02 4577 5366

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THE

ARABIAN DERIVATIVE HORSE

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

JUDGING IN-HAND

Arabian Derivatives are judged in-hand according to the defined policy of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd (AHSA). This policy was established in 1960 and re-affirmed in 1979, when the term "Arabian Derivative" was adopted.

The policy states that these horses will be evaluated by a comparative system in terms of saddle horse qualities which make them suitable as performance or working horses. Specific Arabian characteristics are neither an advantage nor a disadvantage, but are definitely not to be penalised.
Judges are not to discriminate against such features as colour, markings and height.

Horses registered in the Derivative Register will be recognisably different in physical appearance from Purebred Arabian horses. There is a Standard of Excellence for the Purebred Arabian and there is a Standard of Excellence for each of the seven Arabian Derivatives. It is the duty of a judge to judge each breed against its own Standard of Excellence.

The best Arabian Derivative must not be judged as the one most closely resembling the Purebred Arabian. A judge should see the Arabian Derivative as a horse displaying the best characteristics of the other breed that has contributed to its makeup, along with its Arabian qualities.

The Arabian Derivative should be judged first and foremost as a riding horse or pony. It should look and move like a good riding horse. The Arabian Derivative should present as a beautiful free moving, quality athletic animal with a kind and willing disposition.

The dished head, the high tail carriage and level topline valued in the Arabian shown horse are of minor importance when compared to the best Arabian qualities of strong, dense bone, substance, flowing movement, good feet and straight legs.
These Arabian characteristics should be seen as complimenting the best characteristics of the other side of the Arabian Derivative's genetic heritage.

Where showring competition places all the Arabian Derivatives in one group for judging, the height range is often extreme – from over 16hh down to under 11hh. The percentage of Arabian blood is also variable – from less than 5% to over 95%. The common ground for the assessment of the judge is the quality and superior conformation of a desirable riding horse, excellent paces and good manners. In summary the features of a good Arabian Derivative are:

* Balance and Proportion
* Sound riding horse conformation
* Free, forward and light movement
* Strong, clean bone and substance
* Calm, tractable temperament
* Individual quality.

By assessing each horse for these features, irrespective of height, colour or Arabian type, judges are able to meet the AHSA judging policy for Arabian Derivatives and allow Arabian Derivatives to be fairly judged when they compete together in combined (open to all registries) classes

AUSTRALIAN ARABIAN DERIVATIVES

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

INTRODUCTION

An Arabian Derivative is a horse derived from Pure Arabian bloodlines and those of another breed. Ideally, the progeny will display desirable characteristics and qualities of both the Arabian and the other breed.

There are seven Arabian Derivative registries in Australia:

*** Anglo-Arabian**
*** Arabian Pony**
***Arabian Riding Pony**
*** Arabian Warmblood**
*** Partbred Arabian**
*** Quarab**
*** Arabian Stockhorse**

As from 1/8/2012 in order to be registered as an Arabian Derivative a horse must trace in at least one line to a Pure Arabian horse registered as such in a recognized studbook for Pure Arabian horses and maintain a
minimum 12.5% of Arabian blood. The registry for which it will be eligible will depend on the other breed or breeds in its pedigree. Unlike some other breed societies, which allow for "breeding up" from crossbred to purebred status, the AHSA does not allow for Arabian Derivatives to be upgraded to Pure Arabian status.

Australia's first Arabian Derivative registries were established in 1949 for Anglo Arabians and Part Arabians. The Arabian Pony registry was created in 1971. The Arabian Warmblood registry was approved in 1989
followed by the Arabian Riding Pony registry in 1990. In 2003, the Quarab and Arabian Stockhorse registries were approved.
The Arabian Derivative registries, which allow for the formal registration and recognition of crossbred horses of Arabian descent, are relatively new compared with the long history of the Pure Arabian breed, but
crossbreeding Arabian horses is not new.

