

THE AUSTRALIAN MINIATURE AND PONY REGISTRY

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

MINIATURE & SMALL/LITTLE/FOUNDATION & AMERICAN SHETLAND HORSE (OPEN)



General Appearance:

The miniature horse should be a square, well balanced, scaled down version of a full-sized horse. The overall impression should be of a well-bred, free moving, elegant horse in miniature.

Height:

Miniature Horse: Up to and not exceeding 34"

Small Horse: Over 34" but not exceeding 38"

Little Horse: Over 38" but not exceeding 42"

Foundation: Over 42" but not exceeding 50"

HORSES AGE IS AS 1ST AUGUST EACH YEAR

HEIGHT FOR AGE IS NOW BEING INTRODUCED DUE TO MEMBERS REQUESTS. HERE IS THE LIST BELOW OF HEIGHTS –

MINIATURE HORSES –

- **WEANLING – MUST NOT EXCEED 30.5"**
- **YEARLING – MUST NOT EXCEED 32.5"**
- **2YO – MUST NOT EXCEED 33.5"**
- **3YO & OVER – MUST NOT EXCEED 34"**

SMALL HORSES –

- **WEANLING – MUST NOT EXCEED 34.5"**
- **YEARLING – MUST NOT EXCEED 36.5"**
- **2YO – MUST NOT EXCEED 37.5"**
- **3YO & OVER – MUST NOT EXCEED 38"**

LITTLE HORSES-

- **WEANLING- MUST NOT EXCEED 38.5"**
- **YEARLING – MUST NOT EXCEED 40.5"**
- **2YO – MUST NOT EXCEED 41.5"**
- **3YO & OVER – MUST NOT EXCEED 42"**

FOUNDATION –

- **WEANLING – MUST NOT EXCEED 44"**
- **YEARLING – MUST NOT EXCEED 46"**
- **2YO – MUST NOT EXCEED 48"**
- **3YO & OVER – MUST NOT EXCEED 50"**

Head & Neck: The head should present a clean cut, finely chiselled outline with thin skin closely adhered to the underlying parts. The head should be free from coarse connective tissue, with wide spacious nostrils and fine mobile lips. The ears should be well set and in proportion.

A large kind eye is desirable; all eye colours are equally acceptable. The head should attach onto, not into the neck, neither too closely attached nor too loosely coupled. The neck should be long and supple with a finely modelled throatlatch.

Teeth: An even bite is desired.

Body: The body should be well balanced with well-defined, elevated withers, a strong back, long, muscled hip and short loins. The coup should be the same height as the highest point of the wither, neither set too high or too low.

Legs: Straight, true and squarely set with a strong forearm and well-developed knee. Cannons not overly long. A good slope to the pasterns, neither upright nor over-sloping. Strong hocks, pointing neither in nor out. Well-shaped hooves pointing straight ahead.

Coat: Fine, glossy hair. All colours, patterns and markings are equally acceptable.

Action: Natural floating action. Light and agile.

MINIATURE & SMALL/LITTLE/FOUNDATION HORSE (STOCK)

GENERAL IMPRESSION – An attractive horse where everything is proportionate and all parts tie in smoothly. All gaits are smooth and purposeful exhibiting natural athleticism. Horses are judged on balance, structural correctness and sex characteristics. Of these, balance is the most important.

STANCE - The horse normally stands at ease with his legs perpendicular to the ground and parallel with each other. The horse should exhibit a balanced stance and stand on the corners of his body, as opposed to being spread too far apart or crowded too close together, or parked out.

- Head alert and intelligent with broad forehead, full, well-set eyes, wide nostrils. A fine, clean gullet, allowing plenty of breathing room. A domed forehead is a fault
- A good length of rein, well set into the shoulder.
- Sloping shoulder, not too heavily muscled, a well-defined wither
- Deep chest, not too wide in proportion, but showing plenty of heart room.
- Ribs well sprung and back strong and of medium length in proportion.
- Forelegs, forearms well developed, cannon bones slightly flat, pasterns short and slightly sloping.
- Hindquarters strong, rounded and well muscled, nicely sloping to give a full line from croup to hock. Hocks broad, flat and clean, the cannon relatively short with well-defined tendons. The point of the croup should be no higher than the top of the withers. The tail is set off a long, rounded croup.
- Hooves hard and in proportion to the size of the horse, with a wide heel and feet straight.
- Muscling adequate to function, overly heavy muscling is a fault.
- Movement tracking straight and true with ground covering motion giving the appearance of athletic confidence and balance. Excessive knee and/or hock action is a fault.

