



www.traditionalcobregistry.com

SHOWING & GRADING HANDBOOK

TCR UK RULES

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The Traditional Cob Registry in the UK (TCR UK)

The Traditional Cob Registry (TCR) is an independent online Traditional Cob registry based in Ireland that also holds Traditional Cob shows. TCR operates in the UK as TCR UK. The aim of TCR is to protect and preserve the Traditional Cobs of Ireland and the UK (the Irish Cob and Gypsy Cob) as two distinctive Traditional Cob breed types. TCR also registers the Mini Cob, Stepping Cob, and Part Bred (including the Drum Horse and Tradian).

However, because TCR is an independent registry, TCR cannot issue passports. For this reason, a Traditional Cob or Part Bred that is in the EU or UK must have at least a basic identification passport before it can be registered with TCR. Once a Traditional Cob or Part Bred is registered with TCR its TCR online registration profile (including its breed, pedigree, lab test, results, etc.) will be linked to its passport by its microchip number. TCR can also issue an optional registration for a TCR registered Traditional Cob or Part Bred that would contain images of the Traditional Cob or Part Bred, and also its parents (if provided).

SHOWING

AFILLIATED SHOWS

The TCR Show Affiliation Application provides for Shows in the UK to apply to TCR for the purpose of holding TCR classes. The TCR Show Affiliation Application also provides an option for the Show to hold the TCR classes as TCR Finals Qualifiers. If the Show avails of the option to hold TCR classes as TCR Finals Qualifiers, then the first, second and third places in the TCR classed will qualify for entry into the TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show.

A Traditional Cob or Part Bred does not have to be registered with TCR to be entered in a TCR class held by a TCR Affiliated Show. However, because only a TCR registered Traditional Cob or Part Bred can be entered in the TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show, a non TCR registered Traditional Cob or Part Bred that qualifies for entry into the TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show must be registered with TCR within 30 days of the TCR Affiliated Show at which it qualified, or its TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show qualification will be null and void.

An owner does not have to be a TCR member to enter their Traditional Cob or Part Bred Traditional Cob in a TCR class held by a TCR Affiliated Show. However, because only a TCR member, or their handling agent, can enter a qualified Traditional Cob or Part Bred in the TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show, the owner and exhibitor/handler (if the owner is not the exhibitor/handler) must join as a member of TCR within 30 days of the TCR Affiliated Show at which the Traditional Cob or Part Bred qualified to be entered in the TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show.

FINALS SHOW

The TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show (TCR UK Annual Finals) will take place in Autumn or Winter, at which there will be the TCR UK Supreme Champion 2026 and TCR Reserve Supreme Champion. Depending on the suitability of the venue, and cost of insurance, the TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show may also hold a stallion parade and/or a driving display.

NOTE: All entries for the TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show must be made online. The closing date for online entries will be seven days before the day the show. Any who entered a Traditional Cob or Part Bred in the TCR UK Traditional Cob Finals Show will be emailed the show catalogue with their class time no less than 5 days before the day of the show.

1. SHOWING RULES

For TCR showing purposes, the age of a Traditional Cob or Part Bred is determined from 1 January of each year. For instance, if a Traditional Cob or Part Bred that is born in May will be counted as a yearling on 1 January of the next year.

(a) The exhibit

- The exhibit must be clean, well-groomed, and exhibited in a suitable tack that is clean and in good condition.
- The exhibit must stand, walk, and trot in a controlled manner. If the exhibit cannot be exhibited in a controlled manner, then the exhibitor (handler) may be asked to leave the grading/show ring with the exhibit. It is highly recommended that the handler has a show cane or showing whip to show the exhibit off at its best.
- Stallions 3 years old and over must be shown or presented in a stallion bit and chin chain with a quality strong lead (no exceptions).
- Mares 3 years old and over must be shown in a show bridle, head collar or white show slip.
- Geldings 3 years old and over must be shown in a show bridle.
- Foals at foot must be shown in a head collar, or white show slip.
- Yearling fillies, colts and geldings must be shown in show bridle or head collar.
- 2-year-old colts must be shown in a show bridle.
- 2-year-old fillies and geldings must be shown in show bridle, head collar or white show slip.

(b) The exhibitor/handler

Handler dress code for males is a smart shirt, tie, jacket or waistcoat, and trousers or dark jeans with boots. For women, a smart shirt, jacket or waistcoat, trousers or dark jeans with boots (which can be country boots) and a hat or cap (does not have to be a riding hat). For males and females under 18, a smart shirt, tie Jacket or waistcoat, and trousers or dark jeans with boots and a riding helmet.

