



RESOURCE handbook

AND

BREED STANDARDS



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# INTRODUCTION TO THE AGHS RESOURCE BOOK

Welcome to the Australasian Gypsy Horse Society's Resource Handbook. This book is intended to be a guide for all Members of the AGHS on the Breed Standards and Registration Requirements for the Gypsy Cob. The Drum Horse breed standard is included within, however a separate Drum Horse Resource Handbook will be produced pending the finalisation of the rule changes specific to the breed.

Also included in this book is a brief overview of basic horse care and how to prepare the Gypsy Cob for show, including what the Judge may expect from your workout.

As always, the AGHS committee is at your disposal should you have any further questions regarding the Society's Breed Standards or Requirements. Please refer to our contact details on the back cover.



# Brief history of the Gypsy Cob

The Gypsy cob originated from the horses that were used to pull the Gypsy (or Romani) wagons. What is not commonly known is just how recent the emergence of the type of animal we associate with the Gypsy Cob is. While the Romani have always used a mix of draft and pony breeds to draw their wagons before the second world war you were far more likely to see horses of the type pictured below than our stereotypical modern Cob.



The Gypsies coming to town

During the first World War the British Government requisitioned horses nationwide with their owners given little choice or recompense. The only horses not taken were Pintos, as their coats made an easy target in a charge. The Romani were not blind to this trend, and by the start of the second World War the

vast majority of their horses were Pintos, allowing them to retain their wagon horse and therefore their livelihood and method of transport.

It is this very adaptation to circumstance that brought about the Cob as we know it today. Moving into modern times, the ‘traveller’ Romani began to settle, and caravans began to replace the wagons. When it became obvious that they no longer needed a horse capable of consistent heavy work they realised that it was also no longer necessary to have a horse quite so large. The introduction of these smaller, Pinto Cobs began to garner outside interest in the early 1980’s and soon there was a market for these quiet, willing partners as riding horses and companion ponies. As this trend surged through the 1990’s and into the 2000’s with the Gypsy Cob’s introduction to the United States, the population of Gypsy Cobs in England likewise exploded. Combining the international demand with the lack of need for a wagon horse the smaller cob became cemented in the type - along with the established Pinto colouring and the emerging importance placed on abundant feather, mane and tail. This is how we have today reached the Breed Standard you will find on the following pages, which in turn follows the established international conventions.



Heron Family Vardo, Brough, 1911

# Gypsy Cob BREED STANDARD

“The Traditional Gypsy Horse will have heavy, flat bone. His body must be comparatively short. He will have a thick neck and a sloping shoulder, which should tie in well down his back. He should have a wide and powerful chest. His hindquarters should be round and large. He should sport a very thick mane and tail. His feet should be covered with a profuse amount of long hair or feather. This should start behind the knee or hock and fall to the ground and be on both the front and back of the leg. Feather can be noted as curly, woolly or straight and silky within the breed. Many prefer straight, silky feather but it is not usually demanded. What is demanded is that there is 'profuse Feather' which covers the hoof.”

## **Size**

The Gypsy can be

- ♦ of any size and may be of the pony, cob or horse variety.
- ♦ Generally speaking gypsy cobs range between 13 and 15.1 hands.

## **General Appearance**

The overall appearance of a Gypsy Cob should

- ♦ Give an impression of intelligence, kindness, strength and soundness.
- ♦ be of good bone, either medium or heavy weight,
- ♦ be well muscled, with a sturdy body, kind expression and abundant hair.

## **Head**

The Head should

- ♦ Be sweet and more refined than a Shire might have
- ♦ Be in proportion to the overall body
- ♦ Have a broad forehead
- ♦ Have a generous jaw, square muzzle and even bite
- ♦ Have a flat or tapered nose. A heavy roman nose is discouraged (a slightly roman nose is acceptable if it goes with the overall look of the animal)
- ♦ Ears in proportion to the head and not too large
- ♦ Have eyes that are large and set well apart with an intelligent, kind expression

## **Neck**

The neck should be

- ♦ slightly arched
- ♦ well muscled
- ♦ clean through the throat
- ♦ not too short and
- ♦ tie in well at the shoulder and withers.

