

New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Inc



BREED STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THE MINIATURE HORSE

GENERAL IMPRESSION: A small, sound, well balanced horse, falling within the following height restrictions, Category A (measures 34 inches or less in height) and Category B (measures more than 34 inches but not more than 38 inches in height); possessing the conformation characteristics desirable of most breeds - in fact if there were no size reference the Miniature Horse might give the impression of being a full-sized horse. A Miniature Horse should show refinement and femininity in the mare, boldness and masculinity in the stallion; at the same time displaying impeccable temperament. The general impression should be one of refinement, symmetry, agility and an alert intelligence.

Since the breed objective is the smallest possible perfect horse, preference in judging shall be given to the smaller horse for its age, when other characteristics are approximately equal.

SIZE: must fall within the height restrictions of Category A (measures 34 inches or less in height) or Category B (measures more than 34 inches but not more than 38 inches in height), when measured at base of the last hair of the mane.

HEAD: in proportion to the length of neck and body, broad forehead with large expressive eyes set well apart, comparatively short distance between eyes and muzzle, profile straight or slightly concave below eyes, clean refined muzzle.

TEETH: an even bite is necessary, no more than 3mm out. Parrot mouth or Monkey mouth will be discriminated against (Not disqualified).

EARS: medium sized, pointed and alert; tips curved slightly inward.

THROAT-LATCH: clean and well defined, allowing ample flexion of the poll.

NECK: flexible and lengthy in proportion to the body and style, blending smoothly into withers.

SHOULDER: long, sloping and well angulated, allowing a free-swinging stride and alert head/neck carriage, well-muscled fore arm.

BODY: well muscled, balanced and well proportioned, short back and loins in relation to the length of underline, smooth and generally level top line, trim barrel.

HINDQUARTERS: long well-muscled hips, thigh and gaskin, highest point of croup to be same height as withers, tail set neither excessively high or low but smoothly rounding off rump.

LEGS: set straight, true and squarely set when viewed from the side with hooves pointed directly ahead, pasterns sloping approximately 45 degrees and blending smoothly with no change of angle from the hooves to the ground. Hooves to be round and compact, and trimmed suitably but not excessively for an unshod horse.

GAIT: smooth and fluid gait in motion, naturally free flowing.

COLOUR: any colour or marking pattern is acceptable, **any eye colour is allowed**, the coat should be lustrous and silky.

TEMPERAMENT: good temperament is of the utmost importance - curious, alert, intelligent and friendly. Poor or vicious temperament is considered a fault.