- The exhibitor/handler is responsible for ensuring that they are ready and within sight of the 'calling steward' when the exhibit's number is close to being called.
- The exhibitor/handler is responsible for ensuring that the exhibit enters the show ring before the judging starts.
- The exhibitor/handler must follow the instructions of the steward.

NOTE: No one under 18 years of age can exhibit/handle a stallion in a TCR showing class or parade.

(c) The owner

- The owner of is responsible for ensuring that the exhibit is kept under control during the entire day of the show and for keeping their exhibit at a safe distance from the other exhibits and attendees.
- The owner is responsible for any injury caused by the exhibit to any animal and/or person at the show.
- The owner is responsible for any damage caused by the exhibit to any property and/or to any vehicle at the show.
- The owner must accept that the decision of the judge (or judges) is final.
- The owner must accept that if their exhibit is not placed first, it does not mean it's a bad thing, and judges can differ in their opinions. Another day and another judge and their exhibit could be placed first. That is the way of showing, and the owner must therefore accept that showing is first and foremost intended as a fun social day out for owners and handlers and their families.

2. SHOWING PROCEDURE

When the exhibit enters the show ring the exhibitor/handler must be leading the exhibit from its near (left) side. The exhibitor/handler must then walk the exhibit in a right-hand circle so that full right side of the exhibit is visible to the judge without being obstructed by the handler. The exhibitor/handler will continue to walk the exhibit in a right-hand circle around the arena until the steward asks the exhibitor/handler to stop. The steward will call for all of the exhibits to be lined up in a row. If there are more than 6 to 10 exhibits in the class the steward will ask for two rows. The steward will then call each exhibit for individual judging.

For individual judging of each exhibit the exhibitor/handler must have the exhibit stand up in front of the judge as directed by the steward. It is polite to nod to salute the judge. While the judge is assessing the exhibit according to its appropriate breed standard, the exhibitor/handler must position the exhibit and themselves as instructed by the steward. The judge will ask the age of the exhibit. The judge may also ask what the exhibit has done. The judge will have the exhibit walk away in a straight line and turn left and then walk back in a straight line and pass and then turn right and trot the long side of the ring, cross the arena and trot back the other long side of the arena.

It is at the judge's discretion to decide if they want to vary the way they judge an exhibit for movement – including directions and when and where they wish to see the exhibit walk and trot.

After all of the exhibits have been individually judged and lined up, the steward will ask the first exhibitor/handler in the line up to walk off around the arena in a right-hand circle and all rest of the exhibits will be asked by the steward to follow.

If there were more than 20 exhibits entered in the class the judge will have the option to short-list the number of exhibits in the class to 10 before asking the steward to pull them in order of placings.

The order of placings is not final until the judge if male takes his hat off or if the judge if female takes their off her gloves after which the decision of judge is final.

(a) Showing tips

Show the judge and steward respect. Because the whole aspect of showing is to catch the judge's eye, the exhibitor/handler should ensure that they show off the exhibit to the best of their ability so as to get noticed by the judge, and that they impress the judge with their confidence and showing etiquette that could put the exhibit in a higher placing.

Young exhibitors/handlers should make sure that they are in full control of the exhibit at all time. Young exhibitors/handlers are allowed to have a parent or instructor assist them in the show ring.

(b) Complaints

Any complaint to do with a judge, handler, steward, or any other personal at a TCR show or grading will incur a €50 fee and will go to three independent assessors. If the complaint is related to a grading and it is found that the complaint holds merit, then the grading fee will be refunded to the complainant and the complainant provided with an opportunity for regrading.

(c) Non-discrimination

TCR does not discriminate against anyone's disabilities or religious beliefs we respect everyone on their exhibits at every show and parade we hold.

3. SHOWING CLASS BREED TYPES

- **Traditional Irish Cob (EMERALD GREEN)**

The Traditional Irish Cob is the original Irish Cob that was developed in Ireland by Irish Travellers to pull their caravans. TCR registers the original Irish Cob as Breed: Traditional Irish Cob

- **Irish Cob (LIGHT GREEN)**

Since the 1990s the original Irish Cob has been modernised – i.e. become more refined (showier) with a sweeter head and a wider range of colours. TCR registers the modern Irish Cob as Breed: Irish Cob

- **Traditional Gypsy Cob (ROYAL BLUE)**

The original Irish Cob that was developed in Ireland by Irish Travellers to pull their caravans was used by the Romani people in England as the foundation breed to develop the original Gypsy Cob as their perfect caravan horse. TCR registers the original Gypsy Cob as Breed: Traditional Gypsy Cob

- **Gypsy Cob (LIGHT BLUE)**

Since the 2000s the original Gypsy Cob has been modernised – i.e. become more refined (showier) with a wider range of colours. TCR registers the modern Gypsy Cob as Breed: Gypsy Cob.

