

THE BREED STANDARD FOR THE PUREBRED

SPANISH HORSE (PRE) (Valid until 2004)

Translated from Spanish Original by Jane Rabaqliati

1. Definition

A pure-bred Spanish horse is one both of whose parents are registered in the Registry of approved breeding stock for the PRE breed.

2. Breed type

General morphological characteristics

Well-proportioned, medium-sized and short-backed, with a straight or subconvex profile, of balanced conformation and a marked overall harmony. The gaits are brilliant, energetic, cadenced and elastic, with marked elevation and a clear facility for collection.

Specific morphological characteristics

The head is of medium length, rectangular, lean, with a straight or - in varying degrees - subconvex facial profile. Ears of medium proportions, well set on, separated, slightly divergent and very mobile. Broadish forehead, subtly rounded, subconvex or flat when considered transversely. Eyes lively and alert, oval, with softly-defined sockets. The face is straight or lightly convex, moderately narrow and lean. The muzzle curves softly from the face, and narrows slightly at its tip. The nostrils are long and not pronounced. The jaw is generous, well-muscled and defined by a long, gentle arch.

The neck is lightly arched and of medium length; the mane strong and full. The neck is well coupled to both the head and the shoulder.

The trunk is well-proportioned and sturdy. The withers are quite broad, and pronounced. The Back is straight and muscled, the loins short, broad, flat and slightly arched, smoothly coupled to the back and to the croup. The croup is of medium length and breadth, though slightly longer than it is broad, rounded, and slightly sloping, with the tail set low and held close to the body. The tail is thick and long. The flanks are long.

The forelegs: the shoulder is sloping and well-muscled. The arm is also sloping, and strong, the forearm powerful and well-set. The knees are pronounced and lean. The cannons are of proportionate length and the tendons clean, the fetlocks well-defined and pronounced, the pasterns not too long, well-flexed but not weak, the hooves compact and well-proportioned.

The hind legs have a muscular thigh and buttock, the gaskins long, the hocks strong, substantial and clean. The rest of the leg below the tarsal joint has the same characteristics as the foreleg. The vertical lines of all four legs are correct.

Colour

The predominant colours are grey and bay. Others, with the exception of piebald, skewbald and chestnut, are acceptable.

General harmony and build

The overall impression is of a horse of great beauty and well-balanced structure, at whatever age. A well-developed horse at the age of three and a half years should measure 152 cm at the withers (males) and 150 cm (females), measured with a stick.

Functional characteristics

The action is lively, high, extravagant, harmonious and rhythmical. Versatile and adaptable, with particular predisposition for collection and for turns on the hindquarters.

These horses are biddable and have very soft mouths, making them obedient and extraordinarily comfortable to ride.

Constitution

Spanish horses are steady and hardy, patient and energetic, noble and docile. They quickly establish a close understanding with their rider.

Aptitudes

They are above all saddle horses, with a particular facility for high school work, bullfighting and *rejoneo* (mounted bullfighting), light harness work and particularly well suited to work with cattle in the open.

Defects

Apart from those which should be avoided in any breed of horse (and which are not listed here) the following particular defects may, depending on their severity, be barriers to approval of a Spanish horse for breeding:

- **General:** poor development, a lack of proportion between the various parts of the body (over-long horses being more undesirable than over-short ones). A concave facial profile will be rejected, as will an extremely convex one; convexity is undesirable.
- **Specific:** an excessively large head; ears which are big, floppy, inward-pointing and with abnormal movements. A forehead which is too broad and flat. Pronounced eye sockets and round or bulging eyes.