## **Chest**

The chest should be broad and powerful with well sprung ribs.

## **Shoulders**

The shoulders should be deep, powerful and well sloped.

## **Withers**

The withers should be

- ♦ Well rounded
- ♦ Not high and fine (i.e. hardly noticeable)

## **Back**

The back should

- ♦ Short coupled
- ♦ Have ample muscle sloping slightly upwards towards the croup
- ♦ Be in proportion to the rest of the overall body

## **Body**

The barrel should

- ♦ Be deep with well-sprung ribs
- ♦ Have a solid covering of muscle
- ♦ Have a flank as deep as the girth

## **Legs**

The legs should

- ♦ Be set well under the body,
- ♦ Be straight, clean and with plenty of dense, flat bone,
- ♦ Have medium well-shaped hooves capable of carrying the frame without stress.



- ♦ Hocks should be broad and clean with the modified closer hock-set of a pulling horse, but not as close as the modern draught horse

## **Hindquarters**

The hindquarters should

- ♦ Be heavy with a well-rounded, muscled croup tying into powerful hips
- ♦ Not be slab sided or have severely sloping hindquarters

## **Hair**

The hair should

- ♦ Be thick and luxuriant (Double manes are common but not required)
- ♦ Have abundant leg feathering starting at the knee and hock and run down the front and back of the leg (though silky, straight feather is preferred, curly or wavy is acceptable)
- ♦ Most importantly the feather should cover the hooves all the way around
- ♦ Be abundant in the tail and not set too low

## **Colour**

Gypsy Cobs may

- ♦ Be either solid or coloured.
- ♦ Have blue eyes

## Disposition

The Gypsy Cob should be, above all else,

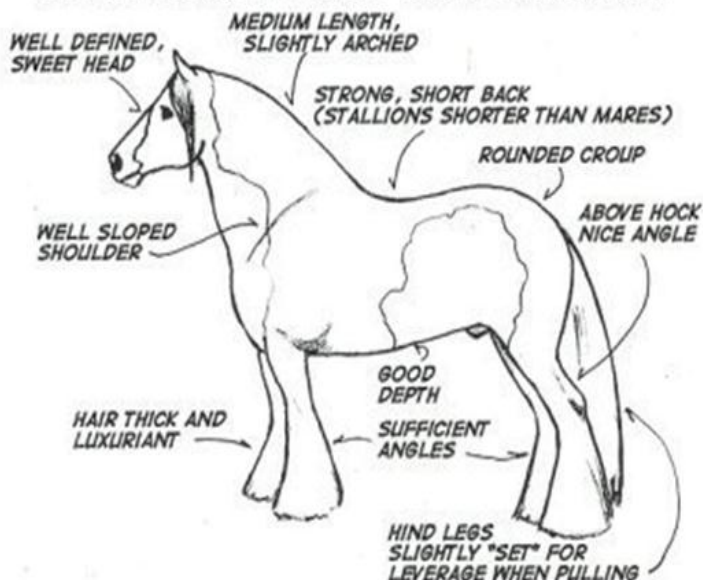
- ♦ A kind and willing partner
- ♦ Display an intelligent character
- ♦ Display a docile temperament



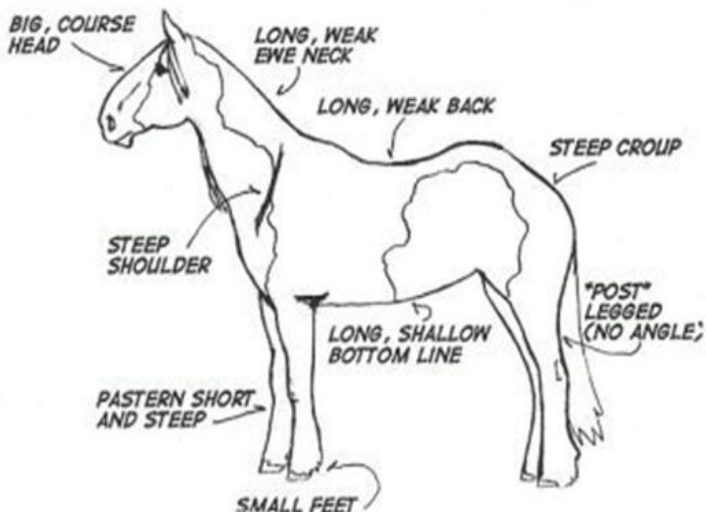
Examples of a heavier cob (The Lion King), above  
and a more refined cob (VV Taskin), below



