

PHOTO GUIDE TO THE

Gypsy

Vanner

BREED STANDARD

In a GVHS Conformation-Movement Evaluation, the Evaluators assess the individual horse versus the 'ideal' described within the Breed Standard. Scores are assigned in each of nine categories with the category for Breed Type carrying twice the weight of the other categories. The Evaluation Scoresheet breaks each category down into the component attributes making up the overall category score. On the scoresheet, Evaluators will indicate if a particular attribute is below, at or above satisfactory by placing a checkmark accordingly along the scale. The numeric category score is allocated based upon the impact of the individual attributes.

A photo-based Evaluation Guide was developed in early 2016 as a training and educational tool for owners and breeders.

THE IMAGE OF A SMALL DRAFT HORSE



BREED TYPE

- IMAGE OF A SMALL DRAFT HORSE
- OVERALL SUBSTANCE & BONE
- ABUNDANT FEATHER
- AMPLE FLOWING MANE & TAIL

The Gypsy Vanner is the image of a small draft horse, capable of pulling the gypsy caravan, enhanced with feathering, muscular development and size. The head is characteristically pleasant with an intelligent eye. The neck comes up and forward out of the shoulder with a positive set and arch. The topline is even and round. The muscling and bone is balanced throughout the body reflecting the overall substance of the horse. Limbs are straight and correct with size and definition proportional to height and development of the horse.

LIGHT BONE, INSUFFICIENT
FEATHER FOR A MATURE
HORSE



TOO HEAVY



...'WITH AN INTELLIGENT EYE'



PHOTO GUIDE TO THE BREED STANDARD

The Gypsy Vanner is not a breed based on color, although the easily recognizable coat colors set the breed apart. Piebald, Skewbald, Blagdon, and all other colors are accepted for the breed. The color of the hooves may be solid or vertically striped. The height as measured at the withers will normally be between 13.2 hands and 15.2 hands, although there may be some individual horses outside of this range with acceptable conformation profile and standards.



The body, mane, and tail hair coat may vary from smooth, straight and silky to slightly wavy with curl, yet fine. The unique characteristic of the breed is the abundance of feathering, which is excessive amounts of long hairs on the lower portion of both the front and hind legs. The feathering should start just below the knees and hocks extending down the front, back and sides of the cannon and over the hooves. The leg feathering provides natural protection to the legs from weather and working conditions.



The Gypsy Vanner should have long natural flowing manes, tails, and forelocks. Large amounts of facial hair such as beards, whiskers, and muzzle hair are natural desired traits present in the breed.





OVERALL IMPRESSION

- **BALANCE & HARMONY**
- **GENDER CHARACTERISTICS**
- **PRESENCE, ATTITUDE & TEMPERAMENT**

The regions of the Gypsy Vanner must fit together on a proportional basis. The length of the neck should be equal to one head length of the horse. From the point of the shoulder to the buttock should be approximately 2.5 head lengths. From the front heel to the top of the withers the distance should measure 2.5 head lengths. From the rear heel to the top of the croup/hip the distance should measure 2.5 head lengths. With these visual measurements in this proportion, the horse is said to have balance and harmony.

The gender characteristics of the Gypsy Vanner are of vital importance to maintain quality within the breed. Stallions must resemble the male, masculine characteristics within the breed, having presence, muscling, and pride. The mare must reflect feminine qualities and should be sensible, easy-going, and willing.

GYPSY VANNER MARE



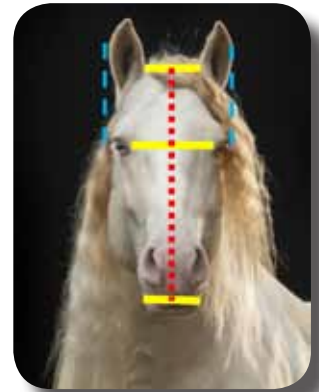
GYPSY VANNER STALLION



The temperament and attitude of the breed is reflected in its personality and willingness to cooperate with man. The Gypsy Vanner should be relaxed, mannerly, and respectful of its environment. Presence can be defined as the horse has a "look at me attitude—I am special", and their presence draws you in to acknowledge them.

