

from the tendons.

The rear quarters are broad, deep and heavy when viewed from side or rear, and are muscled so they are full through the thigh, stifle, gaskin, and down to the hock. The croup should be long and slope gently from the hip to the tail set.

The well built horse is smooth and symmetrical with each part blending into other parts to give over-all balance, style, and beauty.

The Quarter Horse is the premier stock horse. His unique conformation makes him the ideal horse for stock work such as cutting, roping, and bulldogging, and for other western performance events such as reining, barrel racing, etc. All of these require speed, balance, strength, agility, and maneuverability. The Quarter Horse's structural strength is great and up to the demands of the strenuous stock events. His well-muscled, close-coupled, and exceptionally balanced body enable the Quarter Horse to get his legs under himself, to start, stop, and turn with sure-footedness, quickness, and ease. His powerful hindquarters provide great propulsion and both stopping and 'holding' power (the latter two especially important for rope horses). In addition, the Quarter Horse's innate 'cow savvy', probably more than any other breed, the Quarter Horse has the ability to outthink cattle in cutting situations, or in roping or bulldogging situations where the horse must gauge a calf or steer's speed and place itself in proper position in relation to the calf or steer for the rider to successfully rope or 'dog' the calf or steer.

Many of the same factors which make the Quarter Horse the ideal horse for stock and other western performance events allow it to perform well in so-called english events such as dressage, hunter and jumper classes. His innate balance, agility, strength and maneuverability, as well as his tractable disposition and willingness to please are good qualities in a dressage horse, those same factors are also a plus for a hunter or jumper. However, those Quarter Horse's which do best in these events are usually those with some Thoroughbred blood. Although some so-called 'straight-bred' Quarter Horses can also be successful in the english events though some might meet with disfavor from those who favor the rangy Thoroughbred type horses in these events.

Again, and this will be repeated often, so keep it in mind- in any performance event at a model horse show, it is the model's performance- what it appears to be doing that is of primary importance in judging. The type the horse is usually shouldn't enter into the judging process, though of course, conformation faults which affect soundness and way of going will play a part in judging. For example, this is not to say that the Breyer 5 Gaiter makes an excellent, or even passable hunter. But, this is not due to the fact that the horse is a Saddlebred. It is due to that he is not performing to the standards of a hunter-his head is too high and his action is not suitable for a hunter.

There are many molds which are acceptably shown as Quarter Horses- more than one might think. The Breyer Classic QH Stallion and The Breyer Lady Phase are perhaps two of the best molds. Others include the Breyer San Domingo (repainted a solid color)-this mold is representative a Quarter Horse with some Thoroughbred blood; The Stud Spider/Overo Paint (repainted)-this mold is a bit coarse and has some faults, but is still acceptable; The Breyer Stable Mate QH Stallion, he exhibits ideal Quarter Horse conformation; The Breyer Polo Pony, with hair tail to cover the 'mud tail', and several others. The Beswick QH is also acceptable. The Quarter Horse's Hartland made are generally of fair to poor quality as most are rather coarse or unbalanced horses.

There are also certain color 'standards' that apply to the Quarter Horse. No Quarter Horse can be of paint, pinto, appaloosa or albino color or breeding. Only the 'solid' colors, such as chestnut, bay, black, brown, grulla, buckskin, dun, and palomino and grey are acceptable colors for a Quarter Horse. In addition, a Quarter Horse cannot have what is termed 'excessive white'. This means that white stockings may not extend past the center of the knee or center of the hock, and that white facial markings may not extend past a line drawn from the corner of the mouth to the base of the ears. Any white markings extending past these points are deemed 'excessive' and mean the horse possessing them is not accepted for registration.

THE SHETLAND PONY

The Shetland Pony was developed in the Shetland Islands primarily for use as a work animal. But now, is mainly used as a children's riding pony or show pony.

After the introduction of the Shetland Pony to the United States, American breeder's refined the original type of Shetland. So that now there are basically two types of Shetlands- the original type with the thick body, short back, short legs and profuse mane and tail, and the much more refined American Shetland, that is longer-legged and has a less profuse mane and tail and is generally more refined. The American Shetlands are mainly show ponies that are shown in harness classes.

Both types of Shetlands should possess a well shaped and sensible looking head, with well placed ears and a straight profile. The length of the neck should be in proportion to the body with a good crest, especially in stallions. The shoulders should slope nicely and the chest and quarters should be broad. The legs should be straight and with a well muscled forearm on the front legs with strong knees. The thighs should be strong and muscular with broad, well-shaped hocks.

Model Showers are rather limited in their choices of molds to use as Shetlands. The Breyer Shetland is a good example of the 'original' type, as is the Deswick Shetland adult and foal. The Breyer Merrylegs could also be shown as a Shetland.

Without remaking, the available Shetland molds are rather limited in the performance classes they can enter and show in successfully. They can be shown in western pleasure, english pleasure (under huntseat tack), pleasure harness, and trail with appropriate obstacle. They usually aren't suited for the stock or gymkhana events and with the exception of the Breyer Merrylegs (who could be a decent hunter pony) they really aren't suited for the hunter events.

THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE

The Tennessee walker is another breed evolved by the plantation owners of the early settling days. Like the Saddlebred, this breed traces back to the Narragansett Pacer. Cross-breeding of trotters and pacers produced a horse known as the Southern Plantation Walking Horse or Tennessee Pacer, a general purpose horse used by farmers and their families for both work and pleasure. Today's Tennessee Walkers also have Thoroughbred, Standardbred, Morgan, and Saddlebred blood.

The Tennessee Walker is known for his easy gaits and kind temperament. With these qualities he makes an excellent all around riding horse. His primary feature is the gait known as 'the running walk', which is a smooth, gliding, overstepping, four cornered gait, with the horse having stride and head motion. The running walk should be a free and easy gait.

The Tennessee Walker is also shown at a walk and a canter. The flat walk should be true, square and flat with a cadenced head motion. The canter should be smooth and straight on both leads, not walking behind, but cantering on both ends with a rolling motion. At all gaits the horse should be flexed at the poll with the muzzle slightly tucked.

In general conformation the Tennessee Walker should have an intelligent and neat head, with well shaped and pointed ears, clear, alert eyes and a tapered muzzle. The neck should be long and graceful. The shoulder should be well muscled and sloping. The back should be short with good coupling at the loins. The chest should be deep and wide. The body should be deep through the girth and well ribbed. The croup is usually sloping. The hips should be well muscled. Legs should be well conformed, flat and cordy.