- **Traditional Cob (GREY)**

Where a show has one showing class for Traditional Irish Cobs, Irish Cobs, Traditional Gypsy Cobs and Gypsy Cobs the showing class will be called: Traditional Cob. However, the judge will have the option to divide the Traditional Cob class in two groups (Irish Cob and Gypsy Cob) or into four groups (Traditional Irish Cob, Irish Cob, Traditional Gypsy Cob and Gypsy Cob).

- **Mini Cob (RED)**

The original Gypsy Cob was used by the Romani people in England to develop the Mini Cob. The Mini Cob is 13 hands or under. TCR registers the Mini Cob as Breed: Mini Cob or Mini Gypsy Cob.

- **Stepping Cob (YELLOW)**

The Stepping Cob was developed in England by selectively breeding Traditional Cobs with elevated knee and hock action.

- **Part Bred (PURPLE)**

A Part Bred is 50% Traditional Cob (Irish or Gypsy) and 50% any other breed by pedigree or appearance.

- **Tradian (BLACK)**

A Tradian is a specific type of Part Bred that is 50% Traditional Cob (Irish or Gypsy) and 50% Friesian by pedigree or appearance.

- **Drum Horse (SILVER)**

A Drum Horse is a specific type of Part Bred that is 50% Traditional Cob (Irish Cob or Gypsy) and 50% Shire or Clydesdale by pedigree or appearance.

COLOUR CODING IS OPTIONAL FOR TCR SHOWING PURPOSES

4. SHOWING CLASS HEIGHT GROUPS

(a) 15.3 hands to 16.2 hands – Large (Maxi)

(b) 14.2. hands to 15.2 hands – Standard

(c) 13.1 hands to 14.1 hands – Small






(d) 13 hands and under – Mini

(e) Over 16.2 hands – Part Bred only

5. GRADING RULES

(a) 5-Star grading

TCR 5-Star grading is breed representation grading

 STAR 1	EXHIBITOR TURNOUT & HANDLING The exhibiter's turnout will be scored as well as how well the exhibit behaves and shows for the exhibitor.	
 STAR 2	CONDITION & PRESENTATION The exhibit will be scored on its body condition, and the condition of its mane, tail and leg feather, and also on how well it is groomed as well as its show bridle or head collar.	
 STAR 3	BREED TYPE The exhibit will be scored on how well it represents its Traditional Cob breed type or its Part Bred Traditional Cob breed type.	
 STAR 4	CONFORMATION The exhibit will be scored on its conformation according to its appropriate breed standard.	
 STAR 5	MOVEMENT The exhibit will be scored on its movement at walk and trot. The exhibit's trot should be normal or not over-exaggerated except for the Stepping Cob.	
5 Stars = GOLD GRADE		
4 Stars = SILVER GRADE		3 Stars = BRONZE GRADE
NOTE: Stallions cannot be graded unless they have been verified by DNA as PSSM/1 negative		

(b) Senior 5-Star grading

4-year-old and over stallions, mares, and geldings that are awarded a TCR 5-Star grading at a TCR grading will hold a TCR Senior 5-Star grading. A Senior TCR 5-Star grading is a permanent TCR grading. However, where a 4-year-old or over stallion, mare or and gelding does not achieve a TCR 5-Star grading at a TCR grading, it can be presented again at a future TCR 5-Star grading.

(c) Junior 5-Star grading

1, 2 and 3-year-old colts, fillies, and geldings that are awarded a TCR 5-Star grading a TCR grading will hold a TCR Junior 5-Star grading. A Junior TCR 5-Star grading is a temporary TCR grading. Where a 1-year-old colt, filly, or gelding is awarded a TCR 5-Star grading the grading is only applicable during the time it is a 1-year-old. Where a 2-year-old colt, filly, or gelding is awarded a TCR 5-Star grading the grading is only applicable during the time it is a 2-year-old. Where a 3-year-old colt, filly, or gelding is awarded a TCR 5-Star grading the grading is only applicable during the time it is a 3-year-old.