HEAD

- **LENGTH PROPORTIONAL**
- **FOREHEAD FLAT & BROAD**
- **FRONTAL FACIAL BONE- FLAT TO SLIGHTLY CONVEX**
- **NOSTRILS LARGE**
- **EARS- PROPORTIONAL SIZE, SHAPE, POSITION**
- **EYES- LARGE, EXPRESSIVE; PLACEMENT**
- **BITE- EQUAL & EVEN**



A pleasant, intelligent head is a trademark of the breed. The size, shape and structure is proportional with the remainder of the anatomical regions. The forehead must be flat and broad. The frontal facial bone should be flat to slightly convex and blend into a muzzle with large round nostrils. The refinement and outline of the mandibles defines the lower portion of the head and reflects the image of gender.

Ears-The length and width of the ear should be proportional to the head. The shape should be moderately wide at its middle. A mare's ears tend to be a bit longer than the stallion, whose ears are short and shapely.

Bite- The point where the central incisors meet must be equal and even as viewed from the side. A slight deviation is possible of no more than one-half the width of the tooth's surface and could occur with either the upper or lower jaw.

Eyes-The eyes must be large and prominent, placed on the outer edge of the head. The distance between the eyes should be wider than the base of the ears, and located about 60-65% of the distance between the poll and the muzzle.

FAULTS OF THE HEAD

- Long or narrow shaped head
- High set eye (distance between eye and muzzle is too long)
- Small eyes (pig eyes, lacking prominence)
- Small, narrow underdeveloped jaws
- Ears too long, narrow between ears, poor set of ears
- Lack of appropriate gender characteristics
- Under bite/ Over bite
- Small nostrils

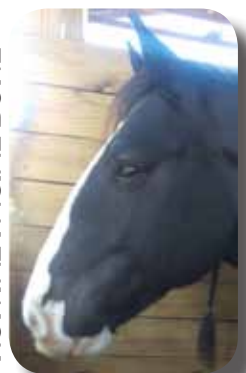
FLAT

FRONTAL FACIAL BONE



SLIGHTLY CONVEX

FRONTAL FACIAL BONE



LARGE, PROMINENT EYE



HIGH SET, SMALL EYE
SMALL, NARROW
NOSTRILS



UNDER BITE



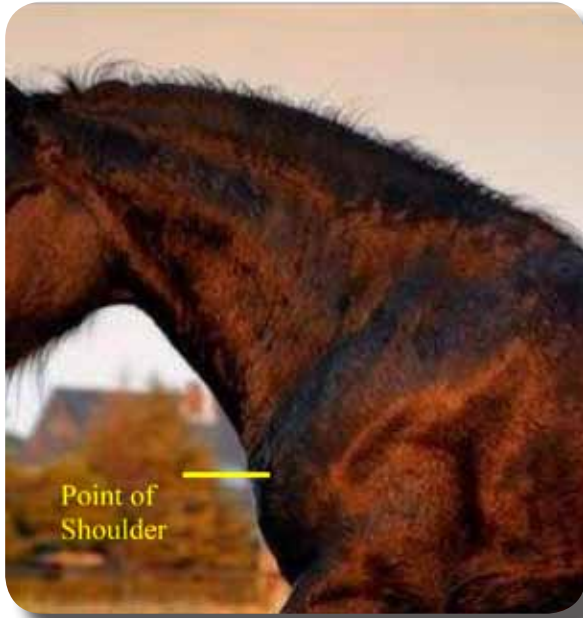
LARGE, COARSE HEAD
LACKING GENDER DISTINCTION