## GYPSY HORSE-GOOD CONFORMATION



## GYPSY HORSE-MOST COMMON FAULTS



# Gypsy Cob REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

4 Photos

(posed as per page 38)

DNA Accession Number

(DNA analysis is available through the society at a cost of \$40 per horse. If DNA has previously been done a copy of this can be forwarded with registration application. No certificate will be issued without the DNA analysis)

A Certificate of Breeding (stallion service certificate) is required for foals.

If the horse is imported, attach a copy of Passport and/or Importation Documents with date of arrival

Microchip number or brand



*Katy Driver '12*

# DRUM HORSE BREED STANDARD

*Below is the Breed Standard for the AGHS Drum Horse. Further information on the registration requirements, showing and care will be provided in a separate resource book to be published at a later date.*

The purpose of the Drum Horse Standard is to help develop the quintessential heavy riding and driving horse utilising the bloodlines of the Gypsy Cob, Shire, and Clydesdale horses. The ideal Drum Horse displays the calm disposition, heavy bone, profuse feathering and parade animal presence of the Drum Horses in use by HRH The Queen of England's Cavalry. Animals adhering to this standard will also maintain the agility, movement and athleticism to ensure they can excel at a variety of ridden and driven disciplines.



## **Size**

Minimum 16hh and upwards. Horses under 16hh will be registered in the Foundation Drum Section.

## **General Appearance**

The Drum Horse should

- ♦ Give the impression of intelligence, kindness, strength and agility.
- ♦ Be a large well-muscled horse of either medium weight or heavy weight
- ♦ Possess good quality bone, a sturdy body, kind expression and abundant hair.
- ♦ Display the athleticism to allow for a pleasant day of hunting, hacking or other ridden discipline. The AGHS Drum Horse is considered a heavy riding horse and should also excel at driving.

## **Head**

The head should

- ♦ Be in proportion to the body neither too large nor too small
- ♦ Have a broad forehead,
- ♦ Have a generous jaw, square muzzle and even bite.
- ♦ Have ears that are cleanly shaped and well set on.
- ♦ The eyes should be large and set well apart with an intelligent, kind expression. Eyes can be any color, and blue eyes shall not be penalised.

- ♦ Have a convex or straight profile, both of which are acceptable
- ♦ Have a masculine appearance to the head if they are a stallion or gelding
- ♦ Have a more feminine appearance for a mare

## **Neck**

The neck should

- ♦ Be substantial and well-muscled with a defined arch
- ♦ Be clean through the throat, not too short, and tie in well at the shoulder and withers
- ♦ exhibit a masculine crest in proper relationship to the size and thickness of the neck in the case of a stallion

## **Chest**

The chest should be

- ♦ Broad
- ♦ Significantly muscled

## **Shoulders**

The shoulders should be

- ♦ Deep
- ♦ Powerful
- ♦ Of a correct slope to allow for ample, free movement



## **Withers**

Withers should

- ♦ Be average in height, not too high
- ♦ Possess a generous layer of muscle

## **Back**

The back should be

- ♦ Short
- ♦ Supple
- ♦ Well muscled
- ♦ Tied in strongly at the loin

## **Body**

The barrel should

- ♦ Be deep with well sprung ribs
- ♦ Have a solid covering of muscle
- ♦ Have a flank as deep as the girth
- ♦ Have a strong loin that ties into the croup with a smooth, well muscled appearance

## **Legs**

The legs should

- ♦ Be set squarely under the body

- ◆ Straight
- ◆ Have clean joints
- ◆ Have plenty of dense, flat bone
- ◆ Have well muscled forearms and thighs
- ◆ Have clean and well defined hocks on the hind legs that are broad, deep, flat and wide when viewed from the side
- ◆ Have pasterns long enough to allow for a proper slope of about 45 degrees from the hoof head to the fetlock joint
- ◆ Have sound hooves
- ◆ Have a generous and open heel

The Drum Horse may or may not exhibit the influence of the draught horse hock-set.