There are several divisions that a Walking horse can be shown in, these are basically show and pleasure divisions. The 'show' walker is also commonly called 'the big-lick' Walker and the horses in this division move with exaggerated high motion, like the Breyer Midnight Sun. These horses are always shown in a flat, park-type saddle (no forward seat english or western saddles) and an english show bridle with an 'S' shaped (refers to shape of shank) bit with a single rein.

Within the pleasure division, there are several different 'sub-divisions' These are: Show pleasure, in which action devices are prohibited, though the length of hoof may be built up; Park pleasure, in which action devices are allowed in addition to having built up hooves (these encourage the high motion of the front legs). In both Park and Show pleasure, the tack is the same as in the 'show' division. Finally there is the Plantation pleasure horse, who must be plain shod and no boots or action devices are allowed. The Plantation Pleasure Horses generally do not have the high, exaggerated motion of the show, or park pleasure, or show pleasure horses. In addition the Plantation Pleasure Horse may be shown in english or western tack, which means that model horses of this type can enter western pleasure classes.

In all the Tennessee Walking horse classes, the horses are judged on manners, performance, and quality in general.

At most model shows, there are not separate classes for Tennessee Walkers in the performance division. Thus, Tennessee Walkers in english tack may usually enter an open english pleasure class and the 'Park' classes, and those Plantation Pleasure Walkers shown in western tack may enter western pleasure. Also, Tennessee Walkers may also enter harness classes, when shown hitched to a vehicle, that vehicle must be a two-wheeled bike and the harness must be a light type with blinders, snaffle bit and overcheck. In harness the Tennessee Walker is shown at a walk and a running walk. Generally, Tennessee Walkers are not suited for classes other than those mentioned.

The model shower has a decided lack of models to choose from as far as Tennessee Walkers go. The Breyer Midnight Sun is a good show walker, though he lacks good hindquarter development. The H-K Roan Lady a good show, or park pleasure or show pleasure Walker. The Hartland 9" Tennessee Walker is a very good plantation pleasure walker. And the Breyer Justin Morgan makes an acceptable plantation pleasure walker.

As far as color of Tennessee Walkers go, there is no limitation on color, though black and solid colors are most popular.

THE THOROUGHBRED

During the 4000 years or more that man has been associated with the horse-training, riding, driving, breeding, and cross-breeding this animal—nothing can possibly compare in terms of success with the 'invention' of the Thoroughbred. It is, quite simply, man's crowning achievement in the horse world. Not only is the breed outstandingly successful in the sport for which it was developed, but it also has, with the exception of the Arabian, had a more profound influence upon other breeds of horses than any other breed. Throughout the world established breeds have been upgraded, and new ones founded, through the introduction of Thoroughbred blood. And in all places where racing flourishes, the Thoroughbred reigns supreme.

The Thoroughbred has his roots in England. Racing was very popular and by the beginning of the 17th century a number of places were staging regular race meetings. Following the example of the monarchs many noblemen took up horse breeding, sending agents to foreign places in search of good stallions. Time and time again when studying records of those days, one will come across the words 'Barb', 'Barbury', 'Arabian', 'Hobby', 'Galloway', and it is from the interbreeding of all these and perhaps a few more besides, that the racehorse, later to be named the Thoroughbred emerged.

With the widespread misuse of the terms 'Arabian', 'Barb' and 'Turk' and for other reasons such as the practice of naming horses after the owner (which meant if the horse changed hands, its name also changed) it is difficult to determine with any certainty the breeding of many of the Thoroughbred's closest ancestors. It is unlikely that many mares were imported from the East, and thus those mares referred to as Arabs, Barbs, or Turks must have been half-breeds, the results of breedings between Eastern stallions (who are known to have been imported at that time) and English mares. It is certain that during the last two decades of the 17th century and the first two decades of the 18th century, a good number of Eastern stallions were imported to England. The most famous of these stallions were the Dyerly Turk, the Darley Arabian, and the Godolphin Arabian, to whom most all modern day Thoroughbreds trace too.

All this talk about Arabian influence is not quite so unimportant as it may seem, because on occasion a Thoroughbred is foaled which bears a startling resemblance to an Arab; for example *Mahmoud (1933). All of his immediate ancestors were of the tall, lanky type, yet *Mahmoud and many of his descendants have the classic Arabian head, short back, and rather high-set tail.

Because the Thoroughbred has had no outside influence into the bloodstock for more than 200 years, there are no colors or markings which disqualify a horse from registration. If the parents have been registered, the foal is eligible. This does not mean the Jockey Club will accept all colors. This is kind of a tricky situation...you DO get 'Faint' cropouts... .. you DO see 'palomino' Thoroughbreds, but the Jockey Club will only register the following colors: bay, dark bay or brown, chestnut (all shades, 'sorrel' is not an accepted term), black, roan, and grey, and brown. The so-called 'paint' cropouts are never really true pintos, they are usually small patches of white on the belly or upper legs. A famous example is Candy Spots, who had a few white patches on his hind legs and belly. Palomino Thoroughbreds are palomino in color, but they are registered as chestnut.

Generally speaking, the Thoroughbred is a race horse. Whatever his intended use, the Thoroughbred is a working, running animal. Conformation then, is of vital importance:

The Head- Intelligent, handsome, giving the appearance of lightness. Should be long and lean, with a wide forehead. Nostrils should be of fine texture and capable of expanding to great width. Ears should be high set, pricked, and sensitive. The eyes must be full, spirited looking, without too much white. They must show sense, intelligence, and great courage.

The Neck- Medium to long, slim, and strong. It should fit neatly and cleanly into the shoulders and arch into the head to give plenty of room for air.

The Forequarter- The center of gravity lies just behind the withers, making all horses rather front heavy. So, the forequarter balances the entire horse. The shoulder should be long, strong and sloping. Withers medium to high and well muscled. The long, sloping shoulder is of prime importance, as straight shouldered horses tend to have short, choppy strides. The forearm should be relatively long, with long, powerful muscles. Knees should be flat and wide. Cannon bones, relatively short, wide when viewed from the side, flat when from the front. The fetlock should be large and strong--but not so large or rounded as to suggest weakness. Pasterns should be medium in length and set at a 39-45° angle.

The Body- The rib cage and back must allow for plenty of heart and lung room, without being too long. The back must be muscular and preferably short and strong-looking. The horse should look relatively short when evaluating the top line, but look relatively long when the bottom line is observed.

The Hindquarters- Look for Power! Hips must be powerful, with bone to spare. The triangle of power--formed by the hip bone, buttock, and thigh bone, is the most important area of the hindquarter. The muscles must be long and strong and must extend well into the gaskin, which must be broad and strongly developed. Hips should be long and wide, stifle joint well-developed.