PHOTO GUIDE TO THE BREED STANDARD

NECK

- **LENGTH APPROPRIATE**
- **SHOULDER ATTACHMENT**
- **CREST ARCHED & WELL-MUSCLED**
- **THROATLATCH & NECK UNDERLINE**



Point of Shoulder

The set, length and arch of the neck are very important to its use and athletic ability. The neck should be sufficiently long for the horse to graze without shifting foreleg position and to elevate the head when surveying its surroundings. The neck should rise upward from a well-sloped shoulder creating a slight arch over the crest. The neck should depart sufficiently above the point of the shoulder following a straight to slightly inwardly rounded under line, without any additional muscling or heavy under-muscling. Across the topline, the neck should not drop off directly in front of the withers and then come up. The neck should come directly up and out of the withers. The neck fits into the head through the throatlatch attachment which should have a clean and smooth appearance. The definition of the jugular groove should be prominent. There is a slight gender difference in the neck. The mare's neck must reflect the femininity of her gender with moderate muscling. The stallion's neck can be proportionately heavier, but must stay in balance with the horse's body

NECK IS VERY SHORT IN LENGTH & NOT IN PROPORTION TO THE SIZE OF HORSE. NECK NEEDS TO BE SET MORE UP & OUT OF THE WITHERS. THICK THROATLATCH.



- FAULTS OF THE NECK**
- Depression in front of withers/ set low (ewe neck)
 - Tied in too low on the shoulder (attaching low into chest, heavy base to the neck)
 - Thick throatlatch
 - Excessively heavy neck underside ('upside-down' neck)
 - Insufficient muscling, lack of gender related crest
 - Length not proportional to size of body
 - Insufficient length at poll
 - Broken crest (too much fat along crest line causing neck to tilt)/ Very cresty neck (out of proportion)

NECK SET LOW . OVER-MUSCLED UNDERSIDE.

THROATLATCH IS THICK & UNDERSIDE OF NECK IS HEAVY. THE NECK TIES IN VERY LOW RELATIVE TO THE SHOULDER.



NECK IS OUT OF PROPORTION WITH BODY & VERY HEAVY/ CRESTY.



BODY

- **SHOULDER ANGLE**
- **BACK- SHORT, STRONG**
- **WITHERS DEFINED- NOT TOO SHARP OR ROUND**
- **COUPLING/LOIN** PROPORTIONAL
- **HIP ANGLE & LENGTH**
- **CROUP ROUND/ HIGH TAIL SET**
- **CHEST WIDE & DEVELOPED**
- **BARREL, GIRTH DEEP, WELL-SPRUNG RIBS**
- **FLANK AREA DEEP (FORE/ REAR)**
- **MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATE (AGE/ GENDER)**

The overall impression of the Gypsy Vanner's body is one of harmony and muscular proportionality. The body must have balance between the shoulder, back, and hips with appropriate angles. The muscle structure must convey the image of an athletically muscled horse with smooth round muscles appropriate for age and gender. Short, bunched, bulky muscles are not desired. The amount and size of bone should be substantial and proportional to the overall horse. The withers should be prominent with sufficient muscle cover to protect this jointure of the shoulders. The mature (3 years and older) Gypsy Vanner's topline should be near level, without any measurable deviations from the height of the withers to the height of the hip. The overall topline should appear as a smooth flowing line from the tail attachment to the withers and up the crest of the neck to the poll.

FAULTS OF THE BODY

- Upright shoulder
- Chest too wide or too narrow
- Long back
- Long, weak coupling
- Low, sway back
- Roach back
- Withers too prominent or too flat
- Cut up in rear flank
- High at hip/croup
- Under-developed muscling
- Low tail set
- Short, steep croup/ hip
- Lack adequate spring to ribs

