Hippology

Introduction

Chapter 3:

Breeds
Shire:

*The Shire horse is a draft breed that originated in England.

*This breed comes many colors, but most prominently black, bay, and gray.

*Mares usually stand about 16 hands, and stallions about 17 hands.

*One distinguishing feature is that they have long white stockings with long hairs known as feathers.

*This breed is a very popular pulling horse. They were originally used for plowing and pulling the ale carts to the breweries, but now have many uses.

*Ideally this breed should have:
  - a long and lean head with large eyes
  - a long, arched, muscular, neck
  - a wide and deep shoulder and chest
  - a short, strong back
  - long, wide hindquarters
  - silky, and straight feathering, but not in excess

*Shires are known to at risk for developing chromic progressive lymphedema.

*Goliath, a Shire, held the Guinness Book of World Record’s record for tallest horse at 19.0 hans until his death in 2001. In 1848 a 21.2 hand horse named Mammoth was also thought to be a Shire.
Clydesdale:

*The Clydesdale is a draft breed that originated from Scotland, in that area named such.

*These horses are often bay in color with white markings (thought to be caused by sabino genetics) but can also come in roan, black, grey, and chestnut. They have extensive feathering that goes further up the legs than seen in Shires.

*Clydesdales stand about 16 to 18 hands, and weight about 1,800 to 2,000 pounds with some of the mature males surpassing these averages.

*The breed was originally used for agriculture and hauling and is still used for pulling purposes today, along with other varied uses.

*Ideally this breed should have:

-a straight or only slightly concaved facial structure with a broad forehead and wide muzzle

-an arched neck

-high withers

-sloped shoulders

-legs and hooves that are very well formed and strong

-an active gait with clearly lifted hooves, that demonstrates quality and power

-and overall should appear very well muscled and strong

*Clydesdales, like Shires, are also at a high risk for developing chronic progressive lymphedema.

*Some of the most famous Clydesdale horses are the Budweiser Clydesdales and those used as drum horses by the British Household Cavalry.
Gypsy Vanner:

*The Gypsy Vanner is a draft breed that originated in Great Britain and Ireland.

*In addition to Gypsy Vanner they are also known as the Gypsy Horse, the Irish Cob, the Colored Cob, the Gypsy Cob, and the Tinker Horse.

*This horse is commonly noted for its abundant leg feathering, and black and white piebald coloration, although technically Gypsy Vanners can be any color.

*Individual desired heights vary by country but on average Gypsy Vanners should stand about 13-16.2 hands tall.

*The Gypsy Vanner was bred by the Romanichal to pull the vardoes they lived and traveled in, but today have varied uses.

*Ideally this horse should have:

-silky, straight feathering. Wavy and coarseness are sometimes acceptable, but kinked hair is a fault.

-a straight face, notably more refined than most other drafts, with a flat, broad forehead

-a strong, muscular neck of medium length with a deep throat latch

-a broad, deep, well-muscled chest

-hardly noticeable withers that are well rounded and are not overly high or stand outish in any way.

-a shoulder angle ranging from 45 to 60 degrees.

-a short strong back, and topline that is half as long as the bottomline.

-well sprung ribs and a deep heart girth

*Like Shires and Clydesdales these horses are at high risk for chronic progressive lymphedema.

*These horses, like Clydesdales are also used as drum horses by the British Household Calavry.
Percheron:

*The Percheron is a draft horse that originated in France.

*Individual desired heights vary by country, but on average Percherons should stand between 15 and 19 inches.

*They are usually grey or black, but the American registry does allow for roan, bay, and chestnut.

*Percherons were originally bred to be war horses but over time they shifted to hauling and agricultural uses and today have various uses, but are especially noted for pulling.

*Between 1880 and 1920 French Percheron breeders shipped their horses all over the world including North America, South America, Australia, and South Africa. Horses in the original French registry today will bear a brand of an interwined “SP” which stands for Société Hippique Percheronne.

*Ideally these horses should have:

-a straight head with a broad forehead, large eyes, and small ears.

-a deep and wide, well- muscled chest

-long and level croup

-legs and feet are clean and heavily muscled

-their temperament should be alert, and proud, yet they should also have a good working disposition.

-Overall the horse should appear powerful and rugged

*They are considered easy keepers and can adapt to many climates and situations.


Fresian:

*The Fresian is a light draft horse that originates from the Freisland, Netherlands.