(d) Premium grading (grading by progeny)

TCR Premium Grading is breeding status grading and can therefore only be achieved if proven to have produced TCR 5-Star graded progeny. To achieve a TCR Premium Grading, a TCR-registered stallion or mare must therefore be recorded by TCR as having produced at least two TCR-registered progeny that have been awarded a TCR 5-Star grading. Although it would be desirable if the TCR-registered stallion or mare also had a TCR 5-Star grading, is it not necessary for the TCR-registered stallion or mare to even be graded in order to achieve a TCR Premium Grading.

6. MEMBERSHIP

(a) Membership levels

LEVEL 1 – TCR Registry & Show Club Member (€50 - £40)

A TCR Registry & Show Club Member gets a discount of 25% off all registrations and off all TCR showing class entry fees.

LEVEL 2 – TCR Registry Member (€30 - £25)

A TCR Registry Member gets a discount of 25% off all registrations.

LEVEL 3 – TCR Show Club Member (€30 - £25)

A TCR Registry & Show Club Member gets a discount of 25% off all registrations and off all TCR showing class entry fees.

All TCR members (Registry & Show Club) can: -

- Attend and contribute suggestions and ideas at TCR meetings.
- Train to be a TCR show judge and/or TCR grading judge.
- Get a discount of 20% off a TCR seminar fee (full 'non-member' price €50).
- Get free TCR cob for sale listings.
- Get free TCR newsletters.

(b) Membership cancellations and refunds

A person has 14 days from the date of application within which to notify TCR by email that they wish to cancel their membership. If notification is received within 14 days TCR will refund the person less any admin fee within 14 days of receipt of notification of cancellation. After 14 days all fees are non-refundable.

(c) Member's rules

All members must abide by the TCR Terms & Conditions (Rules) plus any revisions made and communicated from time to time. By completing and signing the membership form, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by these TCR Terms & Conditions (Rules).

(d) Members' code of conduct

Members must:

- Conduct themselves to uphold the reputation of the TCR and its members.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that is not prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct, or good reputation of TCR events, or the TCR itself, and that does not cause fear of violence, abuse, or harassment to TCR staff and to any other persons involved with TCR or with a TCR event.
- Behave in a courteous manner towards other members and to uphold the integrity and reputation of the TCR.

Members are responsible for the actions of any non-members accompanying them at TCR events. Failure to comply members' code of conduct may give rise to expulsion as a member.

(e) Non-discrimination

Anyone is entitled to apply for TCR membership even if they are already a member of another registry. TCR does not discriminate, and will therefore not refuse membership without giving a valid reason.

7. JUDGES

(a) Judges Panel

The TCR Judges Application is intended for use by experienced judges – i.e. with a CV showing sufficient experience to judge Traditional Cobs, Stepping Cobs, Mini Cobs or Part Breds.

An experienced judge is approved as a member of the TCR Judges Panel for the year in which they submit their TCR Judges Application.

(b) Trainee judges

The TCR Trainee Judges application is intended for use by TCR members who wish to train as TCR judges. Trainee TCR judges must complete a TCR training course and attend as steward to a TCR judge at a given number of TCR showing classes before they can be considered suitable for qualification as a TCR Judge.

A newly qualified TCR Judge will hold a TCR provisional qualification for one year after which they may be promoted to a fully qualified TCR Judge, or they may be made repeat a provisional qualification year, or they may be refused either.

(c) Judges' code of conduct

Judges must:

- Conduct themselves to uphold the reputation of the TCR and its members.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that is courteous to TCR staff, exhibitors and spectators at the show.
- Not associate with exhibitors/handlers or owners immediately before or at any time during the show.
- Not consult the catalogue at any time before or during the show.

Failure to comply judges' code of conduct may give rise to expulsion as a judge.

(d) Non-discrimination

A judge that is already on the Judges' Panel of another registry can also apply to be a member of the TCR Judges Panel. TCR does not discriminate, and will therefore not refuse Judge's application for membership of the TCR Judges Panel without giving a valid reason.

IRISH COB BREED STANDARD

Author: Evelyn Flynn

GENERAL APPEARANCE - The Irish Cob is compact and powerful, ample both in muscle and bone, yet, with an ability to perform as a good all-purpose animal. Some Irish Cobs tend to be more “stocky” than others. The Irish Cob is well balanced and proportioned, standing straight and square and offering an imposing appearance.