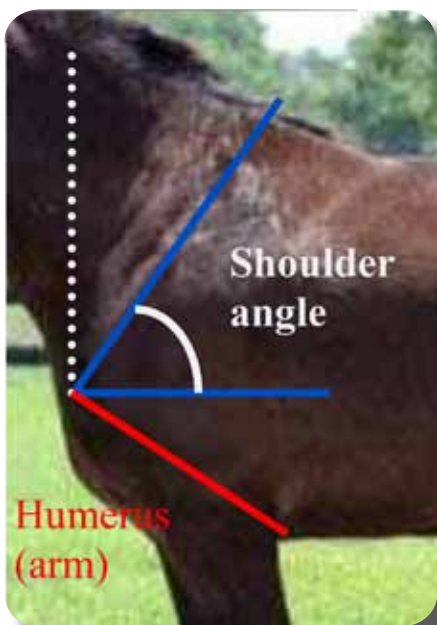


HORSE WITH A MEASURABLE DEVIATION FROM THE HEIGHT OF THE WITHERS TO THE HEIGHT OF THE HIP. HORSE IS BUILT DOWNHILL.

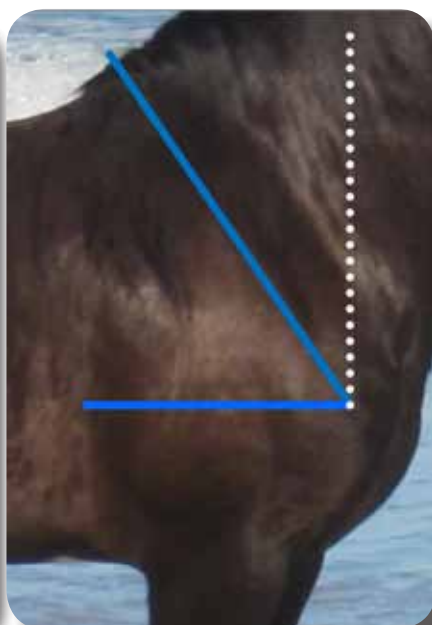


THE TOPLINE OF THE HORSE IS DISJOINTED. DOES NOT GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF A SMOOTH FLOWING TOPLINE.

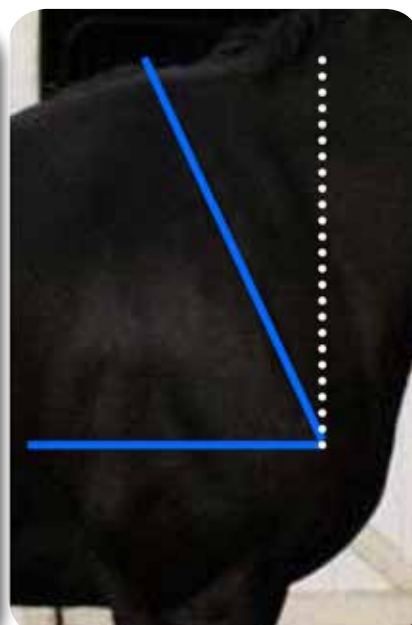




MEASURING THE SHOULDER ANGLE & LENGTH OF ARM.



IDEAL SHOULDER ANGLE



STEEP SHOULDER ANGLE

Shoulder- The shoulder is one of the most important anatomical regions affecting form to function, providing a natural "home" for the collar and harness, as well as the ability to flex forward for reach of movement at all gaits. The shoulder should have an angle of 50-55 degrees, with deviations of +/-5 degrees. The angle of the shoulder can be viewed from the point of the withers to the point of the shoulder. From the point of the shoulder to the elbow is the arm. The length and angle of the arm effects the shoulder's ability to lift and move the forelimb forward. A long arm resulting in the placement of the foreleg under the center of the body is more desirable. The shoulder must be covered with sufficient musculing to protect the shoulder.

Chest- The width of the chest is an important indicator of the muscular strength of the horse and capacity of thoracic cavity, allowing sufficient space for heart and lungs. The chest should allow for sufficient width between forelimbs so that they do not interfere during motion. The muscles of the chest must be defined and proportional to the size and density of bone while being reflective of the horse's gender.



CHEST HAS PROMINENT, WELL-DEVELOPED, POWERFUL PECTORAL MUSCLES, PROVIDING SUFFICIENT SEPARATION OF THE FORELEGS FOR CORRECT MOVEMENT OF THE FORELIMBS AT ALL GAITS.