*It is sometimes also known as the Belgian Black in the UK.

*Fresians are usually black, but in extremely rare cases can also be chestnut, though they will not be allowed to be registered in most cases. They are also notable for their long wavy manes and tails, and black feathering.

*Fresians height may vary between 14.2 and 17 hands.

*Originally this horse was used as a war horse, most notably knights’ horses, but today are most widely known for their dressage work, pleasure riding, and driving.

*Ideally this breed should have:

- chiseled heads with short ears
- long, arched necks
- powerful, sloping shoulders
- compact, muscular bodies
- sloping hindquarters
- comparatively short, yet strong and correct limbs
- low-set tails

*These horses are typically described as having a ‘baroque’ body type. Today there are two distinct conformation ‘baroque’ types including the more robust, classical Fresian, and the more modern, sporty, finer boned Fresian.

*Some popular films that have featured Fresians are: Ladyhawke, Eragon, The Mask of Zorro, Alexander, The Chronicles of Narnia, For Greater Glory, Prince Caspian, The Wolfman, Clash of the Titans, and the 2011 remake of Conan the Barbarian.
Belgian:

*The Belgian is a draft breed that originated in Belgium.

*It is also known as the Belgian Heavy Horse, Brabancon, Brabant, Cheval de trait belge, Flemish, Belisch Trekpaard, Brabants Trekpaard, or Brabander.

*On average Belgians are usually a light chestnut or sorrel color with a flaxen mane and tail, weight about 2,000 pounds, and stand at around 19 hands tall.

*Belgians were originally used as farm horses, and today continue to be working horses in some areas as well as show, pleasure, and meat horses.

*Today the Belgian is the most numerous draft breed in the United States.

*Ideally this breed should have:

- small, compact heads
- thick, muscular necks
- powerful shoulders and hindquarters
- short, correct legs with a small amount of feathering at the bottom.

*Belgians have a high occurrence of junctional epidermolysis bullosa (JEB), which is an inherited genetic disorder that causes newborn foals to lose large areas of skin and have other abnormalities that usually result in euthanasia. A 2003 study found that 17.1% of all Belgians in the US and Canada were carriers of this disease.

*Furthermore, they are at high risk for chronic progressive lymphedema as are many other draft breeds.
Hafflinger:

*Hafflingers are a small robust breed that originated in Italy and Austria.*

*They are also known as Avelignese.*

*Hafflingers are always chestnut or sorrel in color with a flaxen mane and tail although their body color can range from light golden to a darker liver color, like smaller Belgians, but they have a desired height of between 13.2 and 15 hands.*

*This breed was developed in a mountainous climate and is known for being able to survive in harsh climates with minimal maintenance.*

*These horses/ponies were previously used by the military during World War I and II as packhorses, but today have varied uses all around the world.*

*Ideally this breed should have:

- a refined head and light poll
- a medium length neck
- pronounced withers
- sloping shoulders
- a deep, muscular chest
- medium length, muscular back
- long, slightly sloping croup with good muscling
- correct legs with broad, flat knees and powerful hocks slowing clear definition of tendons
- rhythmic, ground covering, energetic gaits with some knee action.*

*On May 28th, 2003 Hafflingers became the first horse breed to be cloned with the birth of “Prometea.”*
Fjord:

*The Fjord horse is a relatively small but strong horse breed that originated in Norway.

*It is also known as the Norwegian Fjord Horse, Fjording, and Fjordhest.

*All Fjord horses are dun with brown or black points and primitive markings, and range in height from 13.1 to 14.3 hands.

*The Fjord horse standard recognizes five shades of dun: brown dun, red dun, gray dun/grullo, white dun, and yellow dun.

*This breed usually has their mane roached to show off their arched neck and full dorsal stripe.

*Ideally this breed should have:

- medium sized head with a broad, flat forehead and a straight or slightly dished face, with small ears and eyes

- a strong, arched neck

- sturdy, correct legs and healthy feet with some feathering

- muscular, compact body

- Overall this horse should display a mixture of draft horse muscling with smaller size and greater agility.

*The Fjord is one of the world’s oldest and purest breeds known to exist by the end of the last ice age in Norway.

*Vikings used this breed, then settlers as working animal in the mountainous terrain, and today they have many varied uses.
*The American Quarter Horse is a stock breed that originated in the United States.

*Its name is derived from the fact that it is the fastest horse to run a quarter of a mile or less in the world. Some records set their speed to about 55 miles per hour.

