

Conformation of the American Saddle Horse



The conformation of the ideal American Saddlebred is well-proportioned with the overall picture in mind. The average height is 15—16 hands and the weight between 450—600 kg. Any color is accepted in the breed but the most common colors are bay, brown, chestnut and black.

The personality of the bred combined with the conformation lends the Saddlebred to be suited for competition, recreation and pleasure.

The Head is well shaped with large, expressive eyes and gracefully shaped ears set closely together showing alertness. The face line is straight with a relative fine muzzle and large nostrils.

The Neck is long and arched.

Withers ~ well defined and prominent.

Shoulders sit deep and is sloping.

The Back is level with well sprung ribs.

The Croup sits level and a well carried tail comes out high.

The Legs Front legs is set well forward under the shoulder. The hind legs should form a line from the point of the buttock to the back edge of the cannon bone. The forearms and hindquarters are well muscled to the knees and hock. Legs are straight with broad flat bones, sharply defined tendons and sloping pasterns.

Hooves ~ Good and sound, open at the heel.

The American Saddlebred remains the ultimate showhorse. It's high stepping and elegant strides is graceful but also athletically charged for intense competition. In the showing the Saddlebred perform is four divisions: Five-Gaited, Three gaited, Fine Harness, Single Harness. These divisions can be showed by children, professionals and amateurs in either open classes or pleasure classes.



Photo's: Wind of War, TomCat & Pieter Hugo, Touch by an Angel & Eliska Jordaan



**American Saddle Horse
Society of South Africa**

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