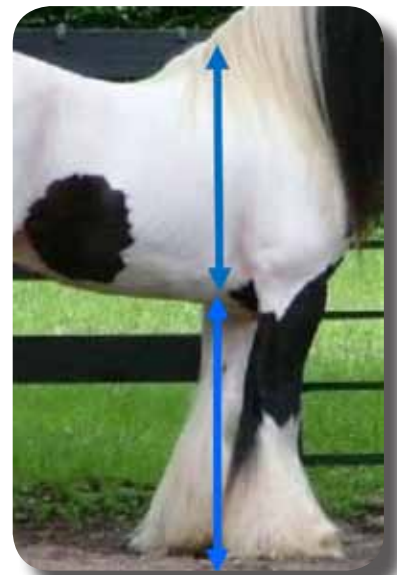
NARROW CHEST LACKING THE OVERALL SUBSTANCE & MUSCLE DEFINITION DESIRED.

IDEAL WIDTH OF CHEST. DEFINITE "V" IN BETWEEN MUSCLES OF CHEST SHOWING PROPER DEVELOPMENT.

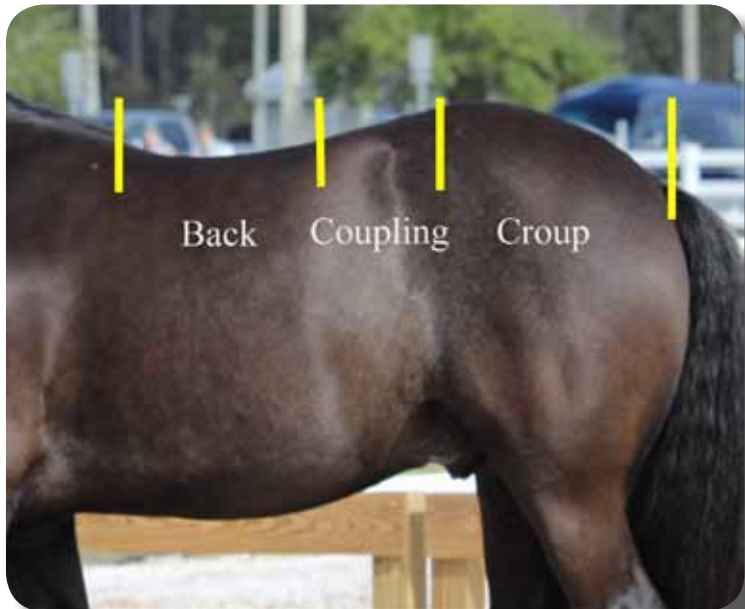




Barrel- The barrel of the Gypsy Vanner must be deep with well sprung ribs, providing sufficient capacity for the vital organs. The ribs must be curved, not flat as observed from the front view. From the side view, the line from just behind the elbow to the rear flank should follow a gentle curve ending just in front of the stifle. A Gypsy Vanner should not be "cut-up" in the rear flank, giving the appearance of being tucked up, lacking abdominal capacity. The flank area should be deep. The depth of the heart girth is determined by the point at the top of the withers straight down to the bottom of the chest directly behind the elbow. In the proportional, balanced horse there will be equal distance from the point of the elbow on a vertical line to the ground comparable to the depth of the heart girth.



Back- The back must be short and strong, with a slight curvature allowing the horse the ability to become "round", flexible through the middle upper body. The back terminates at the last rib and the coupling/loin area connects the back with the croup. The coupling area adds to the strength and lateral flexibility of the body and must be proportional and balanced to the whole body of the horse. The length of the coupling area is often confused with the horses back. A short coupling is associated with a short back and a long coupling is associated with a long back, however the back remains the same and the variable is in the length of the coupling. Mares tend to have a longer coupling area which permits greater capacity for expansion during pregnancy.



MATURE STALLION WITH SHORT STRONG BACK & COUPLING.