## **Hindquarters**

Hindquarters should

- ♦ Be smooth and rounded across a long croup
- ♦ Have a medium to high tail set
- ♦ Have a long hip with wide pelvis
- ♦ Have well muscled thighs and buttocks

## **Hair**

The hair should

- ♦ Be long and thick
- ♦ Abundant
- ♦ Start at the knees and hocks, preferably with some feather running down the front of the leg as well as the back
- ♦ Be soft and silky in the feather
- ♦ Be either straight or curling feather, and should cover the hoof

Docking of tails is not permissible without a veterinary certificate.

## **Colour**

Drum Horses may be any colour, either Pinto, Overo or Solid. Blue eyes are acceptable.

## **Movement**

When in motion, the ideal Drum Horse should move with

- ♦ Action, power, grace and agility
- ♦ Head carriage and collection that appears natural, not overly exaggerated or forced
- ♦ Free, straight and square movement with ample impulsion
- ♦ Knee action that is somewhat snappy but displays a long, free moving shoulder which should allow the ability to reach forward in a classic extension
- ♦ The appearance of being up under itself with a smooth, powerful stride and should be light on the forehand

## **Disposition**

The Drum Horse should be, above all else,

- ♦ a kind and willing partner
- ♦ Display an intelligent character and docile temperament
- ♦ Display a calm and sensible attitude.



# partbred Gypsy Cobs

A Partbred Gypsy Cob is a horse derived from Gypsy bloodlines and those of another breed or mix of breeds. Ideally, the progeny will display desirable characteristics and qualities of both the Gypsy Cob and the other breed(s).

In order to be registered with the AGHS as a Partbred Gypsy, a horse must trace one side of its bloodlines to that of a Gypsy Cob registered with any recognized society.

A horse may hold only one registration with the AGHS, either as

- ♦ A Gypsy Cob,
- ♦ A Drum Horse, or
- ♦ Within the Partbred sections.

Horses not eligible for registration as a Gypsy Cob or Drum Horse may be eligible for registration as a Partbred.

Many Partbred Gypsy's are also eligible for multiple breed registrations. For example as part APSB or Part Welsh etc. Dual registration will depend on the criteria established by those individual breed societies. Many Part Bred Gypsy's may also be eligible for registration with specific colour registries, such as the Pinto Horse Society, Palomino, Buckskin and Sportaloosa etc.



# partbred Gypsy Cob

## REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

The Partbred must trace one side of it's bloodlines to a purebred Gypsy Cob

Registrations will be accepted down to 25% Gypsy Cob

Pedigree of horse

Photos of horse as described on page 38

Microchip number or brand

DNA is not required



# show preparation

Show preparation ideally starts months before your first scheduled show date.

If your horse isn't in 'show condition' it will take at least two months to notice any weight gain or improvement of coat resulting from a change of diet. Horses may also be overweight which can be considered unacceptable to a judge. As is always the case it is best to maintain a balanced diet for your horse combined with moderate exercise and a good worming program. If you are unsure of what your particular horse requires nutritionally it is best to consult your vet or a nutritionist.

Closer to the show date your horse should be in suitable body condition and it is time to consider the smaller details.

Have your horse's hooves attended to - trim them, tidy them, clean them or have them shod, whatever your preference. Bare-foot or shod hooves are both acceptable.

Washing the horse may take many hours, it is important to allow enough time to complete it, a rushed job will be noticeable. Ideally it is recommended to wash the horse several times, starting up to a week before the show. There are many products on the market suitable for washing horses including products that help 'whiten' feather or white coats. These products are frequently purple-based shampoos and may require time to soak – please read the instructions carefully as leaving these products on too long may result in you parading a purple horse! One of the cheapest products to use is old-fashioned Sunlight Soap with plenty of warm water and a brush. The mane, tail, forelock and feather need extra attention, as they can be very thick and long. After shampooing use conditioner and give a final rinse. This should make brushing out the long hair a bit easier. Conditioning also helps prevent dust and dirt from sticking to the hair and the feather and they usually brush clean





## PREPARING FEATHER FOR SHOW

Feather is frequently the bane of Gypsy Cob breeders when showing. It is prone to grass stain, which can appear as red staining around the ends of the hairs, manure stain and urine staining, especially with mares. This is extremely difficult to remove and can take multiple washes and a lot of elbow grease!