For centuries horse breeders and users have found that mixing Arabian blood with that of other equines results in an improved animal for a variety of purposes. Many other breeds freely acknowledge the contribution of Arabian blood in their makeup. The English Thoroughbred, the Trakehner, the English Riding Pony, the
Morgan and the Standardbred are a few examples. Two uniquely Australian breeds, the Australian Pony and the Australian Stockhorse, can point to a strong Arabian influence. Arabian Derivatives are also horses of many colours, so that many are also eligible for registration in registries specific to Palominos, Buckskins,
Appaloosa, Pinto, Roan etc.

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Arabian Derivatives, because they are crossbred horses, vary enormously in appearance. An Arabian Derivative should be a quality riding horse or pony. Individual animals will differ greatly in
appearance depending on the amount of Arabian blood in their pedigree, the contribution made by their other breed ancestors, and the purpose for which they have been bred. They range from tiny fine-boned ponies of 11 hands or less to big-boned Warmblood crosses standing over 17 hands.
However, irrespective of their height the overall impression should be of a sound, balanced, free-moving and beautiful saddle horse.

The form of the horse – its conformation – is closely related to its function – its movement. A well-conformed horse, whatever its size, will usually have the well balanced and smooth-flowing paces required of a quality saddle horse.

Arabian Derivatives whatever their specific registry should not be penalised on the basis of height or for
displaying characteristics of the breeds from which they are derived.

Whatever its size, a quality saddle horse will display the following characteristics. These characteristics should be evident in any Arabian Derivative horse.

Head and Neck

The size of the head should be in proportion to the size of the body. An overly long or large head is undesirable.

The eye should be large and expressive – kind, calm and intelligent.

The head should be well-set on to the neck, with a clearly defined gullet.

The neck should flow smoothly into clearly defined wither.

There should be a slight natural arch to the neck from the wither to poll, so that the neck looks longer on top than below.

Movement

The Arabian Stock Horse should be a good mover who exhibits straight, smooth, ground covering paces with good impulsion from behind. The walk should be smart and free with the hind feet stepping well over the prints of the forefeet. The trot should be forward and free swinging from the shoulder. The canter should be efficient, naturally well balanced and comfortable.

Presentation

The Arabian Stock Horse may be shown in hand with a free mane and tail, or mane plaited or hogged and tail plaited or pulled and banged. A stock horse bridle or English show bridle may be used .

THE ARABIAN STOCK HORSE

Definition of Breeding

An Arabian Stock Horse is one derived exclusively from horses of either Arabian and Studbook Australian Stock Horse breeding or Arabian, Thoroughbred and Studbook Australian Stock Horse breeding where the minimum proportion of Arabian blood shall be not less that 12.5% (see Regulations)

Appearance

The Arabian Stock Horse is a quality well balanced, versatile, athlete combining elegance with the appearance of strength and substance. Quality is indicated in the sharply defined features of the head and clean-cut tendons and bones of the lower limbs. The head should be in proportion and well set on the neck, with a broad forehead, jowls free of fleshiness with plenty of room between the branches of the jaw. The profile is usually straight though a slightly concave profile is acceptable. The eyes are wide set and prominent and the ears should be neat and in proportion. A well defined gullet, with a good length rein and a slightly arched neck well set into the flat, long and sloping shoulder. The wither well defined, slightly higher than the croup and extending well back. The chest is muscular and the ribs well sprung, the forearms with free elbows are muscular and well developed. The back is short and strong with short, wide and well muscled loins. The croup should be long and well muscled with a moderate slope and the tail well carried. The Arabian influence may bring a flatter more level croup, and higher tail carriage but this should not be extreme.
The thighs should appear wide and well muscled and the stifles should be set clear of the body to enhance good free movement. The gaskins are long and well muscled and the hocks are large and flat with points well defined. The knees are broad and flat, the cannons are short with cleanly defined tendons parallel to the bones. The fetlocks are clean cut with pasterns strong and elastic and sloping to match the slope of the shoulder. The hooves, rounded in front and more oval behind, are of a generous size and the heels wide and of adequate depth. (Low heels and flat soles are not good in a working horse.)
The temperament should be calm and tractable and not subject to over excitement.