- **PRESENTATION** - Shown standing still, calm and square.

- Can be Shown in a stock/western style halter Or Cable/beaded Arabian style halter
- Clipping is allowed. Razoring is accepted (although it will not place you higher than a non-razored horse) EXCEPT for stock classes in which case there is to be NO razoring. Make up is to be kept to a minimum.
- Manes should be natural looking and of moderate length and may be under or over cut or pulled. Banding or braiding is not allowed, EXCEPT for in performance.
- Tails should be off the ground
- **REQUIREMENTS** - Where Stock and Open horse halter classes are offered at shows, horses cannot enter both sections. Stock and Open horses may enter all other classes ie colour, jumping, performance etc where there is no gain for either type.
- Dress code applies to both Stock and Open horse classes.

MINIATURE & SMALL PONY

General Appearance:

The miniature pony should be well proportioned, square and balanced whilst displaying typical pony characteristics. The impression should be of strength and hardiness without coarseness.

Height:

Miniature Pony: Not exceeding 34.25" or 87cm

Small Pony (A): Over 34" but not exceeding 38"

Small Pony (B): Over 38" but not exceeding 42

Head & Neck: The head should display a wide forehead, small well-placed ears, large open nostrils, and large expressive eyes with a relatively small muzzle. All eye colours are equally acceptable. A comparatively short distance between the eye and muzzle is desirable. The head should be attached well onto the neck. Mares may have a slight crest and stallions a moderate crest. The neck should be well set and rise of well-laid shoulders.

Teeth: An even bite is desired.

Body: Well balanced with moderate wither, shoulders sloping well back, strong well sprung ribs, deep barrel, powerful loins and broad, well-rounded quarters.

Legs: Straight, true and squarely set with well-muscled forearm, short cannons and a good slope to the pasterns, neither upright nor over-sloping. Strong and muscular thighs with broad, strong hocks turning neither in nor out. Well-shaped, round hooves pointing straight ahead.

Coat: Thick and woolly in the winter and short and shiny in the summer. All colours, patterns and markings are equally acceptable.

Action: Free and straight not exaggerated or stilted.

The public's perception of miniature horses and ponies is all important. The credibility of miniatures and the future of the miniature industry in Australia will be determined by the public's perception. How they are represented, presented, trained and cared for will determine the public's perception. While at public venues all miniature/small horses and ponies and their handlers should be presented to their best visual advantage.

GENERAL SHOW RULES

A. All AMR* shows are open to any horses and ponies with valid registration. Miniature horses and ponies with valid registration with other recognized miniature organization may be

shown at the AMR* shows. Exhibitors must be financial members of AMR to attend an AMR event.

B. To enter an AMR* show, the exhibitor must use the full name and registration number, as it is shown, on the horse or pony's registration paper. Substitutes or changes require permission from the AMR*. Show directors may disqualify any horse or pony that is shown with a false identity.

C. The AMR* will only accept show entries that are complete, signed and accompanied by a copy of the horse or pony's registration paper.

D. Entries must be fully paid for, or they will not be accepted unless prior arrangement is made with the office.

E. Horses or ponies with pending registration may be shown if the exhibitor has a statement/email from the office proving registration has been applied for.

F. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be aware of the AMR* show rules.

G. Foals under four months of age must have their Dam present at the show.

H. Violations of rules will be determined by the AMR* director/s and/or an appointed, independent adjudication committee and dealt with as they see fit.

I. Seniors are classed as 4 years and over, Junior are 3 Years and Under for both halter and performance.

HALTER CLASS GENERAL RULES

A. Horses and ponies to be shown in hand at both the walk and trot. Horses must also be viewed in motion from the side, and judged on the priority of:

1. Conformation
2. Movement
3. Type
4. Quality
5. Presence

B. Horses and ponies are not to be shown stretched, all four feet must be flat on the ground. stretching of the neck is acceptable. Horses and ponies may be set by hand.