Legs- The hock should be bony, strong and straight, and set low. The length from hip to hock should be long. The ligaments of the hindleg should be strong and well developed.

The Foot- All important. Has five major functions: 1) support of body weight 2) propulsion of the body 3) resistance to wear and tear 4) anti-concussion mechanism 5) return of blood to the heart. Hooves should be large enough to support the horse, rounded and wide at the heels.

Other than racing, the Thoroughbred is also suited, and quite popular as a hunter, jumper and dressage horse. The same qualities that make him such a renowned race horse also enable him to compete successfully in these fields and his naturally long strides make it easy for him to 'make the distances' (the number of strides between jumps) as a hunter.

The Thoroughbred can also be used as a western pleasure horse--contrary to popular belief Thoroughbreds are not insane, crazy horses--many are high strung, but with proper training they can be shown in western pleasure trail, and even reining classes (after all, what is Reining, if not western dressage?). Thus the model Thoroughbred can also be successful in these events. But, as far as the other western classes go, the cutting, roping, and gymkhana events, the average Thoroughbred simply wouldn't be suited. Thoroughbreds have a higher center of gravity than do the stock breeds, and most do not have the extreme agility of a Quarter Horse, for example.

There are many molds that are shown as Thoroughbreds. Those that can qualify as being excellent include: Beswicks: Grundy, Nijinsky II, Red Run, Bois Roussel, #1772 TB, #1992 TB, Large hunter, Large Racehorse, #1812 Mare, Hagen-Remaker: Swaps, Kelso, Metalcher, Man O War, Native Dancer, Seabiscuit, mini TB mare, Breyer: Swaps, Kelso, Cl. Man O War, Native Dancer, Seabiscuit, mini TB mare. These molds have relatively few conformation faults and superb type.

Models considered as 'good' are: Beswicks: #976 Mare, #1182 Horse, #1991 Mare, Hagen-Remakers: Comella, Silky Sullivan (both sizes), Fay Day, Citation, and A-480 Stallion, Breyer: Silky Sullivan, Citation, Dutchess, Keen, Remade Breyers: Indian Pony, San Domingo, Trakehner. These for the most part have some conformation faults, usually 'loaded' shoulders and necks or other fairly minor faults.

Of course, there are exceptions, especially considering just how very talented some of the remakers are. Two molds commonly used as Thoroughbreds have many severe conformation faults, these are the Breyer Halla and the Breyer Thoroughbred Mare from gift set. Neither of these is really acceptable due to their numerous faults.

THE TRAKEHNER

The Trakehner is a European warmblooded horse, traceable to the main stud farm in Trakehner, East Prussia, 1732. This stud farm was established as a place to breed calvary mounts. Horses were bred for endurance with long ground covering gaits.

The Trakehner as a breed was nearly lost towards the end of WWII. In 1947 the West German Association, called the Trakehner Verband was formed. Along with the Association, breeders began the painstaking task of rebuilding and re-establishing the Trakehner breed. In order to be used as a breeding animal, stallions must pass rigid standards on conformation and performance. Mares must also be evaluated for approval for the main Stud Book. Only those mares are qualified to be dams of future breeding stallions. It is due to these exacting evaluations that the Trakehner has remained the superior breed it is today, being selected for the qualities that are valued and desired in the perfect riding horse.

The Trakehner was first introduced into North America in significant numbers about 20 years ago. Its popularity has been increasing at much the same pace as the interest in dressage and combined training. Many dressage riders have turned to Trakehners because the breed produces outstanding movers and horses which have presence and elegance.

The Trakehner's movement and way of going, coupled with its presence and temperament set it apart from other breeds. It is famous for its long efficient low swinging gaits, especially its floating trot which is so light and springy that one has the impression that the horse hardly touches the ground. The goal has been to breed the Trakehner for the perfect riding horse and performance horse in dressage, jumping and eventing, therefore they have been bred selectively for the desirable conformation and temperament traits for these sports.

An intelligent, breeding looking head and long graceful neck with a natural arch or crest are set into a long sloping shoulder at the correct angle to allow for tremendous freedom of movement. Its legs are straight with substance in the bone, short cannons, good flat knees and big hocks, producing a horse which is sounder longer with hard work. The Trakehner has a deep solid body with a back length in balance with the neck and hindquarters. The hindquarters are powerful but not heavy, with a long hip and good angulation in the joints. The proportions give the horse balance and athletic ability.

One of the most important qualities is the Trakehner's disposition. It is keen, alert, intelligent and quick to learn, yet patient, accepting and able to take concentrated training over periods of time with an even temperment.

There are several molds that make good to excellent Trakehners. In many ways the Trakehner resembles a Thoroughbred with more size (most are 16-17 hands), bone and substance. Thus some of the heavier Thoroughbred molds would be acceptable for use as a Trakehner. The Breyer Classic Keen, Duchess, Terrang and Silky Sullivan are all acceptable for use as Trakehners. Also, so are the Traditional Breyer Morganglanz, Jumper, Trakehner, and Hanoverian.

The Trakehner is primarily an english performance horse. I have never heard of a real Trakehner being shown in western pleasure or other western classes. However, because of the breed's good temperment, it would not be unreasonable to assume that a Trakehner would make an acceptable western pleasure mount or trail horse. He could also be shown in pleasure driving. Thus, in addition to the hunter, jumper, and dressage classes, the model Trakehner could also be shown in western pleasure and trail and pleasure driving classes. Due to their normally large size, they would not be very successful in the western stock or gymkhana events. Usually horses shown in these classes are on the small side as far as height goes and the average Trakehner is 16 hands and many reach 17 hands and higher.

THE WELSH PONY

The Welsh Pony was originally found in the Hills and valleys of Wales. He was there before the Romans. His life was not an easy one, winters were severe and food was sparse, as was shelter. Yet the Welsh Pony managed not only to survive, but to flourish.

The rugged terrain and general difficult living conditions insured perpetuation of the breed through only the most hardy of stock. Hence, the development of a pony with a remarkable soundness of body, a tremendous endurance, and a high degree of intelligence.

Down through the years the Welsh Pony has served a variety of masters. There is evidence to support the belief that he pulled chariots in vast sports arenas, he has worked in coal mines, on ranches, and on postman's routes. The Welsh Pony is very adaptable, both to people and to the environment. The extremes of temperature in the U.S. don't bother him and he loves people.

There is little doubt that the Welsh Pony carries some Arabian blood, this is perhaps most seen around the head, as some individuals have some of the facial characteristics of the Arabian.