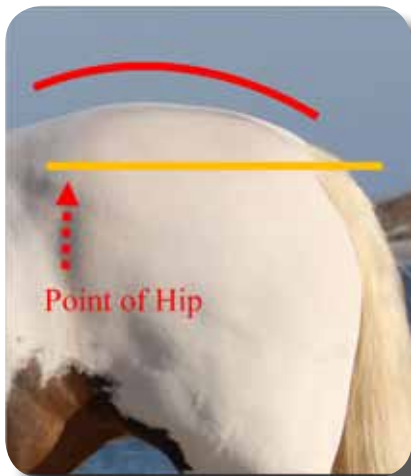


MATURE MARE WITH APPROPRIATE LENGTH & SHAPE OF BACK & COUPLING.



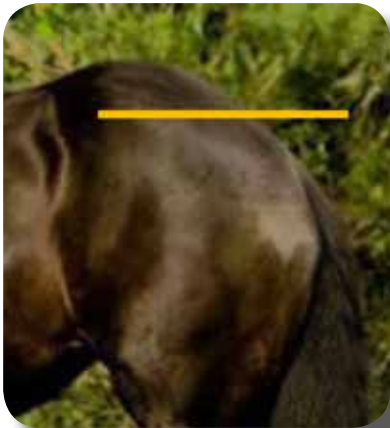
HORSE WITH LONG & WEAK BACK & COUPLING AREA. LACKS DEEP FLANK AREA.





THE CROUP IS SLIGHTLY ROUNDED WITH A HIGH TAIL SET. APPROPRIATE LENGTH OF HIP.

TAIL SET IS VERY LOW. LACKS VOLUME OF HIP & PROPER MUSCULAR DEVELOPMENT



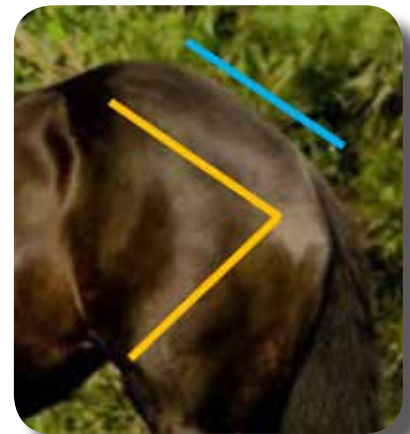
Croup and Hip - When viewed from the side, the croup should be long and rounded with a gentle slope into a tail setting high on powerful hindquarters. From the rear, the muscles from point of the hip over the top to the other point of the hip must be round, wide and reflect powerful athletic ability. The point of the hip and the tailhead should be on a horizontal line, which defines the length of the hip. The strength of the hindquarters defines the breed as being a small draft horse designed with strength and power.

REAR VIEW OF HINDQUARTERS SHOWING ROUND MUSCLING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT POINT OF HIP.



GOOD SHAPE & ANGLE OF HIP. APPEARANCE OF STRONG, MUSCULAR HINDQUARTERS.

CROUP IS VERY SHORT & STEEP AS IS THE HIP ANGLE.



FORELEGS

- STRAIGHT, CORRECT
- DEFINED JOINTS
- DENSE, FLAT, MEDIUM TO HEAVY BONE
- FOREARM TO CANNON RATIO
- PASTERNS LENGTH & ANGLE
- HOOVES- ROUND, SIZE

The forelegs must be structurally straight, correct columns of strength and support. When viewed from the front, the legs must be plump and true, with imaginary lines passing down through the center of the knee straight through the pastern to the center of the hoof. When viewed from the side the leg follows a line through the center of the knee, down the cannon bone through the center of the fetlock, and to the heel of the hoof. The joints must clearly be defined and substance of bone should be substantial, and must reflect the image to sustain loading and stress of a draft horse. The forearm to cannon ratio needs to at least be 55% to 45% with the forearm always longer than the cannon. Pastern length should be proportional to the remainder of the leg with sufficient room for range of motion. The hoof and pastern angle should be equal to provide support to the lower leg. The hooves must be of proportional size to the horse and have a symmetrical shape with ample width at the heels.