C. Suitable head gear must be worn. Chains must be captured and unable to tighten on the head.

D. Horses and ponies, of all ages, may be clipped or shown in full coat. In the interest of the horses and ponies, hair removal products are not acceptable. Close clipping (lower than #15) or razoring is not encouraged but WILL be accepted, except for in stock classes. Judges will be advised there is no advantage for this practice and a horse or pony with equal or better presentation and/or conformation, without close clipping or razoring, is not to be placed lower in any class. It is also preferred that makeup be kept to a minimum to enhance and highlight the natural beauty. **Eyelashes are NOT to be removed or trimmed.**

E. Manes and tails may be free flowing. False tails ARE permitted.

F. Horses and ponies must be sound, in good condition and preferably well groomed.

G. If two horses or ponies are judged to be equal the higher placement shall be awarded to the smaller animal.

H. Stallions/colts over 2 years of age (actual) must be shown by persons 18 years or older.

No youth: 12 years of age or younger, may show/handle stallions/colts of **any** age.

With the show organiser's approval; youths over 12 years of age may show colts up to 1 year of age.

With the show organiser's approval; youths over 13 years of age may show colts up to 2 years.

I. Whips are NOT ALLOWED except for the exception of lungeline, liberty, long reining and harness events and in pony halter classes where a cane can be used,

JUDGES

A. No horse or pony may be shown before a judge that has been sold, leased or trained by this judge or his/her connections for a period of 12 months. Public clinics are an exception.

B. Judges family members (partner, children, parents, siblings) and connections (those in business with) may not show under that judge.

C. Permission from a show director must be obtained to approach a judge regarding a decision made by that judge.

D. A judge may request an entry be excused if he/she believes they are ineligible to compete.

E. Where possible horse breed judges will be used for judging horse classes and pony breed judges will be used to judge pony classes

F. The judge may check teeth.

STEWARDS AND OFFICIALS

A. Stewards should refrain from discussions or seeming discussions with the judge regarding any exhibit or exhibitor; general advice regarding rules etc is allowed.

B. Stewards are to assist the judge not advise him/her on placings.

HEIGHT VERIFICATION

A. Miniature horses shall not exceed 34" in height

B. Small horses shall not exceed 38" in height

C. Little horses shall not exceed 42" in height

D. Foundation Horses shall not exceed 50" in height

E. Miniature ponies shall not exceed 34.25/87cm" in height

F. Small ponies shall not exceed 38" in height

G. small pony B/Shetland shall not exceed 42" in height

H. The show age of a horse is determined by actual birth date, unless August 1st is stipulated on a program.

I. Horses and Ponies heights can be verified at any AMR* Nationwide Show, must be on a hard level surface, in a public place by a show official and witnessed by a nominated witness. The measurer must not have horses or ponies competing at that show.

J. All horses and ponies are to be measured by an approved measuring stick and all horses and ponies at a show are to be measured by the same stick.

K. Time and place of measurement will be announced.

L. Horses and ponies must be sound at the time of measurement.

M. Miniature horse's height is to be determined by measuring the vertical distance from the base of the last hairs of the mane to the ground. The last hairs of the mane refer to the last true mane hairs and any softer body hair left as an extension to the mane should not be included as part of the mane for measuring. Miniature ponies height is to be determined by measuring the vertical distance from the highest point of the wither to the ground.

N. Both front legs of the horse or pony must be vertical and in line with and parallel to the measuring stick. The horse or ponies head and neck shall be in a natural position with the base of the muzzle raised no higher than the height of the wither. The horse must be standing squarely. No allowance will be made for excess hoof. While being measured the handler may not touch the horse or pony until the measurer removes the stick. If the handler does not accept the initial measurement, the horse or pony can be represented and will be measured four more times, twice from either side, these four measurements are to be added together and then divided by four to get an average height and this height shall be the determined height. All four measurements must take place consecutively.