The ideal Welsh Pony is a hardy, spirited pony. They can be any color except pinto. The head should be small, clean-cut, well set-on, and tapering to the muzzle. The eyes should be large and bold. Ears should be well placed, small and pointed. The jaws and throat should be clean and finely cut, with ample room at the angle of the jaw. The neck should be lengthy, well-carried and moderately lean in the case of mares, but inclined to be cresty in the case of matured stallions. The shoulders should be long and sloping. Withers moderately fine. The forelegs should be set square and true with a long, strong forearm, well developed knee, short flat bone below the knee, with pasterns of proportionate slope and length and with well shaped feet.

The hind quarters should be lengthy and fine with good muscling. The tail should be well set on and carried gaily. The hind legs should have well muscled gaskins, the hocks should be large, flat and clean. The hind leg should be straight with pasterns of proportionate slope and length.

The Welsh Pony is a versatile pony. Their general conformation suits them well as a hunter pony, and for english pleasure (under hunt tack), western pleasure, trail, pleasure harness. Real Welsh Ponies are also shown as Roadster ponies and are harness raced.

Here again, as with some of the other breeds, the model shower who wishes to collect and show Welsh Ponies is faced with somewhat of a problem- there aren't very many Welsh Pony molds! The Breyer Canterer Welsh Pony is a fairly good Welsh Pony, though for him to show in other than hunter classes, the braided mane and tail must be haired over. Deswick also makes a good Welsh Pony mold. There are other molds which are suitable for use as Welsh Ponies, these are mainly Arabian molds which exhibit pony characteristics, such as the Breyer Classic Arabian Stallion and H-R Amir. Both of these molds are not ideal Arabians, but they are shown successfully as Welsh Ponies.

There are several types of Welsh Ponies (not to be confused with the Welsh Cob). The distinction between type 'A' and type 'B' is by height alone. In the American Welsh Stud book the limit on type 'A' ponies is 12.2 hands, the type 'B' ponies are those exceeding 12.2 hands, but no taller than 14.2 hands.

I hope that you have enjoyed this section on breeds of horses. Unfortunately there was not room to give complete breed history, as the main intention of these articles has been to describe the breed characteristics of each breed. It is also regretted that more breeds couldn't be included, but again space just wasn't available, and thus only those breeds which are commonly shown, and some of the less common breeds were included.

Please note that the lists of acceptable molds under each breed are not all inclusive. By this, it is meant that the molds listed are not the only molds that can be acceptable as a particular breed. There are many others, including the many different china molds, and these lists are simply meant as guidelines.

SHOWDAY-MORNING TO ENTER

So, you think you're ready to go! First you must find the shows, no problem if you're already receiving one of the model publications. Just one issue of most will give you a pretty fair selection of shows. To begin with you need to find one on a date at least two weeks away, and you'll need to get you photos in the mail at least 10 days before the show date to be sure they arrive on time for the show. Then you'll probably want to look at entry fees. You know about what you can spend, and remember to leave enough for postage too.

Entry fees can range from free (no fee and usually no awards) to upwards of \$2.00. Usually the higher the fee, the more awards are offered- usually! Some people charge a \$1.50 - \$2.00 fee for a show and offer nothing in the way of awards, and these shows you'll probably want to avoid. Awards can range from small homemade ribbons, to models, to commercial awards, or any combination. Take a good look at the classlist (number and variety of classes offered), the fee and the awards offered, and compare the three. If the fee seems reasonable for the number and type of awards being offered and you like the classlist- then enter. Also, showholders will offer either full or personal results. Full results are just that- complete results stating all classes, number of entries in each class, and the horses that placed, plus a list of champions and exhibitors. Personal results are usually a list of the placings that your own horses won, and sometimes include a list of champions and exhibitors. Full results because they have to be printed, will cost the showholder more and thus add a bit to the fee. So, take whether full or personal results are offered into consideration too.

Shows will vary in size of classlist and types of classes offered. Some shows are 'specialty' shows, which may be restricted to a certain breed (like an All-Arabian Show), or they may be all halter or all performance classes. Choose a show with a classlist that gives you a good number of classes to enter. The exception to this would be the specialty shows. If you own a couple of Arabs, they might place better at an All-Arab show than in 'open' competition. If you can afford it you may want to send the Arabs to the All-Arab Show and the rest of your stable to another show. And, if you happen to have lots of photos, you'll be better off splitting them up and sending them to several shows, rather than sending say, 120 photos to one show. When you send THAT many photos to a show, you end up competing against yourself. It's best to not send more than 40 or 50 photos to one show, this way your horses aren't all competing against themselves.

Last, but not least, read the show rules very carefully!! It is of utmost importance to follow the rules carefully, and they will vary from show to show. If you don't, you may find some of your horse's will get disqualified for entering improperly.

Proper information on Back of Photos

Certain information MUST be on the back of each and everyone of your photos! This vital information is: The Model's name, sex and breed; owner's name and address (that's you!), and the class numbers that the model is to be entered in. The class numbers must be on the back of each photo and they must correspond to the correct class on the show's classlist. The judge may not be able to spend the time entering your horse's for you and to expect this is just plain rude. Place a piece of scotch 'magic' tape or a self-adhesive label on the back of the pic (usually placed somewhere

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE



QUARTER HORSE



TROKEMER



THOROUGHBRED



near the center of the photo's back. Write the class numbers on the label **IN PENCIL**, this is so that after your photos are returned, you can easily erase those numbers and write new ones for your next show. Do not write your class numbers directly on the back of the photo in ink, they will have to be changed for the next show and this would be impossible..

Your model's name, sex, and breed and your name and address may be typed or handwritten (in ink) on the back of each photo. If handwritten, please, please, write neatly and legibly. You don't want the judge to go blind trying to decipher some scribbling, and there's the chance that your photos may not make it back into your return envelope if the judge can't read your name and the judge may accidently place the photo in another's return envelope. **AND** use the same name- your own name or stable name- on **ALL** of your photos! Don't 'mix and match' them. It is very trying for a judge to have some photos with a stable name and some with the owner's name, the judge ends up having to match addresses and that takes **TIME** and can delay the show, which will mean it could take longer for your photos to be returned to you. Careful when typing info on photo backs, as periods, etc. will leave little raised dots on the surface of the photo. The model's name, sex, and breed **PLUS** your name **AND** address **MUST** be on every photo you send to a show, or you can expect to possibly loose. A showholder with 1000 or more photos to judge and sort out is not going to remember who each one belongs to, so don't forget to put your name and address on each and every photo!!

Some club shows may also require that a horse's registry number be on the back of the horse's pic, so check the rules for any club's you belong to.