## PREPARING THE MANE AND TAIL FOR SHOW

The mane and tail can be plaited in the days, weeks or months leading up to a show to help keep them clean.

The horse can be rugged with an appropriate winter or summer rug to ensure the mane and tail has as little exposure to the elements as possible. It is important the rug is clean or it may actually stain the hair.

## Final preparations on the day

On the morning of the show, if you have enough time, you may choose to wash the horse again. It is important to remember that the feather, once wet, will take hours to dry sufficiently enough to be shown. This process can be sped up by towel drying, but it is best if time is short to avoid wetting the feather, mane and tail as much as is possible. Spot washing is important at all shows, and it is as simple as using a sponge and brush for a final touch-up. Once the horse is dry give the horse a thorough brush, brushing out the mane, tail and feather. Also clean any manure or stones out of the hoof as most judges may pick up the horse's hoof to assess the conformation and size of it as well as feeling for joint problems or any unsoundness.

As a final note, remember to brush the horse's head once you've replaced the halter with the show halter or bridle to ensure the hair sits nicely around the straps.

## Presentation

Show standards for Gypsy Cobs are different in every country.

In Australia you may choose to decorate your horse with plaits or ribbons for 'Ridden' or 'Best Presented' classes, but generally they are shown 'naturally'.

Horses entered in Led classes should be shown in their natural condition, which by definition means the mane and tail flowing freely without plaiting or braiding.

Trimming is to be kept to a minimum; trimming of jaw line and ears are permissible, as long as it is not too severe. See below for examples of a well-trimmed and an untrimmed horse.



Trimmed



Untrimmed

You may choose a halter or bridle of any discipline, for example English or Western style, and dress in the appropriate style for that discipline.

Stallions over two years old *must* wear a bridle and bit. Ideally a Liverpool bit is used in a driving class or a Wilson bit, (a jointed snaffle with double rings on the end) for a Led class. A stallion roller is optional.

If you are showing in a 'Heavy Horse' class and are being judged by a Shire or Clydesdale judge, he or she may ask you to hold the tail to one side so that the hocks are visible for inspection.

# The Show Day Workout

In each Led class the judge or the steward will instruct you on how the horse should be paraded. A common workout generally consists of walking into the arena and parading with other entries in an anticlockwise (or less commonly a clockwise) circle until he/she asks for the entrants to line up.

When parading your horse in front of the judge, walk briskly - you need to make your horse appear very lively at the walk. Strolling along makes it disinteresting for the judge and spectators alike.

If a Shire, Clydesdale or Gypsy Cob judge is judging you, be prepared for them to be very 'hands-on'. A heavy horse judge often feels above the coronet of the hoof and picks up the horses hooves to see the size and shape of the hoof, as a sound hoof is very important in a working horse. It is important that the judge feels safe during these inspections at all times and it is wise to train your horse to stand quietly for such handling.

In addition to a normal workout you may be asked to back your horse a number of steps, walk the horse in a tight circle, workout side by side with another horse or do an extended workout or a shortened workout – which is sometimes used in broodmare classes.

Essentially the judge will decide how much or how little you do, but a generalised workout would include a walk and trot as well as a possible 'hands on' inspection of the legs and hooves.

On the following pages we've provided a run through of what you can expect in the show ring.

After the Steward calls the Competitor's in the class into the ring the horses circle until the judge calls for a halt and will direct the horses to line up. The judge will then examine your horse standing square. It is important to make sure your horse stands as close to square as is possible during this stage. After all the hard work of bathing, brushing and preparing the horse it is important you allow the judge a full, uninterrupted view of your horse and all your hard work. If the judge is looking from the front of the horse, take a step away from the horse and hold the lead at arm's length so the judge has a full view.



If the judge is looking from the near or off side, place yourself at the horse's nose looking towards the horse so that you don't obscure the judge's view of the animal, as shown below.



During the workout you also must have the horse in view of the judge at all times - they are judging the horse, not the handler.