RIBBONS AND AWARDS

A. Ribbons and placement up to sixth may be awarded at AMR* shows.

B. Junior Champions, Senior Champions, Grand Champions and Supreme receive sashes.

DRUGS, ARTIFICIAL ENHANCEMENTS, IRRITANTS

A. It is preferred that makeup be kept to a minimum to enhance and highlight the natural beauty.

B. Any horse or pony showing signs of an irritant to produce a higher tail carriage will be placed accordingly.

C. The use of drugs affecting the showing or performance of a horse or pony is strictly forbidden.

D. Artificial appliances that enhance a horse's movement are forbidden.

E. Evidence of inhumane treatment, in or out of the show ring may result in disqualification and a report may be lodged with the relevant authorities.

F. Drug testing on a random basis may be required.

G. Colour enhancements on the mane, tail head, legs and body are ALLOWED. No person shall alter, change, or attempt to hide the natural colour of the body including the legs of a horse by dye, bleach or paint. Hooves may be coloured.

RING PROCEDURE

A. Dress: Handlers should be correctly attired for the class. The emphasis should be on presentable, neat, clean and practical preferably with an Australian theme. Footwear must be closed in and suitable. Hats, boots and gloves are optional in halter classes. Hats, boots, gloves, shirts/blouses or jackets are required in all showmanship classes.

B. At all Nationwide shows, once a class is called and the gate opened to enter the ring, the gate will be closed after two minutes or until the last horse or pony in a continuous flow of entries enters the ring.

C. A horse or pony should be shown through an entire class by the same handler unless injured or ill. Permission to change handler must be given by the steward and/or show manager.

D. Names of horses or ponies being exhibited will not be made know to the judge prior to the show. At Nationwide shows exhibitors will be issued with a number for each horse or pony for the duration of that show.

E. Deliberately distracting or otherwise interfering with an exhibitor's horse while being shown is forbidden offenders may be asked to leave the ring and the offender may be refused entry to further shows.

F. An unruly horse/pony may be asked to leave the ring.

G. Cruelty or abuse of any horse or pony in the ring or on the showground will not be tolerated. Offenders may be barred from the remainder of the show and may be refused entry to further shows.

H. Protests to the judge over the placing of a horse or pony, by an exhibitor or owner will not be tolerated and the offender/s may be barred from the show and may be refused entry to further shows.

I. Halter horses and ponies eligible to show in championship classes must show unless they have been excused by the judge or show manager. If the first-place horse or pony is excused the second place horse or pony will move into first place in the championship class.

J. Where possible no class will enter the ring after 12pm or enter before 8am.

K. Exhibitors may not enter a ring until directed by the steward.

L. Unsportsmanlike, abusive, or threatening behaviour physical, verbal or written will not be tolerated and the offender may be barred from the remainder of the show. These offences may result in the offender being barred from further shows and/or loss of or refusal of renewal of membership.

M. Discrimination against exhibitors with physical and/or mental disabilities will not be tolerated. All exhibitors are expected to be tolerant of their fellow competitors. Discriminatory behaviour is unsportsmanlike, and offences will be subject to the afore mentioned penalties and if deemed warranted by the director/s, will be referred to the independent adjudication committee for further discussion.

PROTESTS

A. All protests are to be made in writing to the show manager no later than one hour after the completion of the last class of the show. The protest shall be accompanied by a protest fee which shall be returned to the protestor if the protest is sustained. If the protest is not sustained the fee shall go to the profits of the show. See show schedule for protest fee required. The protest committee may refuse to deal with a complaint/protest if it considers it to be trivial or vexatious in nature.

B. Protests shall be adjudicated by an independent protest committee of designated persons not involved in the dispute. The protest committee shall meet and adjudicate the matter and report its determination to the parties. The decision may be appealed to the AMR* director/s with an additional fee (double schedule fee) and copies of all or any paperwork. The AMR* director/s decision is final and fee shall go towards the profits of the show if not sustained.

C. A horse/pony involved in a protest shall, upon request: Be presented within an hour of notification and remain in full view of at least one official or designated person until the protest is resolved. The horse may not be trimmed, medicated, exercised or otherwise altered prior to the final resolution of the protest.