It's fine to put 'At Stud' or 'For Sale' on the back of a photo, but do not clutter up the back of the photo with a lot of unnecessary information, such as 'multi-grand champ', etc. This is considered very tacky and in poor taste, besides just making it harder to find other needed information on the photo. Some judges view statements such as 'multi-champ', etc. as an attempt to influence their judging and it may have the reverse effect and cause the judge to perhaps look at your photo more critically. If the model is really champion material, he will not need such crutches to prove himself in another show.

PHOTO BACKS

Nice, neat, clear

Sloppy, too much, hard to read

Smokey- 1962 Arab stallion
Classes: 2, 7, 10, 11
Owner: Jane Doe, 000 Somewhere St., Anyplace, VT 00000
At stud: 5¢ + SASE
Reg: AAAA#0024

<i>Smokey - 1962 Grey Arab stallion (Hans x Luff Dally) Egyptian Arab</i>
<i>Classes: 2, 7, 10, 8, 11, 12</i>
<i>Owner: Jane Doe, 000 Somewhere St. Anyplace, VT 00000</i>
<i>At stud: 5¢, SASE + SASE</i>
<i>Reg: AAAA#0024, ABB#012</i>

PHOTO BACKS, cont.

Nice, neat, clear

Sloppy, too much, hard to read

Smokey - 1962 Arab Stallion

Classes: 2, 7, 10, 11

Owner: Jane Doe
000 Someplace St.
Anyplace, VT
00000

Smokey - 1962 Arab Stallion

Registered by John Doe, multi-champ,
ABB National Champ 1981

Classes:

2	7	10	11
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 at total 54 + SASE

Owner: Jane Doe, 000 Someplace St,
Anyplace, VT 00000

One of many multi-champs!

Now, your photos are ready and you've chosen your classlist. Now, organize your photos into stacks, one for each horse. Enter all of one horse's photos before going to the next. Be sure all of the class numbers are easily read, correct, and in order. (Example: 1, 3, 5, 7 NOT 3, 1, 7, 5!) Check the rules as you go along to avoid entering the horse in a class he isn't qualified for. Also, for each show you enter, take a piece of paper and write down the name of the show, date, showholder's name and address and where to find the classlist, plus a list of the photos you will be sending. Then, as you are writing down your class numbers on the backs of the photos, write on that same piece of paper the name of each horse and a list of the photos of him you're entering. When you are finished entering the photos, count them twice. Then count how many you have listed. When it's the same, write down that number on the page, along with the date the photos will be mailed. You now have a complete record of where and what your photos are in case any or all are lost. You may choose to send a full copy of this list to the showholder for a checklist-most people are more than happy to use it. Or just send the total number to the showholder for the check, write it on the inside of your SASE.

For safety's sake, you should place your photos in a plastic bag before placing them into the envelope. This way if the mailman drops your envelope into a puddle your photos should stay dry. Now, put your photos into the mailing envelope. This envelope should be sturdy (it's best to always use some kind of manilla envelope) and don't cram it full! You should not have to strain to close it. Now add to the contents: a note stating the number of photos you are sending along with your name and address at the top, or a copy of your checklist with your name and address at the top rather than the showholder's, also enclose a SASE (Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope) with more postage and room than your mailing envelope (to bring home ribbons and results). It is best to put the same amount of postage on the SASE as is on the mailing envelope and enclose 1 or 2 extra stamps (write your name on the back of them) inside the SASE, on your note to the showholder, tell him/her that the extra stamps are there. The showholder may not be able to buy stamps for you, so DON'T enclose cash for return postage. Check to be sure your SASE is addressed to you and has either YOUR address in the spot for return address or the showholders. If there is no return address and the envelope becomes lost or arrives postage due it can become forever lost in the mail system and the P.O. couldn't care less, it's your fault as far as they are

concerned. ANYTIME you mail photos, mark the front and the back of the envelope, preferably in a different color ink and large, clear letters, "HAND CANCEL". You can write 'Please don't bend', 'photos encl.', etc, all you want and the postman can STILL send it through the mangling canceling machines if he so desires. BUT if it is marked, clearly and all over : "HAND CANCEL", it MUST BE hand canceled. If it is damaged in a machine you can take it over to the P.O. and COLLECT DAMAGES! So they will take GOOD care of it! In my years of showing and using 'Hand Cancel' I have only had one envelope damaged- out of hundreds! Always be sure to write addresses clearly and use only full addresses for sending (return addys can be abbreviated but be sure and use zipcode).

Whew! Now also on your SASE, on the inside flap, write the number of photos entered, in case your note or checklist is lost. Have enough postage on it? Address on it? Hand cancel on it? Okay, drop the SASE in the mailing envelope.

Last, but certainly not least, be SURE you enclose the entry fee! Coins should be taped flat, preferably on something a little stiffer than paper-like a 3x5 card. It's also a good idea to put your name, the show name and 'entry fee' on that card. Usually for entry fees it is best to send cash-no checks. Some showholders have a hard time cashing out of state checks and if you send a check for the entry fee, you may get your entries back unjudged!

Okay, drop the card with the entry fee on it into the mailing envelope. Check once more to make sure all is in the envelope that should be there and seal it up! You should also tape the flap of the envelope shut-to help eliminate any chance of the envelope coming open and your photos and everything else inside from falling out. Put the showholder's name and address on the front, and your name and address for the return address, also write the showname and date on the back of the envelope in case the showholder is holding more than one show during that time, and write "HAND CANCEL" everywhere! Be sure you put enough postage on the envelope. Present rates are 20¢ per ounce for the first ounce, 17¢ for each additional ounce. You can have the P.O. weigh the envelope, or purchase some small postage scales for yourself and weigh it yourself. Or you can guess, 10 dimes = 1 ounce approximately, 6 35mm photos are about one ounce. When in doubt, stick an extra stamp or two on the envelope. I know you hate to waste it- but you'll waste much more if your photos get lost in the mail. Once all is ready, drop the envelope into the mail.....

Now comes the hard part: WAITING. Your photos should be back by two weeks after the last day of the show, unless the show was very large. I don't begin to worry until a month later, then I send the showholder a note asking if she had received my photos, if she did, then why haven't they been returned, and I ask for them to be returned immediately. I enclose a SASE for reply and try to be polite (after all something really terrible might have happened-a death in the family, a long illness, etc) If I don;t get a reply or photos in another two weeks, I write again and this time not so nicely. The worst part is, there isn't much you can do unless you report them 'lost or stolen' by taking out ads in the various newsletters. It often helps to report this sort of thing to the editors of such newsletters, many keep track of these kind of happenings and if you supply the postage, the editor might write to the showholder in your behalf.

So, you can see that model showing is built on trust. The worst thing you can do is violate that trust. You'll soon find out you're not welcome!

