

PUREBRED SPANISH HORSE BREED STANDARD - 2017

General Characteristics: The PRE horse is medium sized, short backed, with a high-set arched neck carried proudly, and has a rounded, sub-convex profile from the tip of its long elegant nose to the root of its low-set tail. The body proportionality index – height at the withers divided by shoulder-isquial length – must remain between 90 and 110, showing remarkable general harmony and great beauty, with appreciable sexual dimorphism. The horse's weight is balanced towards the hind-quarters which provides a high degree of collection, mobility, and reactivity to any stimulus; giving powerful jumping ability too. In character the breed is calm, sensitive, intelligent, quick to learn, and forms strong friendship bonds with humans. In life the breed is hardy, healthy, tough, resilient, willing to work very hard, and economical good-doers to feed.

The height at the withers should be between 1.54 and 1.72 meters for stallions and 1.52 and 1.70 meters for mares.

Head:- In proportion, average length, lean, with a sub-convex frontal profile, with minimal convexity of the frontal-nasal union. **Ears** are medium sized, proportionate to its head size, very mobile, well inserted and parallel and facing forward. **Forehead** – Slightly wide and discretely convex. **Eyes** – Lively, triangular, with an expressive gaze, orbital arches do not protrude from the front profile.

Face – Relatively long and moderately narrow face (more in mares), sub-convex and free of flesh. **Nose** – tapered into a soft curve projected from the face. **Nostrils** – Long, almond-shape, non-protruding. **Cheeks** -Wide, lean with long discretely arched edges. **Upper Lip** – Fine and mobile.

Neck:- Of average size and length in proportion to the height and length of the body, muscular (less in mares), the throat contained and well inserted into the trunk above the scapular-humeral union. The upper edge of the neck is slender, forming an ascending arch from the withers to the forehead (less arched and more stylish in mares). The neck insertion is wide/deep at the trunk and narrower at the head (insertion is less deep in mares). Abundant and silky mane.

Trunk:- In proportion and robust. **Withers** – discretely broad and prominent, in a smooth extension following the spinal column. **Back** – consistent, muscular and almost straight. **Loin** – short, broad, muscular, somewhat arched, and slightly rising to the croup, well joined with the back and the croup. **Croup** well proportioned, slightly longer than wide (somewhat wider in mares), rounded and sloping slightly. In adult horses, the height at the croup is lower than the withers. **Tail** inserted into the body below the line of the rump and fitting between the buttocks, with abundant, long and often wavy hair. **Chest** – Broad and deep. **Ribs** – Moderately arched, long and deep. **Flanks** – wide. **Belly** – correct.

Fore-legs or forehand:- **Shoulder** – Long, muscular, and oblique. **Upper-Arm** (humerus) – strong and sloped. **Forearm** – Strong and well-sloped, medium length. **Knee** – Well developed and lean. **Cannon** of proportionate length, tendon well-defined and ample. **Fetlock** – Lean, prominent, with little hair. **Pasterns** with good conformation, slope and direction and proportionate length. **Hooves** – Compact, well balanced and well developed.

Hind-legs or hindquarters:- **Thigh** – Muscular. **Buttocks** – lightly arched and muscular. **Gaskin** (second thigh) – long. **Hocks** – Strong, big and clean. The angle of the hock, when viewed laterally, may be slightly closed, thus facilitating elevated movements and collection. The regions below the hock-joint should have identical characteristics to those given for the forelegs.

Coat:- Fine short coat. Grays and bays are dominant. The presence of White Patches, or excessive white on head and extremities, or any other shape or size throughout the body are un-acceptable traits for this breed. Other un-acceptable traits are Eyes of different colours or blue eyes that are not characteristic of the coat colour.

Functional characteristics and aptitudes: they have brilliant, agile, energetic, cadenced and elastic paces, with appreciable elevation and extension, notable ease for collection and turns on the haunches. Their walk is straight, regular and ground-covering. Trot is elastic, suspended, regular, cadenced and elegant, with active use of the hindquarters, flexing the joints in collection to push forward, elevating and flexing the knees. Their canter is fluid, has impulsion and is elastic with regular strides. Horses have excellent aptitudes to carry out a variety of functions, and an easy and quick response to its rider's aids, thus they are obedient, with easy rapport with the rider and extraordinarily comfortable. Their main service is under saddle, finding great facility for Dressage (including competition Dressage, High School, and Doma Vaquera), rejoneo (mounted bull-fighting), acoso y derribo (testing young fighting bulls), carriage driving, working with livestock and other farm chores as well as other equestrian disciplines such as Show-Jumping and Eventing.

Behavioral characteristics and temperament: they are rustic, sober, well-balanced and tough animals. Energetic, noble and docile. They learn well and easily adapt to diverse jobs and situations.

Disqualifying defects: deformity of the upper neckline (fallen crest), ewe or inverted neck, cryptorchidism and non-accidental monorchidism. Also considered as disqualifying defects are: a height of less than 1.54 m for stallions and 1.52 m for mares, a proportionality index of less than 95 or greater than 105, concave or ultra-convex frontal profiles. The presence of white spots on the head when this invades the eye sockets or the entire face and the limbs, when the socks invade the knee or the hock, or any sized spot on the body, as with eyes that differ in colour or blue eyes when that colour is not a characteristic of the coat colour, and in general, the presence of serious defects, which differ from the breed prototype, detected during the assessment process.

Penalizing defects: those stated for the head and neck, when these do not reach the degree for disqualification, rounded and protruding nostrils, thick upper lip, filled upper lip with limited mobility, over-shot and under-shot jaw, the head-neck union is chunky, hardly differentiated and very deep, there is a lack of harmony and disproportion between body areas and dimensions, hollow/sunken back, height at the withers of > 170 cm for mares and >172 cm for stallions, being higher at the point of the croup than at the withers, presence of melanomas in the perineum, inadequate limb alignment and movement with poor elevation, irregular, poor extension and, especially, dishing and ambling.

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The British Association for the Purebred Spanish Horse Ltd

Company Registered in England and Wales. Company Number 4468396

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Passport Issuing Organisation 826003 for DEFRA