SHOW DISQUALIFICATION

A. Inheritable deformity

B. Cryptorchidism or monorchidism in stallions six years or over

C. Height

1. No miniature horse shall exceed 34" or miniature pony shall exceed 34.25"/87cms
2. No Small A horse or pony shall exceed 38"
3. No Small B/Little horse or pony shall exceed 42"
4. No foundation Horse shall exceed 50"

PERFORMANCE CLASSES

Harness -

- 1) Children under 12 must be accompanied by an experienced adult co-driver
- 2) Stallions may not be driven by youth drivers.
- 3) Bitless driving is allowed by approval.

A. Miniature Horses and Ponies must be over 4 years of age to compete in Harness, 6 Bar, Hunter & Fault N Out. Junior Hunter 1 year up to 3 years.

B. A course is considered set once a horse or pony has started the course. No changes can be made to the course or obstacles in Halter Obstacle, Jumper, Hunter or Obstacle Driving after that time.

C. In performance a horse or pony should be shown through an entire class by the same handler

D. Baiting of a performance horse is not allowed in Hunter, Jumper and Liberty classes.

E. A whistle will notify exhibitors of elimination from Halter Obstacle, Obstacle Driving, Hunter, Jumping and Liberty classes.

F. Judge/s shall walk the course with exhibitors in Hunter, Jumper, Halter Obstacle and Obstacle Driving classes.

G. Front leg wraps and/or boots are permitted in jumping classes.

H. In Halter Obstacle, Hunter and Jumper show halters and leads with chains are not permitted.

AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER ASSOCIATION SHOWS

A. The AMR* recognizes the position, rulings and directives of the Agricultural Society and will follow their guidelines in matters relating to Agricultural Society Shows.

B. Exhibitors must ensure they comply with the rules of the association under whose registration papers and membership they use for entry.

C. Schedule conditions over rule registry rules. Read schedule conditions of entry and obey the requirements of the show organiser/s and/or the association running the show.

PERFORMANCE GENERAL RULES

HORSES ARE NOT TO BE JUDGED ON CONFIRMATION AT ALL

Exhibits must be at least 1 Year actual age to compete in any performance class

Junior exhibits are 3 years and under at the 1st August

Senior exhibits are 4 Years and over at the 1st August

Youth Exhibitors must have an adult present at all times if under 8 years old.

DISQUALIFICATION

Exhibits that have been disqualified are not awarded any points or placings.

Disqualification may result from any of the following –

- Making deliberate contact with the exhibit, pushing, hitting, poking or holding any part of the halter.
- Negotiating an obstacle the wrong way or order (off course)
- Falling of the exhibit or handler
- Exhibit breaks free of handler
- Wilful abuse of the exhibit by the handler or aggressive kicking, rearing, biting and striking by the exhibit
- Leaving the arena before being dismissed
- Using prohibited equipment
- Judge or steward must notify the entrant immediately of the disqualification, by whistle or announcement.

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

- Whips – unless for lungeline, long reining or Harness
- Chains attached to lead or Halter
- Chains through exhibits mouth or stallion chains

EXHIBITS TACK

Exhibits are to be shown in a halter, without a buckle on the nose, or any pressure points on the nose. Whips, canes, chin straps, chin chains or bits (harness excluded) are not permitted.

HANDLERS ATTIRE

All Handlers shall be appropriately dressed for classes. Safety and comfort are main considerations. Trousers and slacks with shirts and blouses are excepted. Boots or closed in shoes are to be worn, thongs, crocs or open toes shoes are not allowed – no one is to handle a horse or be in the marshalling area without appropriate shoes. Unsuitable dress includes, singlets, shorts, mid drift tops, inappropriately short skirts, or plunging neck lines. No logos or stud names can be worn in the ring.

ACCEPTABLE EQUIPMENT

Halters may be leather, plastic (pvc/zilco) or webbing, must sit flat against the nose, no buckle is allowed on the nose.

Rope halters with no extra knots on the nose are allowed.

Halters may have soft padding on the nose or poll.

Front leg wraps or boots are permitted

Callers

No callers are permitted EXCEPT for youth under 8 years old and for dressage tests.