Height and Colour

Height is variable and any height is acceptable.
The Arabian Stock Horse is usually of solid colour - bay, black, brown, chestnut or grey.
Broken coat patterns and dilute colours are acceptable.
The Arab influence may impart loud white markings, long stockings and broad blazes, that should not be discriminated against.

Body and Legs

The shoulder should be long and sloping, with the angle being as close as possible to 45 degrees.

The ribs should be well-sprung, the girth deep and the chest well muscled, exhibiting ample substance in relation to the height and bone of the horse.

The loins should be short and close-coupled and the croup long and gently sloping.

The front legs should be set perpendicular to the body, with the elbows set clear of the body allowing free movement from the shoulder.

The forearm should be long and the cannon short, with the ideal ratio being 2:1.

Pasterns should be of medium length, with their angle matching that of the shoulder.

The hind legs should also be set perpendicular to the body, so that the back of the hock and fetlock joints is directly underneath the point of the hip.

The hocks should be well let down, the gaskins well muscled and the stifles low and set clear of the body.

Tendons in the legs should be clearly defined and run parallel to the bones.

Hooves should be well shaped – rounded in front and slightly more pointed behind. They should slope at the same angle as the pastern and have wide, open and relatively low heels. Hoof walls should be strong and hard.

Movement

In all of its paces the Arabian Derivative horse should show free, smooth and forward going movement, with strong driving hock action.

ARABIAN DERIVATIVE REGISTRIES

ANGLO ARABIAN

Definition of Breeding

An Anglo-Arabian horse is one derived exclusively from horses of Arabian and Stud Book Thoroughbred breeding. (see Regulations)

Appearance

The Anglo-Arabian is an elegant, balanced and refined saddle horse with highly veined skin and fine hair.

In profile the head may vary from straight to slightly concave. The head is well set on to a long, elegant neck, with a clearly defined poll and matching arch of throat.

The neck is lightly arched and wither well defined. The short to medium back is strongly coupled to long hindquarters, usually with a rounded croup. However, the Arabian influence may bring a flatter, more level croup and higher tail carriage.

The overall body appearance is of a series of curves with no sharp angles.

Height and Colour

. Any height or colour is acceptable.

Movement

The Anglo Arabian in motion exhibits smooth, ground covering and rhythmical flowing paces.

The forehand naturally elevated and clear impulsion should be shown in all paces.

Presentation

Anglo Arabians are usually presented for judging in hand as show hacks.

Manes and forelocks are plaited. Tails are banged and either plaited or pulled.

English style show halter or bridles are usually used, although Arabian show halters are acceptable.

QUARAB

Definition of Breeding

A Quarab horse is one derived exclusively from horses of Arabian and Studbook Quarter Horse breeding or Arabian and Paint breeding or Arabian, Studbook Quarter Horse and Paint breeding where the proportion of Arabian blood shall be not less than 12.5% (see Regulations)

Appearance.

A Quarab is bred to produce a good-looking, versatile horse that is equally comfortable in the English show ring or as a Western performance horse. A Quarab combines the beauty, quality, athletic ability, endurance and intelligence of the Arabian with the substance, strength, powerful muscling, cattle sense and cool mind of the Quarter horse. The head should be attractive with a distinctive jowl and good width between the eyes. The ears are neat and the eye large. The neck should be well shaped but not overly long and never short, well set into a long and sloping shoulder. The body should be relatively compact, with a strong top line and powerful well muscled hindquarter. The tail set should be lower than that of the Pure Arabian. The gaskins should be heavily muscled and well defined, the stifles low and set clear of the body above large well let down hocks. Forelegs should be straight and have particularly well muscled forearms with strong, large and flat joints and free elbows. Feet should be hard of a good shape with open heels and somewhat larger than the normal Quarter horse feet. The Quarab, while being elegant but never 'cobby' should still have strong bone as it is bred to be a tough all rounder. Its elegance should be combined with considerable substance, giving the impression of strength and athleticism.