HOLDING YOUR OWN SHOW

The first thing to do is to choose a date, preferably 3-4 months in advance so you'll have plenty of time to advertise and get awards and such ready. Make sure that you will have plenty of time on that day or days. Matter-of-fact, it is perhaps a good idea to schedule the show over 2 or 3 days, so that you will be sure to have enough time for all that is involved with holding a show. A show takes hours to hold, up to 2 hours to judge a big, tough class. Someone who gets it done late does not become a popular showholder.

After choosing a date, the next step is to decide on a classlist and draw up the rules for your show. You should choose classes that you understand how to judge. Your first show should be small, 20 classes is plenty. As you gain experience you can hold larger shows. Don't get in over your head, you will only gain alot of trouble. A specialty show is nice, if you like Arabs and know alot about them, an All-Arab show with halter classes for each sex and some performance classes would be a great way to start showing. Or, if you love the babies, an All-Foal show attracts plenty of entries. You could hold an All-Halter show if you aren't sure of performance class judging standards, or an All-Performance show if you love performance classes. The main points to remember here are: keep it small, provide plenty of time and plan in advance, to be ready!

Now you have you classlist drawn up. You need to state any particular rules that might apply to the classes (placed under a 'Rules' section). For instance, if you're having a showmanship halter class, you need to state if a halter is required or not. For hunter and jumper classes you need to state that a jump is required (or you'll certainly get entries that have no jump), etc.

The next step is to decide what, if any awards you will offer. Awards can be homemade ribbons, commercial ribbons, homemade certificates, commercially printed certificates to name a few. Homemade ribbons are best for your first show. Nice ones will take time to make, but people will appreciate them. You should make your ribbons out of some sort of satin (real or fake) ribbon. Some people make paper ribbons, but most showers feel these aren't worth the postage to mail them home. Cut the ribbon into lengths and use cut-out horse pictures or horse stickers at the top. Some people make miniature rosettes that are really very nice. You'll need tape, glue, and time to make the ribbons. You'll also need to decide to how many places you will award the ribbons: 1st to 3rd, 1st to 5th, etc, and state this on your classlist. If you should decide to award certificates, they should be neatly printed and decorated with a picture, a bit of ribbon, etc. They can be made up on sheets of paper and photocopied to make more and save time. Champions may receive extra-nice ribbons, certificate, or awards such as tack (NICE tack!), other models (such as an inexpensive Breyer Stablemate), or perhaps used trophies from real shows. Official ribbon colors are: first:blue, second:red, third:yellow, 4th:white, 5th:pink, 6th:green, 7th:purple, 8th:brown, champ: blue,red, and yellow, res.champ:red, yellow, and white, Grand Champ: blue, red, yellow, and white, Res. Grand Champ:red,yellow,white, and pink.

Commercial ribbons really aren't a good idea for your first show and they can cause lots of hassels if they are too late, etc. They are also VERY expensive and you'll have to send the money for them when you order them-well before the showdate. There's also the chance that not enough people will enter to pay for the ribbons. More experienced showholders

may want to give commercial ribbons, especially for important shows such as club championships, etc. Look in your phone book under trophies (yellow pages), there's probably a trophy company near you that will have a selection of horse show trophies and ribbons and save you postage and perhaps some time and hassel. Look for ads of trophy companies in real horse publications and send for their catalogs. Some companies giving free catalogs and information are:

1. Hodges Badge Co., Inc., Portsmouth, R.I. 01871*
2. E.G. Statts & Co., Inc., Mount Pleasant, IA 52641
3. Western Builders, Inc, 2621 NE Broadway, Portland, OR 97232
4. Northern Novelty & Printing Co., 1338-3rd Ave. No., Fargo, ND 58102
5. The NE Powers Co, Ashley, OH 43003
6. Stineman Ribbon & Trophy Mfg. Co., Lambs Bridge, South Fork, PA 15956
7. F&H Ribbon Co., Hurst, Tex 76053
8. Fargo Rubber Stamp Works, Fargo, ND 58102
9. American Knitwear & Emblem Mfgs, Plaistown, NH 03865

Commercial awards must be chosen and bought WELL in advance of actual show, so remember this when planning. A good model show is not thrown together in just a day or two!

What about fees? It's really up to you, but most folks agree, you should make enough to pay for the awards and advertising, but no big profit unless it is a benefit for a club or something. Obviously homemade awards cost less and the fee should thus be lower. Some showers hold special LO. fee shows (like 25¢) with NO awards. Lower fees will probably attract more entrants. Commercial ribbons are more expensive and your entry fee will have to be higher, but some people are willing to pay more for these kinds of awards. Some can more easily afford it too. A general guideline would be something like this: 50¢- 1.00 for a show giving only homemade ribbons- the lower fee would be for a small show or one only giving ribbons to 1st to 3rd, the higher fee would be for a show offering lots of ribbons, say to 6th and maybe models to Grand and Reserve. If you try for a commercial ribbon show you're going to have to figure on charging \$1.50 to \$2.00, depending again on size of classlist and number of ribbons to be bought. Also it's a very good idea to have in addition to the stable fees, a 'per horse' fee, which would rarely ever be over 25¢, and if you are charging a stable entry fee of 75¢, your per horse fee should be around 10¢-15¢. This allows those who show just a few horses to more easily afford to show. After all, 2-4 horses really can't be considered a 'stable'.

You will have to advertise your show to let prospective entrants know about it. Be sure the classlist is clear and complete, that the class numbers are correct (no two class #'s 6, etc), that your fees are clearly stated, and that your rules are well outlined (like obstacle required in trail). Also state what awards you will give and if the winners pay postage or if you will. BE HONEST about your awards and send out the awards you list - no substitutes unless you list them or unless absolutely necessary. Now, back off and take another look at the classlist and show as if you were going to enter it. What do you like and dislike about it? Correct the dislikes if you can. Also you should state whether you will be giving full or personal results. Full results should not be offered unless you DO have a copy machine you can use or plan on having them printed. Either one can cost quite alot, and it's surprising at how long the results can be for a small show! So, do not state full results unless you KNOW you can get them and within a short time as well-like no more than 2 or 3 days. Otherwise stick to personal results. You may also

want to mention what championships you'll be giving out, which is nice, but not necessary.

Note: when giving either full or personal results be sure to name each class by its name on the results, not the class number on the class-list. Ex: Correct: 1. Stallions (42) Incorrect: Class 1 (42) (the number in () is for how many horses were entered, which should be included on every class!!). Also, it is a nice touch to list the champions and reserves and the names of the entrants on personal results.

Before showday arrives, your ribbons and awards should be ready and waiting. You should have certain times planned to spend judging. In short, you should be ready and waiting when the entrants begin to arrive, as they will be as early as 2 weeks before the show.