- Neck too short, set low or too tightly connected to the head. Gato (swollen or fallen crest) or a ewe neck will automatically lead to rejection.
- Trunk narrow and of insufficient depth. Low or insufficiently pronounced withers. Sway back or a back which slopes downwards from back to front. Roach back or poorly muscled loins. Ribcage poorly-sprung and flat or excessively round. Croup flat, divided, goose-rumped, with the point of the buttock too high or too far back. Broken top line. Tail too high and carried too far from the body.
- Legs: poor verticals, especially in the hocks. Pasterns too long or too short and upright.
- Action: Lacking height; irregular. Dishing

3. The points system

In line with the breed type, PRE horses will be graded using a points system, which gives specific information about its quality both in an absolute sense as regards the individual and in comparison with others, provides a basis for selection and for judging their breeding value (subject of course to the appropriate genetic inquiries being made).

[The horse should be graded using this points system during the year in which it reaches 3 years of age.] Horses obtaining 70 points or more will be passed as fit for breeding. [A horse which obtains between 65 and 70 points may be presented once again, at the request of its owner, during the year in which it reaches 4 years of age.]

(NOTE: The above Regulation was CHANGED on 5th July 1994 - see UPDATES)

Marks will be given for each of the parameters identified in the following paragraph, on a scale of 1 to 10 as follows:

Perfect	10 points	Acceptable	6 points
Excellent	9 points	Sufficient	5 points
Very good	8 points	Deficient	4-3 points
Good	7 points	Bad	2-1 points

As a guide to grading using the points system, account must be taken of the measurements listed below, which are averages for the breed, with the exception of "height at the withers, measured with a stick", which must be observed as a MINIMUM, any horse which fails to meet this standard being ineligible for grading.

(NOTE: On 5th July 1994 the perimeter of the cannon bone was CHANGED to a MINIMUM of 19cms, any horse which fails to meet this standard being ineligible for grading. See UPDATES)

	Males	Females	(All measurements are cms)
Height at the withers, measured with a stick	152	150	
Depth of chest	66	65	
Height at breastbone	82	80	
Length from point of shoulder to point of buttock	154	153	
Breadth of chest	40	40	
Measurement round ribcage	180	181	
Measurement round knee	33	31	
Measurement round cannon	21	20	Now 19 cms for male & female

If points scored on any of the above measurements are less than 5 the horse shall fail the grading, regardless of how highly it scores on other qualities.

5. Grading of horses

The final marks are obtained by taking the points assigned to each aspect, multiplying them by the appropriate weighting coefficient and adding them together. The marks of the members of the grading committee are averaged and the horse classified according to the following scale:

	Points		Points
Perfect	100	Sufficient	70-74.99
Excellent	91-99.99	Deficient	65-69.99
Very good	81-90.99	Bad	below 65
Good	75-80.99		

Any horse achieving less than 70 points will not be entered in the Stud Book.

VERY IMPORTANT - UPDATES FOR PRE HORSES

The Cria Caballar Committee agreed the following provisions at an extraordinary meeting on 5 July 1994.

Qualification for registration in the breeding register will continue to be the grading procedure.

The age restrictions for grading were removed. Horses may now be presented only once, at any time after reaching the age of 3 years. The horse will be passed if it meets the following conditions:

- 10 parameters with a coefficient of 1.0 (males and females)
- Minimum height of 152cm (males) and 150cm (females)
- Minimum measurement around the cannon of 19 cm (males and females).

Any foal born to a horse (whether stallion or mare) which has not yet been graded must be bloodtyped, identified and microchipped provisionally, so that it can be registered (once its paternity has been confirmed) as soon as the parent has been confirmed as meeting the grading requirements.

Artificial insemination continues to be prohibited.

Bloodtyping will continue to be required as a precondition for registration. Paternity tests will be undertaken on a sample of foals, selected by ballot. If the paternity tests show incompatibility between the bloodtype of the foal and either of its declared parents the registration will be suspended until such time as the breeder can show compatibility with two parents registered in the breeding register.

Update January 2000 - Paternity Tests will now be undertaken by Cria Caballar on ALL blood samples from PRE foals.

Update January 2001 - DNA Analysis is now an approved method of Identification and Parentage Testing for PRE foals, using either hair samples or blood.