*This breed comes in just about every available color, but the most popular is sorrel or chestnut, and its height ranges between 14 and 17 hands.

*“Old-style” or “Stock-type” Quarter horses are generally shorter, more compact, and more stocky than the more modern, “New-Style” or “Hunter or Racing Type” taller and leggier variety.

*This horse was originally developed because 19\textsuperscript{th} century pioneers needed a sturdy, willing horse to travel West with them and help them control their cattle herds.

*Today this horse is known for a plethora of activities including but not limited to: Western Pleasure, Hunter Under Saddle, Jumping, Driving, Dressage, Trail, Reining, Cutting, Racing, Barrel Racing, Calf Roping, and more.

*Ideally this breed should have:

- a short, small refined head with a straight profile

- a broad chest

- powerful, rounded hindquarters

- a strong well- muscled body throughout

*The Quarter horse is currently the most popular breed in the United States and the American Quarter Horse Association is the largest horse registry in the world with over 5 million registered horses.

*Some diseases this horse is prone to getting are: Lethal White Syndrome, Equine Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy, Glycogen Branching Enzyme Deficiency, Hereditary Equine Regional Dermal Asthenia, Malignant Hyperthermia, and Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis.
Arabian:

*The Arabian horse is a light breed that originated in the Arabian Peninsula.

*It is one of the oldest breeds, with archaeological evidence suggesting this breed goes back about 4,500 years. They are a founder breed for many others.

*Arabians come in black, bay, gray, chestnut, and roan, and range in height from 14.1 to 15.1 hands, but always are considered horses and do not by abide by the traditional 14.2 hand cutoff to be a pony.

*Arabian horses were originally used for war, trade, and raids, for their famous endurance. Though they still have that endurance they are used for various other purposes today, and are considered a very versatile horse.

*Ideally this breed should have:

- a refined, dished faces with a broad forehead, large eyes, large nostrils, and small muzzles

- an arched neck with a well set windpipe and a clean, refined throatlatch

- a well angled shoulder

- compact body with a short back

- a relatively long, level croup with a well angled hip

- naturally high tail carriage

* Many Arabians have a slight forehead bulge between their eyes that is called a jibbah and is thought to help add additional sinus capacity for running in their native desert climate.

*Some Arabians have 5 lumbar vertebrae instead of the usual 6 and 17 pairs of ribs rather than 18.

*Some health issues Arabians are at a high risk for are: Guttural Pouch Tympany, Equine Juvenile Epilepsy, Occipital Atlanto-Axial Malformation, Cerebellar Abiotrophy, Lavendar Foal Syndrome, and Severe Combined Immunodeficiency.
Morgan:

*The Morgan is a light breed horse that originated in the United States very early on.

*The Morgan comes in many possible colors but bay, black, chestnut, or some variety of pinto are the most common, and they range in size from 14.1 to 15.2 hands.

*This breed has many uses and was used as coach horses, for harness racing, for calavry horses by both sides during the Civil War, and just general riding animals. Today they are still considered very versatile and perform many disciplines.

*This breed is known to be an easy keeper.

*Ideally this breed should have:

-a clean cut, refined head with an expressive face and large eyes

-an upright, arched neck

-well defined withers

-laid back shoulders

-short strong back

-long well-muscled croup and hindquarters

-tail carriage is high, graceful, and straight

-overall this horse should be very compact, refined, and yet powerful.

*The Morgan horse is the state animal of Vermont due to the involvement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at ‘perpetuating and improving’ this animal at a farm in Middlebury, Vermont and later the University of Vermont.

* “Justin Morgan Had a Horse” is a famous children’s book and movie featuring this breed.

*This breed is at high risk for polysaccharide storage myopathy.
Thoroughbred:

*Thoroughbreds are a ‘hot-blooded’ breed that originated in England.

*Thoroughbreds are most often bay, seal brown, chestnut, black, or gray, but are also recognized as roan, palomino, and white. Multi-colored coat patterns are not recognized by main registries, such as paint.

*Thoroughbreds are most well known for their racing, but many are also bred for show jumping, dressage, hunter under saddle, polo, fox hunting, and more. They are also commonly used to crossbreed and create new breeds or improve existing ones.

*Ideally this breed should have:

- a well-chiseled head, showing alertness
- long neck and high withers
- a deep chest and well sprung ribs
- short strong back
- deep and well-muscled hindquarters
- long, correct legs

- overall this breed should have a lean, tone muscled body suited for agility and speed, with the high spirit to match.