TOPLINE - The head, which should be held proudly, should be carried on a powerful and arched, well “set on”, neck. The neck should appear to “carry on” through good withers and to finish at the start of the back (this feature should be particularly evident in stallions). The back, which should be short and straight, should slope gently upwards to a well-muscled croup (the backbone/spine or the hip bones should not be apparent). The croup, which is quite high and generous, the backbone should have both croup muscles well defined, the top of the quarters being exceptionally well muscled, broad and ample. The angle of the spine from the croup to the tail should slope gently downwards and should not be exaggerated; this allows for a high, well “set on”, tail and contributes to good well-rounded quarters.

BONE - Irish Cobs are from medium weight to heavy weight, (Some allowance in bone measurement can be made for mares and geldings only).

IN MOTION - Irish Cobs with their unique action, luxuriant hair and feathering and the large range of colours available, combine to present a beautiful and varied sight to see when turned out at their best, particularly when in motion.

TEMPERAMENT - The Irish Cob should possess a docile and willing nature, with a friendly disposition towards humans and other animal species. Displays of aggressive and threatening behaviour such as ears back, kicking, biting, rearing and not being under control of the handler, will result in expulsion from Approval Inspection and the Show Ring.

HEIGHT - Under 170cms (not exceeding 16.2 hands)

HEAD - should be straight, handsome and in proportion to the rest of the horse. The forehead should be broad and the muzzle, jaw and cheek should be generous.

MOUTH - should have a level bite.

EYES - should be quite bold, open and set well apart.

EARS - should be neat and well set on.

NECK - should be compact, but not too short and should be generously muscled, including the crest (stallion's necks should be particularly well muscled and crested).

SHOULDERS - should be ample, powerful and sloping.

WITHERS - should be of average protrusion or height and should be encased in plenty of muscle and flesh.

CHEST - should be powerful, well-muscled and not too broad or narrow.

BACK - should be short, straight, well covered in muscle and flesh and slope gently upwards towards the croup.

HINDQUARTERS AND HIND LEGS - should be very generous, well-rounded, broad and powerful with a well-muscled high croup. The second thigh should also be very generous, quite long and well coupled to good straight powerful hocks. The hind legs should be well boned and muscled.

BODY - should be short and compact with ribs well sprung to barrel shape.

FORELEGS - should be powerful and not too short. There should be a good length of well-muscled forearm and generously boned shins.

KNEES AND HOCKS - should be well developed and of generous dimensions but should be in balance with the proportions of the horse.

FETLOCK JOINTS - should match the other joints in power, size and build.

PASTERNS - should also be of sufficient bone and not too long (straight or over-angled pasterns are a fault).

HOOVES - should be well-shaped, neat and of a size capable of carrying the frame of the horse without stress.

LEG HAIR/FEATHERING - Leg hair/feathering is a characteristic and decorative feature of the Irish Cob breed. This is especially prominent in the heavier Irish Cobs. However, the amount of leg hair/feathering present may vary considerably, particularly in the case of medium weight Irish Cobs. Leg hair/feathering should, at the very least, fall from the back of the knees and hocks, down to a thick covering of hair/feathers on the heels. Leg hair/feathering should also fall over the front of the hoof, from at least the coronet.

MANE AND TAIL - should be luxuriant and capable of growing to a substantial length.

MOVEMENT - should appear sound and free from obvious hereditary defects.

COLOUR - The following colours are considered most typical.

- All solid colours, including black, bay, brown, chestnut, palomino, grey and roan.
- All solid colours, including black, bay, brown, chestnut, palomino, grey and roan, which contain white body markings. White body markings are measured in percentages and exclude the head, legs and underbelly.
- Irish Cobs, which have white body markings, are described as COLOURED.
- Irish Cobs, which have white markings on the underbelly, are described as SPLASHED or BLAGDON

Although described as a 'draught' type animal, the Irish Cob breed also remains a dual-purpose animal, by retaining the docile character attributed to the cold-blooded breeds, while retaining the breed's agile and versatile capabilities, which are ideally suited to a number of leisure riding pursuits.

NOTE

An Irish Cob is still an Irish Cob even if it has had its mane and/or leg hair/feathering removed

HISTORY OF THE IRISH COB



Original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob)

To understand the Irish Cob Breed Standard – which was written for the original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) – it is important to know the history of the breed and therefore why the original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) is a riding cob that can be driven.