HIND LEGS

- STRAIGHT, CORRECT
- DEFINED JOINTS
- DENSE, FLAT, MEDIUM TO HEAVY BONE
- GASKIN MUSCLING
- HOCKS, SET, ANGLE
- PASTERNS LENGTH & ANGLE
- BASE STANCE

The hind legs of the Gypsy Vanner have many of the same characteristics and traits of the forelegs. Included are definition of the bone and joints, size and shape of the hooves, and length of pastern. The gaskin has both inner and outer muscling and both must be accounted for. The inside gaskin muscle is usually long and flat appearing, whereas the outer gaskin muscle is well developed, round, and giving the appearance of power and strength. The hind legs should have a slightly base narrow leg position. When viewed from the rear a line can be drawn down from the buttock, passing over the point of the hock, down the rear cannon past the fetlock onto the ground ending centered behind the heel

of the hoof (the same line can be drawn when viewing from the side and should touch the back of all the same points). The placement of hooves and lower leg will be slightly turned toe-out. The horse should be slightly narrower in the placement of the hind legs than the forelegs. This conformation of the hind leg is the influence of working draft type horse used to pull wagons.



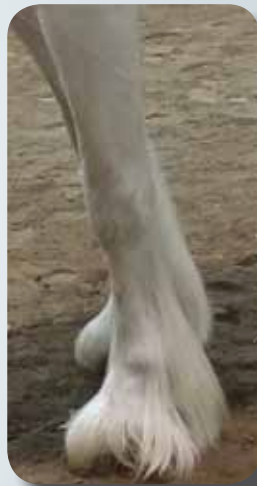
RIGHT: COW HOKED. VERY NARROW STANCE.

FAR RIGHT: TOO STRAIGHT IN HOCK. POST LEGGED.

STRUCTURALLY STRAIGHT & CORRECT



LACKS SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF BONE



WEAK SLOPING PASTERNS



FAULTS OF THE LEGS

- Toe in/ toe out
- Offset knees
- Over at the knees
- Back at the knees
- Base wide
- Very base narrow
- Long, weak pasterns
- Short, straight pasterns
- Sickie hocks
- Supportive splints
- Too straight in front legs
- Too straight in hocks
- Club foot
- Tied in at knees
- Extremely refined bone/ joints
- Bowlegs (fore/hind)
- Standing under behind
- Extremely camped out behind
- Knock knees
- Disproportional cannons

PHOTO GUIDE TO THE BREED STANDARD

MOVEMENT AT A WALK & TROT

- **NATURAL, FREE-FLOWING**
- **LENGTH OF STRIDE**
- **DELIBERATE, FORWARD, STRAIGHT**
- **SUSPENSION**
- **USE OF KNEES & HOCKS**
- **TRACKING FRONT & REAR**
- **HEAD & NECK CARRIAGE**

The walk for the Gypsy Vanner is a natural forward flowing four beat gait. The length of stride reflects the impulsion from the hindquarters with a slight over step of stride. The head and neck must be held up and in a natural frame while moving with deliberate powerful steps. The shoulder must move forward in a free and unrestricted reach with the same motion carrying down the entire length of the leg.

The trot for the Gypsy Vanner is a free-flowing two beat diagonal gait. The knee and hock should be synchronized in elevation, flex, and reach during movement. The head and neck should be carried up and in a natural frame with a natural arch in the neck. The shoulders should be supple and the hocks engaged. The overall movement should be balanced and cadenced, with a natural rhythm of forward motion.

FAULTS AT WALK/TROT

- Paddling
- Winging
- Plaiting
- Short stride (front/hind)
- Interfering
- Cross firing
- Lameness
- 4-beat lateral gait
- 2-beat lateral gait
- Irregular gait
- Over-reaching & forging

At an Evaluation the movement of the horse is to be assessed on the triangle in a clock-wise direction with the handler on the outside of the horse. The horse will walk directly away from the first point of the triangle, turn right at first cone continuing to walk on the profile to the second cone, then will turn right once more returning to the original point of the triangle on a straight line. The same procedure will be performed at the trot with the horse.