Height and Colour

Height is variable and any height is acceptable.

However the mature height shall be a minimum of 14 hh.

The Quarab can be any colour, broken colour coat patterns, spotted patterns and dilute or roan colours are equally acceptable

Any pattern of white markings and any eye colour, including blue, is acceptable.

Movement

The Quarab has flatter movement than the Pure Arabian, with less knee action and may travel with a lower head because of the lower neck set.

The paces should move straight, with good impulsion from behind.

Presentation

The Quarab can be presented with a free mane and tail,
or plaited, or with a pulled mane which may be banded, and a banged tail.
An English bridle or Arabian style show halter,
or a western show halter or bridle are all acceptable in led classes.

PARTBRED ARABIAN

Definition of Breeding

The Partbred Arabian Horse must contain a minimum of 12 ½% Arabian breeding' calculated from one or both parents (see Regulations)

Unlike horses in the other five Arabian Derivative registries, the Partbred Arabian may be descended from horses of unknown or unregistered breeding or from registered horses whose registration does not fit within the categories acceptable for the other AHSA Derivative registries.

Appearance

The overall appearance and body shape of Part Arabian horses will vary greatly, depending both on the proportion of Arabian blood in their makeup and the characteristics inherited from their non-Arabian ancestors.
The overall impression, however, must be of a sound, balanced saddle horse, irrespective of height and build. The head may be straight or dished preferably wedge-shaped, and in proportion to the size of the horse, well set on to a long convex curved neck. Large eyes and fine nostrils, with fine veined skin and hair are
indications of a quality Partbred Arabian horse. The wither is well defined, and the shoulder long and sloping.
The back is short and the hindquarters long, well muscled and rounded. The body should be deep, with well-sprung ribs and a well-muscled chest. The topline should be short and underline long as the horse stands over ground. The tail should be set level with the centre of the back and may or may not be elevated when the horse moves. Hooves should be rounded and relatively large in proportion to the horse's height and substance. Upright boxy hooves are not acceptable.

Height and Colour

Height is variable and any height is acceptable. The Partbred Arabian may be any solid, broken colour coat pattern, dilute or roan colour, with or without any pattern of white markings and blue eyes are acceptable.

Movement

The walk is free, with a ground-covering overtrack.
The trot is extravagant and floating. The canter is light and springy.
All paces are free and forward going, exhibiting impulsion and
the capacity to change direction easily and smoothly.

Presentation.

Part Bred Arabians may be shown with free mane and tail.
Or mane plaited and tail plaited or pulled and banged.
They may be shown in an English style show halter or bridles.
Or an Arabian show halter.

ARABIAN PONY

Definition of Breeding

An Arabian Pony is one derived exclusively from horses of Arabian and Stud Pony blood (see Regulations for a definition)

Appearance

The overall impression of the Arabian Pony is of an attractive pony showing quality. The head is distinctly 'pony', short, deep and in proportion to the pony's body size, exhibiting show quality, with alert ears and large, dark eyes. The neck is well-set, moderately long, naturally crested and with clearly defined throatlatch. The body should be strong and sturdy, exhibiting excellent rib-spring. The back should be short, but not too broad, well muscled loins and the hindquarters are well rounded and proportioned. The tail should be well set on and gaily carried. However the Arabian influence may bring a flatter more level croup and higher tail carriage. The legs are strong, with clean flat, dense bone. The size of the hooves should be in proportion to the pony's body and should match the slope of the pastern. They should not be small, boxy or upright. Arabian Ponies may show some feathering on their legs.