As the entries start to arrive you should follow these steps:

1. Open the envelope carefully, to avoid damaging photos, etc. Keep a list and put on it: date arrived, entrants name, number of photos enclosed (count twice to be sure) and any other enclosures (fee, loose stamps, SASS, checklist, rubber band, plastic bag, etc). Do this for each entry!!
2. Put EVERYTHING except the fee back into the envelope.
3. Place all envelopes in a SAFE place—a VERY safe place! I like to place them in a sturdy box with a top (to keep any dogs or cats out) and then place the box itself in a safe place, like a dresser drawer or the top of the closet. Remember, these people have entrusted you with their photos, which are expensive and often difficult to replace. So, you must not send them back damaged, or worse, loose them.
4. List each entry as it comes in. AND keep that all-important list in a safe place!
5. A day or two before the show, you may start to prepare for judging. Remove only the photos from the envelopes. Sort them into halter and performance. Also as you remove the photos from the envelope, check the back of the photo to be sure that the owner's name and address is on the back of each photo. If missing, you may either place it back into the envelope, or place a piece of masking tape on the back of the photo and write the name of the owner on the tape. Either way will help you to avoid misplacing that photo. By doing some pre-sorting of the photos before the actual showday, you will save yourself a bit of time. Be sure to keep those photos in a safe place!

Now showday has arrived. Actual judging standards are covered elsewhere here, we'll go over the mechanics of the holding of a show.

The first step is to sort the photos into stacks for the various classes. Sort carefully, so as not to place a horse in a class he wasn't entered in. You will need a fairly large work area, I use my kitchen table. NOTE: DO NOT smoke, eat, drink, etc while handling other people's photos!! ALSO do not leave them unattended so that the cat, dog, little brother or sister, etc. can get to the photos and possibly damage or loose them!! Remember you are responsible for those photos while they are at your show!

To judge a class, you will first go through the photos one at a time and check for anything that would absolutely disqualify or otherwise eliminate a horse from placing. In other words you want to weed out the 'undesirables' so that you have left the average to outstanding horses to judge from. Now, spread these photos out over your table. Look at each one carefully, comparing it to others in the class and to your opinion of the 'ideal' for that class. Check the details carefully and see if there was anything you missed on your first look through the photos. At this point you should have eliminated those horses with major faults and now

you are looking to narrow your 'field' down to 10 or 15 really top horses. Once you have gotten down to 10 to 15 photos, you are ready to make your final placing decision. Your first place horse should be the one who comes closest to your opinion of the ideal for that class and should have the least number of faults, and so on down the line. In a small class, you may wish to place 10 horses, but in larger classes, you will probably want to name several HM's (honorable mentions).

As you judge each class, write down the name of the class, the number of photos entered and the names and owner's initials of each horse placed in the order you placed them. When you are finished judging the show, this will be your copy of the results to write up personal results from or to type up for copying full results. So, make sure you can read it too!

Remember- don't just pick the prettiest horse or the horses you may happen to like- judge each horse and class as you would like to have your own horse's judged!

Once you have your classes judged, you will want to choose your champs. There are several ways to do this:

- 1. JUDGING:** In this method, you will take all first place horses in applicable classes to that championship and judge them against each other with the winner being the champion. Then add in the second place horse and judge again to choose the reserve champion. (Ex: For a Halter Champ, the first place horses from ALL of the halter classes would be judged, then the second place horses from the halter classes would be added to the remaining first place horses and the reserve champion chosen.) To use this method for choosing the Grand Champion and Reserve, you would judge the champions against each other for the Grand, adding in the Reserves for choosing the Reserve Grand.
- 2. POINT AVERAGING:** With this method, you will add up the points from the applicable classes and then divide that number by the total number of classes that the horse entered under that division-even those classes he didn't place in. The point system used is usually: 1st-10 points, 2nd-9 points, 3rd- 8 points and so on. Example: Let's say 'Smokey' is being figured for a Performance championship. He has entered Western Pleasure (did not place), Trail (placed 1st), Hunter over fences (placed 3rd), and Pleasure Driving (placed 1st). He has a total of: $0+10+8+10=28$. His average would be $28 \div 4=7$ points. With this method the horse with the highest average is the champion, second highest is the reserve. This method will penalize those horses which are shown in more classes than they are suited for, and make it possible for the less versatile horses, who may excel in the few classes they do enter, to have an equal chance at earning a championship.
- 3. POINT AVERAGING AND JUDGING, COMBINED:** With this method, you first figure your averages. Then, taking the top five or in a really big show, even the top ten averages, you will judge those horses against each other to choose your championships. You will have to figure an average for each of the championships you name with both this and the straight point averaging method, since usually each championship has different classes applicable to it. (halter classes for halter champ, english performance classes for English Performance Champ., etc). You will also need a total average of all classes entered to determine the Grand Champion and reserve.
- 4. POINT TOTAL:** This method is probably the least satisfactory of any method devised to choose champs. Why? Because it is possible for a horse who is only average, but who shows in every conceivable class to win a championship over an outstanding horse who may be shown in far fewer classes. If Horse "A" is entered in 12 performance classes, and placed 3rd to 6th in all of them, he may have as many as 96 points. 36

Now let's say that horse 'B' is a truly outstanding horse. He is entered in 4 classes; and he places 1st in 3 classes and 2nd in one class. 'B' has a total of 39 points-fewer than horse 'A', yet 'B' has probably beaten 'A' in several classes. Which horse seems to be the superior horse-'A' or 'B'? It seems that 'B' is superior, since he has placed higher than 'A' in the classes he entered. By the straight point system though, 'A' would be the champion.

If you should decide to use total points for determining your champions, you should consider using a more graduated point scale, giving the three highest placings more points, like: 1st-25 points, 2nd- 15 points, 3rd- 10 points, 4th- 7 points, 5th- 6 points, and so on.

Now you have all of the 'results' written down. It is time to sort out the photos for returning. Again, use a large surface and sort by owner's name. After you have finished sorting, check each photo in each stack to be sure that you haven't accidentally placed a photo in the wrong stack. Next, get out that list you made as entries came in. Count the number of photos in each stack and compare it to the number you wrote down when you counted the photos when they arrived. If they check out correctly, then place the photos and all other enclosures in the SASE and throw out the mailing envelopes that the photos arrived in, be sure that you didn't leave anything in that envelope before you throw it away! And make sure you get the right photos in the right SASE.

