

CATEGORY V BREED CLASS

To be eligible to compete in a breed class a horse must also be entered in a performance class at the same show. In Hand Trail classes fulfill this requirement, color classes do not.

General Breed Class Rules:

- A) No silver halters will be allowed. Plain leather, nylon web, or rope halters are allowed. Stud chains may be used over the nose or under the jaw, but no lip or mouth chains will be permitted.
- B) No other equipment, such as splint boots, wraps, etc. will be allowed.
- C) The judge may ask the age and sex of the horse. No other conversation shall be made.
- D) The judge, at his own risk, may touch the horse, but must use common sense in his/her approach.
- E) Horse should be clean and well groomed. The appearance of a horse's mane or tail, other than cleanliness, shall not be penalized. No banding, pulling, ribbons, or other form of mane or tail tamers may be used in a class for any reason. No bleaching or dyeing of mane or tail allowed. No shaving of inside of ears is allowed. Excessive facial or leg hair may be trimmed - not shaved. Hooves shall be clean and trimmed - no hoof black allowed. A red ribbon in the tail is acceptable to warn judges and exhibitors if the horse is a kicker.
- F) Classes shall be Yearling Mares; Yearling Colts; Two Year Old Mares; Two Year Old Colts; Three and over Mares; Three and over Stallions; Three and over Geldings. If there are not enough entries in a class to make it point earning, the classes may be combined. The younger horses have the choice to move to the next older class that would be point earning. The points would be issued to the older class.
- G) All horses in a given class shall enter the arena and line up for the judges.
- H) Rearing, striking, biting, getting away, or running over handler, shall result in a disqualification. Judges may excuse unruly horses from the class if safety is at stake.
- I) Lameness, extreme overbite or underbite, or Cryptorchid is an automatic disqualification. ALL judges must agree. Judges may confer on these issues only.)
- J) Youth may not exhibit a stallion 2 years of age or older.
- D) Ribbons and points shall be awarded as in any other class - however Breed classes shall NOT count toward Versatility, NFQHA Championships, nor any show High Point, or Overall awards on the National or Club level.

BREED JUDGING

The purpose of this evaluation is to look for Foundation Quarter Horse breed characteristics, movement, and working condition. In Three and Over classes, the age of all horses competing must be listed on the judges score sheet. In the event the ages are missing from the score sheet it is the judges' responsibility to ask each exhibitor the age of their horse. Aged horses' conformation is to be scored with the effects of time, breeding and use, in mind. The "Perfect" horse is very rare and a Judge's evaluation is intended to be an honest appraisal of the animal on that day.

The horse will be led to the judge at the walk and then setup for inspection. Then the horse is to be trotted away from judges. Judge may ask for additional movement if desired. Aged horses' conformation is to be

scored with the effects of time, use, and breeding (as for a broodmare or pasture breeding stallion) taken into consideration.

- A) Saddle marks or blemishes caused by an injury and not related to a conformational defect, shall not be penalized.
- B) Spavins, wind puffs, splints, etc... That are reflective of a conformational defect shall be penalized under either of the following scored components. 1. Movement and travel (if the horse has caused this injury due to it's way of going). 2. Substance of bone and foot (if the horse appears to have broken down or become lame due to lack of either).

Horses are considered correct if they exhibit the following criteria.

BREED CHARACTERISTICS

The following are breed characteristics that set the Bulldog Foundation Quarter Horse apart from his fellow equines:

- A) Low center of gravity - length of legs not exceeding the depth of heartgirth (top of withers to bottom of heartgirth).
- B) Front legs set well under the horse - not coming out at front of chest.
- C) Heavy muscling, especially in the stifle, gaskin, and forearm.
- D) Moderate length of neck. The neck is of moderate thickness with a clean throat latch and ties high into the chest.
- E) Sturdy bone and foot, sized to provide adequate support for the heavy horse.
- F) Deep 'V' between front legs.
- G) Short cannon bones.
- H) Hocks set low to the ground.
- I) Short head with large "bulldog" jaw, small to medium ears, wide between the eyes, with a refined muzzle and shallow mouth.
- J) The ideal Foundation Quarter Horse stands between 14.2 and 15.2 hands.
- K) Quiet, willing, intelligent disposition.
- L) The Foundation Quarter Horse should present a picture of a compact 'power house' of a horse.

The above breed characteristics were what set the original "Bulldog" or "Steel Dust" as they were referred to in the early part of the twentieth century, apart from other equine breeds. All of these attributes combined to form a durable horse able to stop and turn on a dime, with blazing short speed from a dead stop, and perfectly suited to short races, cow work, and just about anything required of a using, working and pleasure horse. It was to preserve these special attributes that Robert Denhardt originally formed the American Quarter Horse Association.

WORKING CONDITION

A horse in working condition is well muscled and not too thin nor too fat. The muscles should be type of muscle developed by loping and trotting, not by being put on a treadmill. This is the same as the difference between a body builder/weight lifter's physique and a football quarterback's physique - or - the difference between a modern reining horse and a modern halter horse. The horse should appear physically capable of putting in a long hard day on a cattle ranch.

