation with hooves turning in or out is a defect. Pasterns sufficiently long to provide springy action and should be in line with the angle of the hoof when viewed from the side. Front pasterns approximately 45-48 degrees. Rear Cannon bones should be perpendicular to the ground and rear pasterns approximately 40-50 degrees. Hocks turning in or out when horse moves are a defect. Judge likes to see only straight legs when viewed from front or back, no turning in or out at all. Hocks are naturally very slightly turned in when horse is still, but cow hocks are a serious defect when angle almost makes the horse touch hocks in movement. Similarly, a horse moving wide behind is a defect.

**Hooves**

Trimmed to a workable length depending on the lifestyle of the horse. They should have sufficient toe length and angle with spread of heels for the size and proportion of the animal.

**Movement**

The walk is a natural four-beat gait with good length of stride in proportion to the height and length of leg.  The trot is a two-beat free flowing diagonal gait with the knee and hock working together. Action should be free and willing, enabling horse at all times to show ability to move beautifully.

**Young horses**

Allowance for juvenile horses to mature is essential. They should not have the characteristics of a mature horse until well over two years old or will be both overgrown and coarse in appearance.  Elite grading by IMHPS takes into account the age of the horse presented.