Now you are set as far as that part goes and can now get the results done and awards sorted. First, get your results done, whether full or personal. Then sort your awards. It is best to start with the smallest entries first, as they have fewer placings and will go faster, keeping the big stables from holding things up. If you send full results, it's fairly simple. Just go through the results, underlining that stable's wins and placing the appropriate ribbon in the envelope (like Hobo-1st, Lady, 4th, Hobo-2nd, etc) or if giving certificates, filling in the certif. as you go along. If you are giving only ribbons, you may want to do this:
1st 2nd 3rd - then as you go down the results mark a line in the appropriate space for each ribbon won and then count up the total number of each ribbon won and place them in the envelope. Then when you are sure that all is in the SASE that should be there, seal it up and as a courtesy to the entrant-tape the flap shut (some envelopes don't seal all that well.)

If you are writing or typing personal results, it will take a bit longer as you'll have to get them written up. When you give personal results it is nice to include a list of all champions and all entrants on them, but this is not necessary. On any results be sure to put the class name as well as number, and the number of horses entered in the class. This is often very important to those showing for points in clubs. Always try to make results neat and compact-which is why you write the show;s initials and not full name and single space instead of double space when typing.

FULL RESULTS

Name of show, showholder and judge, date

Class 1.Stallions (50) 1st.Robo-jj, 2nd.Lady-zb, 3rd.Beau-bz, etc.

List of entrants:

List of champions and reserves:

PERSONAL RESULTS

Name of show, showholder and judge, date
Personal results for : Jane Doe

Class 1 Stallions (52) 1st Hobo
Class 3 Geldings (20) 5th Lucky

ENTRANTS: Jane Doe, Mary Smith, Kathy Hill, etc.....

GRAND CHAMP: Smokey-me RESERVE: Lady- ms

Get the idea?

Most important- start to work on the results the MINUTE you finish judging! ESPECIALLY if you are running late! Even if you have to wait for full results to get printed, you can get the photos sorted and back in the SASE, perhaps ribbons too, etc. But get those results out as soon as possible!! Three days after a small show ALL ribbons, results and photos should be mailed! A big show might take longer (if holding a show with a long classlist, give a show date, or rather dates as being for a week such as May 20-27. This way, entrants will know not to expect their photos to be in the mail until after the last day of the show. And holding a large show over 5-7 days gives you more time too.) No one wants to wait weeks for their photos to be returned. You'll begin to get complaints and the next time you hold a show..well..you may have a lot fewer entries! You may want to write notes to a few showers, praising their photos, explaining placings, or just to say hello, which is possible with a small show. DON'T send your s/d list, sales list, etc. unless it was asked for! Remember though-keep the notes short, long letters take time to write and will thus delay your being able to get photos, etc. in the mail.

And, I hate to think that this has to be said- but I will go ahead and say it: DO NOT RIP OFF YOUR ENTRANTS!!! They probably can NOT spare that extra little postage stamp, or left over fee, and sin-of-all-sins, their PHOTOS! You'll only get to do this once or twice, because the word will spread around very fast and you'll make lots of enemies, only to find that all your ripped of photos and stamps do you no good, because no one will enter your shows or have anything to do with you or your stable! I'll say it AGAIN!

MODEL SHOWING IS BUILT ON TRUST! VIOLATE THAT TRUST AND YOU MAY AS WELL QUIT SHOWING!! IN FACT, PLEASE DO!!

Fortunately, the vast majority of the people involved in model showing are honest, trustworthy people, or the hobby wouldn't be going strong!

One more note on results. IF something unforeseen should happen before you get the results done and after you have finished judging, or perhaps the crisis occurs during the show- try your best to at least get the judging finished and photos mailed back to entrants as soon as possible, and put a note in each envelope that you having some kind of problem and that results will be on their way as soon as possible. Then, get to those results as soon as possible (DON'T put it off, GET IT DONE!). In this case, it really is your responsibility to pay the postage on mailing the results since you were unable to send them with the photos. AND if you should have to cancel the show entirely, you should pay for the return postage on the photos yourself, and also if possible the postage it took for the entrants to mail their photos to you.

CONFORMATION OF THE HORSE

You might well be wondering just what does conformation have to do with model horses? Well, in fact, it has a lot to do with model horse judging! Most classes in a model show are judged by standards similar to those used in the 'real' horse world. Thus, most of the halter classes are going to be judged almost entirely on conformation—the presence of good points and the absence of faults. And, conformation plays an important part in performance class judging, as far as faults that can affect the horse's soundness and performance are concerned. Furthermore, a working knowledge of conformation will greatly assist you in assessing the quality of your own models and of any models you may be interested in purchasing!

We'll start off at the top, with the head and work our way back. But first a few words on overall conformation! At first glance, a good horse will appear balanced and symmetrical. This means, that all 'parts' should fit together smoothly and look as if they belong together. In theory, it is possible for a horse to have nearly perfect conformation, but if he's got the forequarters of a Quarter Horse coupled to the hindquarters of a Shetland Pony, he's NOT a well-balanced individual and this is a serious fault!! The example given is a bit extreme, but was used to illustrate my point: all parts of the horse should be in proportion to each other and they should fit together smoothly. That is the first requisite of a well-conformed horse!

THE HEAD

Eventhough you don't ride the horse's head, the size of the head and the shape and the way it is set on the neck IS important!

The usual description of the head of the ideal riding horse is about the same for all breeds, as far as basic points are concerned. Nearly all want clean-cut, alert ears, broad forehead with large eyes, fine muzzle and fair depth of jowl. The Arab and the Quarter Horse stress depth of jowl, with rather heavy jowls being a feature of the Quarter Horse, while the Arabian standards 'prefer' a profile with bulging forehead and a dish below the eyes, though a straight profile is acceptable. There are other differences, but essentially, all breed associations agree on width of the forehead (for intelligence), size of eyes and refinement of muzzle.

The various forms that the profile can take are given different names. When the profile is straight or rectilinear from above to below the head is called flat or square. When the profile is convex, the term used is ram's nose or Roman nose, if the convexity is limited to the face. When the convexity extends to the forehead as well as the nose, the head is 'arched'. And, when it is concave in the middle of its length, the term used is 'camel-nosed'. Nearly all breeds want a 'breedy' head, with a well-chiseled appearance, the bones and blood vessels clearly defined.

The evidence of good breeding is also shown in the ears, with refinement showing in the lack of thickness, the amount of hair in the ears (shouldn't be shaggy), and their carriage. Mares usually have somewhat larger ears than stallion's, but not coarser. 'Lop ears' are considered a fault, though they really don't affect soundness or performance—they are considered very ugly. You can tell if a horse is lop eared fairly easily. If his ears are pricked forward the ears will form a continuous straight line with the top of the neck, otherwise the ears will flop to the side, giving the horse an idiotic expression.