*Thoroughbreds are considered one year older on January 1st each year in the Northern Hemisphere and August 1st in the Southern Hemisphere to standardize races and other competitions for certain age groups.

*Unlike many other breeds today a Thoroughbred cannot be registered (with the Jockey Club) unless they were conceived by a live mating. Artificial insemination is not allowed.

*10% of all Thoroughbreds suffer from orthopedic problems including fractures, and race horses suffer from additional problems such as low fertility, and bleeding from the lungs.
Shetland Pony:

*The Shetland Pony is a pony that originated in the Shetland Isles.

* Shetland ponies can come in nearly every color with the exception that registered Shetlands cannot be leopard spotted or carry the champagne gene. They range in size from 7 to 11.2 hands.

*Shetland ponies were first used for pulling carts and plowing farm land. When the Industrial Revolution began thousands of Shetlands became ‘pit ponies’ working underground to haul coal, often for their whole lives. The last U.S. pony mine just closed in 1971. Today they are used to pull carriages, for younger children to ride (most pony rides at fairs are this breed), for in hand activities, and as therapeutic horses.

*Ideally this breed should have:

- a small head with a dished face, wide spaced eyes, and small and alert ears.
- a short muscular neck
- a short, broad back
- deep heart girth
- short, strong legs with a shorter cannon bone than normal in relation to their size
- a springy stride
- thick mane and tail
- overall they should be a very compact, stocky, hardy breed

*For its size the Shetland Pony is the strongest of all pony and horse breeds able to pull twice its weight under circumstances a draft can only pull half its weight under.

*The American Shetland Pony club recognizes 4 types of Shetlands: Modern (tallest of the breed with a high head and tail set, and high stepping action), Pleasure( similar to Modern with less stepping action to their gaits), Classical (most typical, refined, gentle natured, and has normal gaits), and Foundation (do not have any Hackney influence and are all under 42 ““).
Appaloosa:

*The Appaloosa is a stock breed that originated in the United States.
*They are a color breed. Possible coat colorings include:

Spots- General term that refers to a horse that has white or dark spots over all or a portion of its body.

Blanket or Snowcap- A solid white area normally over, but not limited to, the hip area with a contrasting base color.

Blanket with Spots- A white blanket which has dark spots within the white. The spots are usually the same color as the horse's base color.

Leopard- A white horse with dark spots that flow out over the entire body. Considered an extension of a blanket to cover the whole body.

Few Spot Leopard- A mostly white horse with a bit of color remaining around the flank, neck and head.

Snowflake- A horse with white spots, flecks, on a dark body. Typically the white spots increase in number and size as the horse ages.

Mottled- A fewspot leopard that is completely white with only mottled skin showing.
Roan Blanket/ Frost- Horses with roaning over the croup and hips. The blanket normally occurs over, but is not limited to, the hip area

Roan Blanket w. Spots- A horse with a roan blanket that has white and/or dark spots within the roan area

Appaloosa Roan, Marble, Varnish Roan- distinct version of the leopard complex. Intermixed dark and light hairs with lighter colored area on the forehead, jowls and frontal bones of the face, over the back, loin and hips. Darker areas may appear along the edges of the frontal bones of the face as well and also on the legs, stifle, above the eye, point of the hip and behind the elbow. The dark points over bony areas are called "varnish marks" and distinguish this pattern from a traditional.

*Their height normally ranges between 14 and 16 hands, and their weight from 950 to 1,250 pounds.

*The Appaloosa was developed by the Nez Perce tribe and used them for general riding, for farm work, and in the Nez Perce War. Today these horses are very versatile and are used for western and English disciplines, fox hunting, eventing, trail riding, and more.

*Ideally this horse should possess the same stock horse qualities as a quarter horse.

*Appaloosas often have sparse manes and/ or tails as striped hooves, mottled skin, and a white sclera around the iris when the eye is in normal position.

*The Appaloosa is the Idaho state horse, and Florida State University’s mascot.

*Appaloosa’s are at a greater risk for blindness than other breeds either by Equine Recurrent Uveitis (25% of all horses who have this disease are Appaloosas) or Cogenital Stationary Night Blindness.

*You may have spotted Appaloosas in “The Appaloosa”, ridden by John Wayne in “El Dorado”, or ridden by Matt Damon in “True Grit.” They are a very popular breed for Westerns.