Once the judge has examined your animal to his satisfaction he will then direct you to begin a workout and explain what he requires. This will generally consist of a walk, followed by a trot and another walk. Once you have completed your workout the judge may request further demonstrations from your horse such as a backing them up or a turning them in a tight circle. If no further workout is requested, or once you have finished your second workout, return to your place in the line and ensure your horse stands quietly and attentively. This will not only show off your horse's temperament but will also be more than helpful if the judge should look back to compare your horse with another. The judge may also choose to re-assess the horses after the workouts have been completed.

Once the judge has reached a decision you will either be called forward in order from the first place getter to the last, or the judge will walk to the line up to present the ribbons. In either case, if you have not received a ribbon you will be required to stand in place until the last ribbon is presented. If you have received a ribbon, shake the hand of the judge and thank him. It is also considered good manners to congratulate the other placegetters in the class.



# SHOW RING ETIQUETTE

Whilst in the show ring it is important to look professional at all times. While your horse is standing in line be sure that it is standing squarely and that you are standing tall and paying attention. You never know when the judge might look back to compare your horse with another, or if a spectator or a professional photographer might be taking a photo.

Know the details of the horse you are presenting. The judge may ask its age and if the horse is quiet enough for them to pick up its hooves or feel the feather. However, do not speak to a judge unless spoken to.

Do not leave the ring until the judge has finished presenting the last ribbon and talking to the exhibitor. The order of exiting the show ring is always first to last.

Winners of each class will usually compete in a Champion class for the Best or Champion of the Breed which may then be eligible for the Supreme Champion of the Show.

Depending on the show program, there may be an overall Champion and Reserve Champion of the Breed or a Champion Mare/Filly and Champion Stallion/Colt.

If a horse is awarded Champion, the second placegetter in the class may be called in to be judged against the other first placegetters in other classes for Reserve Champion.

You may be asked by the Steward to parade your horse in front of the grandstand after presentation of Champion or Supreme Champion classes.

# BASIC HORSE CARE

## Feeding

Mature horses will need between 1.5% and 2.5% of their bodyweight in dry matter (hay or chaff) per day <sup>1</sup>. Growing horses may need up to 3%. The Gypsy horse is very efficient at processing food to energy and therefore may gain weight easily. It is wise to keep this in mind when choosing hay - a lot of grassy hay for example, would be a better forage choice than prime Lucerne. Grassy hay (or un-bearded barley, or wheat etc) will take longer to consume therefor ensuring the gut is working longer and gaining more nutrients from the feed.

It is important to be aware that some subtropical and some coastal grasses may lack some important minerals. Other grasses, such as *Setaria* (*Setaria sphacelata* var. *sericea*) may contain high levels of oxalates that inhibit the uptake of calcium. If you are unsure of the grasses in your paddock, contact the Department of Primary Industries for identification booklets. Horses in areas containing these grasses may need to be supplemented with mineral blocks or feed additives.

When adding any new feed to your horse's diet, introduce it slowly over the course of 7-10 days. This will allow the gut flora to adapt to a new food source and minimise the risk of Colic.

Always give your horse easy access to fresh, clean water - they can consume from 30 to 50 litres per day.

To avoid contamination by bats or birds, provide both the feed and water in an undercover area or if one is unavailable, in an open area as far as possible from any trees. Also feed as close to the ground as possible to ensure even wear of the teeth.

<sup>1</sup> 2009, *Basic Nutrition for Horses*, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Accessed 17 March, 2012, <<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Attachments/LBUN-7XU76J?open>>



## **Laminitis or Founder**

Laminitis occurs in overweight horses and horses that have access to new pasture with high carbohydrate levels and low mineral levels. It is a painful hoof condition that can progress to become untreatable.

If your horse appears lame, uncomfortable or stands in water for long periods consult your vet immediately.

## **Hoof Care**

A Farrier should trim your horse's hooves every 6-8 weeks. Picking out the hooves regularly will allow you an opportunity to check for thrush and other hoof problems. A healthy hoof will have no cracks, a thick hoof wall, and no spreading or flaring. Most importantly there should be no 'yeasty' smell which could indicate the presence of thrush.

