

HORSES

Breeds: A breed of horses is a group of horses with a common ancestry that breed true to produce common characteristics such as function ,**conformation**, and color.

Breeding true means that the offspring will almost always possess the same characteristics as the parents.

Recognized breeds of horses have an association with a stud book and breeding records.

Many recognized breeds have certain **foundation sires** and all registered foals must trace their ancestry back to these stallions. For example, the three foundation stallions of the Thoroughbred are the Darley Arabian, the Byerly Turk, and the Godolphin Arabian. Justin Morgan is the foundation sire of the Morgan horse breed.

Allen F-1, a Morgan stallion, is the foundation sire of the Tennessee walking horse. Morgan horse stallions also contributed to the development of the Standardbred, quarter horse, American albino, and the palomino breeds.



FIGURE 1 Appaloosa. (Courtesy of Appaloosa Horse Club, Inc., ID)

CLASSIFICATIONS AND TYPES

In addition to breed, horses can be classified several different ways. For example, horses can be grouped as light, draft, or **pony**, according to size, weight, and build. Within these groupings horses can be further divided by use, for example, riding, racing, driving, jumping, or utility. They can also be classified as **warmblood**, **coldblood**, or ponies. Horse classifications depend on the height and weight of the horse.

The common measurement of horse height is the **hand**. The height of a horse is measured from the top of the withers to the ground. A hand is equal to 4 inches. So a horse that is 15 hands is 60 inches. A horse that is 15.2 (15 hands 2 inches) is 62 inches tall from the top of the withers to the ground.

Light horses

are 12 to 17.2 hands high (hh) and weigh 900 to 1,400 pounds. They are used primarily for riding, driving, showing, racing, or utility on a farm or ranch. Light horses are capable of more action and greater speed than **draft horses**.

Draft Horses

Draft horses are 14.2 to 17.2 hands high and weigh 1,400 pounds or more. They are primarily used for heavy work or pulling loads. Historically, when draft horses were bought and sold for work, they were classified according to their use as draft, wagon, farm chucks, or southerners.

Ponies

Ponies stand 14.2 hands high or less and weigh 500 to 900 pounds. Ponies possess a distinct conformation on a reduced scale. They are either draft, heavy harness, or saddle type.



FIGURE 3–2 A Welsh pony stallion.

Warm blood

does not relate to horses with a certain blood temperature. It refers to the overall temperament of light-to- medium horse breeds. Warm blood horses are fine-boned and suitable for riding. In some countries, the warm blood is distinguished as a horse having a strain of Arab breeding. Some groupings classify all light horses as warm bloods. According to some, all breeds that are not definitely Thoroughbred, draft, or pony are classified as warm blood.

Cold blood

Cold blood horses are heavy, solid, strong horses with a calm temperament. This term is probably best thought of as another way of describing draft horses.

Origin of Horses From Animal Kingdom

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Sub-Phylum : Vertebrata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Ungulata •

Sub-Order : Perissodactyla •

family : Equidae

Genus : Equas

Species :1- Equas Cabalus : (The horse)

2- Equas asinus : (The ass)

3- Equas hemionus : (The mule)

Terminology of Horses

Equine: Equine is the scientific term for the horse species.

Filly: A filly is a young female horse, usually under the age of 5.

Foal: A foal is a young horse still dependant on its mother.

Stallion: A stallion is a male horse that has the capability to breed and produce offspring.

COLT: A male horse under 4 years old.

Gelding: a castrated male horse .

Mare: A female horse over 4 years old.

Mule: The offspring of a male donkey and a female horse.

Pony: Breeds of small horses, under 14.2 hands tall.

Weanling: A horse under one years old that has been weaned from his mother.

Yearling: A horse just approaching or just turning one years old.

Foaling :- Act of birth in horses .

Aged horse :- A horse over 10 years old.

Parturition :- Act of giving birth in all animals.

Sire :- The father of the offspring.

Dam :- The mother of the offspring .

Note:

Colostrum:- Is the first milk produce by mare after foaling , it has a high level of several nutrients that are important for foal health such as antibodies against infectious diseases as well as high protein , vitamins and minerals it is called as(passport to life).