MOVEMENT

Movement should be free, ground covering, and smooth with good length of stride (extension from shoulder). Complete freedom of movement with excellent extension is one indicator of a horse in good

working condition. When moving forward there should be no signs of paddling, interference, or stiffness.

WELL BALANCED, meaning the muscling in the forequarters is equal to the muscling in the hindquarters. The length of legs should be equal to the depth of heart girth (top of withers to bottom of barrel). The horses neck should be moderate. The back should be equal to or shorter than the neck. When divided into three segments (front 1/3, middle 1/3 and back 1/3) all three portions should be of equal length.

VIEWED FROM THE SIDE

HEAD: Refinement of head is desirable. The eyes should be large, kind, and set low, with plenty of width between the eyes and between ears. The nostrils should be large and set low. A shallow to moderate mouth is preferred. Small to medium ears, set on top of head rather than off to the sides. The jaw should be the large 'bulldog' Quarter Horse jaw.

NECK: The neck should be at least as long as the head or longer, but should not be excessively long. It should gracefully curve into the head and be roomy yet clean at the throat latch. It should flow smoothly into a long sloping well muscled shoulder. The ideal shoulder angle is 45 degrees.

LEGS: Legs should emerge from the shoulders well forward of the cinch, but back from front of chest. The legs should come straight down from the body and be set squarely well back under the animal. All joints should be clean, without puffiness and show great substance and strength. Legs should exhibit adequate bone to support the heavy muscled Foundation Quarter Horse. The pasterns should have adequate length and slope to absorb shock and provide a smooth ride, yet not as long or as sloped as most other breeds. The foot should be round, roomy and open at the heel. Hooves should be of good size without causing the animal to appear clumsy. The forearm of the front legs and gaskin of the hind legs should be long to medium in length and well muscled, while the cannon should be short and clean. Muscling should carry well down toward the knee or hock, but tie in above the joint. If the muscle ties in too close to the joint problems with stiffness and thorough pins are much more likely. Hocks should be set low.

WITHERS: The withers should be easily visible, but not too high.

HEART GIRTH: A deep heart girth is very important, indicating adequate lung capacity, and should be as deep (from top to bottom) as the length of the legs. The deep heart girth also lowers the center of gravity making the cow horse more 'handy'.

BACK: The back should be short, strong and provide adequate muscling along each side of the spine. Loins should be well muscled and the croup of good length yet round and powerful.

TAIL SET: The tail set should not be too low or too high, but lower is preferable to a high set 'arab' tail. There should be ample length from the point of the hip to buttocks, and also from point of hip to the hocks.

UNDERLINE: The underline should be long and slope slightly up to the flanks, but should not give the appearance of the animal being pinched up at the flanks.

VIEWED FROM THE FRONT

HEAD: Good width between the eyes and between the ears.

CHEST: The chest should be wide but not muscle-bound and cumbersome. The space between the fore leg should form a V shape.

LEGS: The arm should be heavily muscled inside and out. A line drawn straight down from the point of the shoulder should bisect the center of the knee, fetlock joint, and hoof. When moved forward there should be no signs of paddling, or dishing in.

VIEWED FROM THE REAR

HINDQUARTERS: The widest point of the hindquarters should be at the stifle, which gives a pear shaped appearance. The hips should never be the widest point.

LEGS: The gaskin should exhibit a great deal of muscling with equal amounts both inside and out. A line drawn from the point of the buttocks should bisect the hocks, cannon bones, fetlocks and heel. The hocks should be set low, not turn out, and the animal should track straight as it moves away. **SLIGHTLY cowhocked shall not be marked down in view of the fact many working ranch horses are slightly cowhocked and this conformation is considered desirable by many performance trainers.**

IN-HAND BREED SCORING

The horses are to be led at a walk to the judge, set up for a (maximum) 2 minute inspection, then trot away from judge. Judge may ask for additional movement. Scoring is to be done before looking at the next horse.

A) Scoring is to be from 0 to 10 for each of the following categories:

1. General appearance and breed characteristics	0 - 10
2. Head & bulldog jaw	0 - 10
3. Moderate neck and withers with correct tie in	0 - 10
4. Correct shoulder and hip angles	0 - 10
3. Muscling & vee in chest	0 - 10
5. Correct front legs set well back	0 - 10
6. Correct hind legs with low hocks	0 - 10
7. Depth of heart girth- as deep as leg length	0 - 10
9. Free movement - extension from shoulder	0 - 10
10. Correct trot	0 - 10
11. Correct walk	0 - 10
11. Working Condition	0 OR 10

DEFINITIONS

*Symmetrical and asymmetrical leg deformities; these deformities, however slight, that affect one or both front or hind legs: toe in, toe out, sickle hocked, post legged, bench kneed, calf kneed, etc.

*Mouth deformities; overbite, underbite.

*Poor Movement; paddling, forging (striking fore foot with hind foot) rolling hocks, short strides either on both or only one side, one side of hoof striking ground before the other (not hitting level), etc.