If the horse is being ridden regularly on rough or rocky ground shoes may be an option you wish to consider, or 'Mac' boots are also becoming popular as an alternative to shoeing. These are essentially an adjustable rubber boot worn on the hooves when riding.

## **Teeth**

Teeth should be typically be checked by an Equine Dentist every 12 months, with horses under 5 years of age or being fed grain checked more frequently. Your Equine Dentist can advise you about your horse's individual requirements.

## **Vaccination**

Veterinary advice should be sought regarding vaccination against Tetanus, Viral Respiratory Disease, Strangles and Hendra. Standard vaccination starts at 3 months of age with a course of 3 Tetanus and Strangles vaccines that are then refreshed by the yearly booster.

# Body Condition

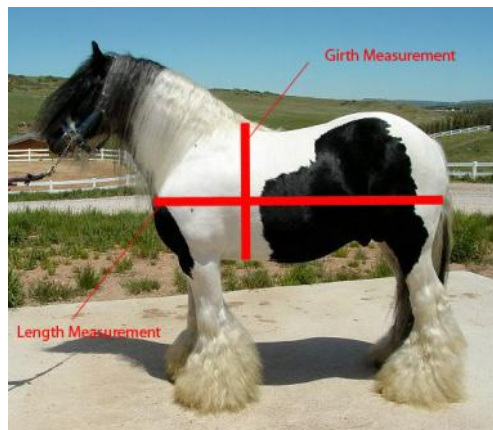
Obviously it's not ideal to allow your horse to become too fat or too thin, and 'guesstimating' a horse's weight can be difficult. People's perception of ideal weight can vary, so vets, horse nutritionists and horse owners typically use a universal body scoring system developed by researchers at the Texas A&M University, USA (Henneke et al. 1983).

Scores start at 1 for poor to 9 for extremely fat. A refined version of 1-5 may also be used. It is a relatively simple procedure to work out where on the scale your horse sits. Once you have this assessed it becomes an invaluable tool for the purpose of administering medication or calculating feed requirements; it can even help to make sure you don't go over your legal towing limits!

To start with, measure the length of the horse in centimeters from the front most protruding part of the chest to the point of the buttock in a straight line. Then measure the heart or girth circumference, also in centimetres. To do this at the right area place the tape behind the wither and around the girth to just behind the front legs.

The weight is then calculated using the following equation :

$$\text{Girth}^2 \times \text{Length} / 11000 = \text{weight in Kilograms}$$



## De- worming

De-worming horses prevents a worm burden building up in the intestine and other organs which can lead to various health complications. De-worming should be done every 6-8 weeks, depending on the conditions the horse is kept in, the age of the horse and, more importantly, based on faecal egg counts.

A faecal egg count can be performed at any vet by providing them with a small, fresh manure sample. Alternatively, kits are available on line and can be examined using any basic microscope.

Reducing the amount of manure in the paddocks will also in turn reduce the worm burden of that paddock by breaking the life cycle of the parasite.

An accurate weight is important so you can dose the horse correctly. There are wide safety margins on all commercial de-wormers so, if in doubt, over dose the horse rather than risk under dosing and creating a resistance to the drugs by the worm. Under dosing horses over the last 10-20 years has caused many worms to become resistant to de-worming drugs. If you are using a liquid de-wormer, which are dosed in very small quantities, be sure to draw up the correct amount rounding up to the nearest 50kg measurement.

***Remember to rotate the ingredients of the de-wormer and not the brand name!***

The main ingredients in popular de-wormers are:

Benzimidazoles

(including fenbendazole and oxfendazole)

Macrocyclic lactones

(also known as Ivermectin, abamectin and moxidectin)

Praziquantel and Pyrantel

# SKIN CARE AND CONDITIONS

## Care of Feather

Amazing feather doesn't just happen in Australia. Abundant, soft, silky feather is the result of regular maintenance and attention.

Application of oil is one of the most popular forms of protection for feather. This can be applied twice weekly, weekly or as often as time allows for you. Also consider the paddock conditions of the horse. A horse kept in a paddock with a dam or with mud will require more protection than one that is in a heavily grassed paddock. Pig Oil mixed with Sulphur is popular in the UK, however it is unavailable in Australia. An alternative is Coconut Oil which absorbs better than the mineral oils. The Sulphur helps to keep skin problems on the legs under control. For detailed instructions on application a helpful link is provided below.