Height and Colour

Arabian Ponies may be any height.
Arabian ponies may be solid or dilute colours, roan, grey or broken colours.
Blue eyes are acceptable.

Movement

Arabian ponies should exhibit a free, forward, crisp walk.
The trot should show elevation and strong flexing hock action.
The canter should be light and flowing, with ample impulsion.
A short choppy stride is not acceptable.

Presentation

The manner of presentation for in-hand judging is variable.
Arabian Ponies may be shown with free manes or tails or may have manes and forelocks plaited, and tails banged and plaited or pulled.
Arabian Ponies that are not clipped or plaited with fetlock hairs (feathers) not trimmed are not to be discriminated against
Arabian Ponies may be shown in English style show halter or bridles
or in Arabian show halters**.**

ARABIAN RIDING PONY

Definition of Breeding

An Arabian Riding Pony is one derived exclusively from horses of either Arabian and Section A Riding Pony breeding or Arabian, Section A Riding Pony, Stud Pony and/or Thoroughbred and/or Riding Pony breeding (see Regulations)

Appearance

The Arabian Riding Pony is elegant riding type, fine limbed and resembles the scaled down version of the Anglo Arabian. The head is well set on, refined and short and the profile may vary from straight to slightly concave, with a fine muzzle, eyes large, expressive and small ears. The neck is long, lightly muscled, and elegantly arched, with clearly defined throatlatch and withers. The body is smooth and lightly framed. The back is strong, well coupled and the croup is long, deep and rounded. The tail well set on and carried naturally away from the body, but without extreme elevation. Legs should be fine and clean, with no sign of coarseness. Joints should be large, clean and flat. They show no feathering on their legs. Feet should be in proportion to the body, with wide open heels. Flat or upright boxy hooves are not acceptable.

Height and Colour

Colours are usually solid, with bay, brown, black, chestnut and grey predominating.
However dilutes, roans and broken colours are acceptable, as are blue eyes.
Arabian Riding ponies may be any height.

Movement.

The Arabian Riding Pony should display free forward movement with a stride that is long, very smooth and light.
The movement is ground covering, displaying impulsion but is flatter and shows less knee elevation than other ponies.

Presentation

Arabian Riding Ponies are traditionally shown plaited.
Tails banged, pulled or plaited, and shown in English style show halter or bridles .

ARABIAN WARMBLOOD

Definition of Breeding

The Arabian Warmblood Horse is derived exclusively from horses of either Arabian and Warmblood breeding or Arabian, Warmblood and Thoroughbred breeding (see Regualtions)

Appearance

The Arabian Warmblood is a well-balanced horse with symmetrical flowing curves. It combines sound conformation with substance and elegance. The head should be in proportion to the size of the horse, present a noble air, with a kind, intelligent expression and dark eyes. The profile may be straight or dished. Ears may be thicker and longer. The neck is long, naturally arched and muscular, with a well-defined, clean gullet. The body is deep with well-sprung ribs, broad medium length back with strongly muscled short loins. The hindquarters are powerful, well rounded with strong muscling. The tail should be set so that it flows smoothly from the croup and is carried well away from the body. It may be carried with a slight elevation. The cannons should display bone and substance in proportion to their height, but without coarseness. The feet should be relatively large, but in proportion to the height and body size of the horse, rounded with wide, open heels.

Height and Colour

Height is variable and any height is acceptable.
All Colours are acceptable in Arabian Warmbloods broken coat patterns and dilute colours.

Movement

The walk is free and forward.
The trot is light and elastic, showing suspension and elevation with a strong, driving hock action.
The canter is ground covering and shows great impulsion.
The overall impression should be of a horse which naturally carries itself in an uphill and elevated manner.

Presentation.

The Arabian Warmblood is shown with a plaited mane and tail plaited, pulled or banged.
A bitted bridle or English-type show halter is used.