<http://www.wolfmanorestate.com/PreventingScratches.html>

## Queensland Itch

Queensland Itch is the nemesis of any Gypsy breeder north of the QLD/NSW border, and a fair few just south of it. The Itch is generally thought to be an allergy to the *culicoides* species of midge, with the resultant scratching introducing bacterial infections to the skin as a secondary complication.

Management of Itch includes reducing the opportunity for the insects to bite, by stabling the horses in fly-screened stables or stables with fans during dusk and dawn when the insect activity is at its peak. Where this is not possible it is advised to rug the horse, apply insect repellents and reduce or eliminate pools of stagnant water around the property. Applying medicated washes or creams to the affected areas to soothe or reduce the itch can help manage the problem. Ensure that no products are applied

## **Greasy Heel**

Heavily feathered breeds can also suffer from Greasy Heel or Mud Fever. This is a skin condition mainly found behind the pasterns or on the lower legs. Sores develop which exude a thick serous fluid that hardens into lumps on the hairs and also forms thick hard scabs on the sores.

The exact cause is unknown but it may be related to bacteria living in the moist conditions in the thick hair, or a complication of sunburn on the sensitive skin. There are many remedies including Sulphur and Oil applied to the area, medicated washes and creams but there is no known cure.

## **Mites**

Feathered breeds are also more susceptible to Mites. Mites burrow into the skin, mainly on the lower legs, and cause itching and discomfort. This can lead to red, raw and bleeding areas of skin from the horse scratching. The horse will usually stamp it's feet and try and rub it's legs on posts, feed containers, trees or whatever is available. Ask your vet to do a skin scraping to diagnose an infestation. If Mites are the cause, the vet will advise the best treatment.



# how to take photos for registration

Every Horse Registration or Recording Application with the AGHS must be accompanied by a set of 5 photos.

All 5 photos must be of the horse applying for registration standing square with one photo each showing -

- ◆ The Full Front View
- ◆ The Full Rear View
- ◆ The Full Near Side View and
- ◆ The Full Off Side View

Photos must include horses' body from ears to the ground, with the head up and no mane or tail covering the side of the body or face in the photo. The tail can be plaited or pulled to the side. Please submit one photo of the mane hanging naturally for identification purposes.

One photo is used on the Registration or Foal Recording Certificate and the other photos are kept on file for reference.

You may have trouble taking posed photos of foals, and we therefore make allowances. Also for Foal Recordings, the tail doesn't have to be pulled aside or plaited. You are also able to resubmit photos when they are older.

You must write your name and the horses name on the back of each photo, unless the photos are submitted electronically via email to the registrar.

**Any photos showing signs of graphic enhancements  
will be rejected.**

## The following pages show examples of correct Registration Photos



This photo shows the horse

- ◆ Standing square
- ◆ With the mane and forelock moved to allow a full view of the head and neck
- ◆ With the tail likewise not interfering with the viewing of the back legs.



The horse is facing directly towards camera and the forelock has been moved to ensure the entire face is visible

The horse is standing almost square and tail has been moved to ensure the back legs are fully visible. It is also possible to plait the tail and have it hang between the legs should you wish.







This photo shows the horse standing square with the mane and forelock moved to allow a full view of the head and neck while ensuring the tail is likewise not interfering with the viewing of the back legs.

### **Photo Tips :**

To show your horse at it's best it is wise to ensure they are standing on level ground. This prevents the impression of your horse 'standing under' or being 'camped out'.

Crouch a little when holding the camera, as this brings the horse up in the frame and gives a visual impression of the horse being balanced within the frame

## Examples of undesirable photos and poses for registration purposes

This photos has been digitally edited and would be unacceptable



Horse not straight , forelock covering face and feet out of frame

Tail covering legs





Background too dark and  
mane covering neck

Standing angled towards  
camera, mane covering neck  
and not standing square



Standing angled away from  
camera, tail covering legs ,  
head down and mane  
covering neck

Mane covering neck and  
not standing square



# Website

[www.gypsyhorsesociety.com.au](http://www.gypsyhorsesociety.com.au)

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