After World War II Irish Travellers used cobs bred in Ireland by Irish farmers crossed with the Clydesdale and Shire to develop the original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob). However, it is because cobs bred in Ireland by Irish farmers had a riding cob structure (the dimensions and proportions attributed to the riding cob including a good riding cob shoulder and chest) that the cobs bred in Ireland by Irish farmers were a riding cob that could be driven. It is therefore the influence of the cobs bred in Ireland by Irish farmers that gave the original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) a riding cob structure (the dimensions and proportions attributed to the riding cob including a good riding cob shoulder and chest) and that made the original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) a riding cob that can be driven.

Because the cobs bred in Ireland by Irish farmers could also be coloured (piebald or skewbald) and because coloured horse were not wanted by the Irish farmers who bred them, most coloured cobs produced by Irish farmers were sold to Irish Travellers for little money. However, Irish Travellers used those coloured cobs to produce the unique the Traditional Cob of Ireland (Irish Cob) that was predominately black and white (piebald) and which Irish Travellers therefore simply referred to as the 'Piebald'.

It is the versatile, all-purpose (ride and drive) original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob), with its handsome straight head and riding cob structure, that in the 1990s made the Traditional Cob so popular as a leisure horse not just in Ireland and the UK, but also in Germany, Holland, France, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Czech Republic, Spain, Italy and also in the USA and Australia. In addition to being ridden and shown worldwide in its full 'traditional splendor' of abundant leg feathering and long thick flowing mane and tail, clipped out and hogged the Traditional Cob of Ireland (Irish Cob) became a common sight on the hunting fields of Ireland and England as well as in Riding Cob showing classes in Ireland and England.

Modern Irish Cob

Since the 1990s the original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) has been modernised. Not only does the modern Irish Cob have a wider range of colour, but it is also regarded as more refined ('showier') than the original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob). The modern Irish Cob can also have more of a driving cob structure (subtlety added dimensions and proportions attributed to the driving cob including a subtlety added driving cob shoulder and chest) than the original Irish Cob (which has a riding cob structure including a riding cob shoulder and chest) and can therefore have a more emphasised movement action than the original Irish Cob. Because the modern Irish Cob can have subtlety added dimensions and proportions attributed to the driving cob including a subtlety added driving cob shoulder and front, the difference between an original Irish Cob and a modern Irish Cob may only be seen by the experienced eye.

GYPSY COB BREED STANDARD

Author: The Traditional Cob Registry

BREED DESCRIPTION – The Gypsy Cob is a driving cob (which has the more laid-back shoulders and withers and more forward-build chest and forelegs attributed to the carriage horse) and not a work horse (which has the more upright and straight shoulders and forward-built withers attributed to agricultural horse). Although the Gypsy Cob is a driving cob, its docile temperament also makes it popular for riding.

GENERAL APPEARANCE – The Gypsy Cob is a compact, powerful, heavy driving cob with ample muscle and bone. The Gypsy Cob is a powerful yet agile driving cob with good depth of body and heart room.

TOPLINE - The head should be set on a powerful, well crested neck that can be a little short and joined to laid back withers that can be quite low and even flat and round in appearance and that are joined to a back that should be short, broad, and sloping upwards to a very well-muscled croup that can also be a little short. The top of the quarters should be well muscled, broad and ample. The angle of the spine from the croup to the tail can be a little steep.

BONE - The Gypsy Cob should be heavy boned (some allowance can be made for mares and geldings).

TEMPERAMENT - The Gypsy Cob should possess a docile and willing nature, with a friendly disposition towards humans and other animal species. Displays of aggressive and threatening behaviour such as ears back, kicking, biting, rearing and not being under control of the handler, will result in expulsion from the Show Ring.

HEIGHT - Up to 16.2 hands

HEAD - should be sweet, neat, straight or slightly concave, in proportion to the rest of the horse and can taper a little towards a muzzle which should be generous. The forehead should be broad and flat and the cheek generous.

MOUTH - should have a level bite.

EYES - should be bold, open and set well apart.

EARS - should be small, neat, well set-on, and slightly curved in.

NECK - should be compact, not too short and should be very generously muscled including the crest (stallion's necks should be particularly well muscled and crested).

SHOULDERS - should have a driving horse structure and there be well sloped. The shoulders should also be deep, very powerful and well-muscled. The shoulder blades can be set a little far apart each side of the withers.

WITHERS - should have a driving cob structure and therefore reach further into the back than the riding cob. Because the shoulder blades can be set a little far apart each side of the withers, it can cause the withers to appear broad and/or round in appearance. Because the withers can have little or no obvious protrusion it can give the withers the appearance of being quite flat.

CHEST - should have a driving cob structure and therefore be well sloped. The front points of the shoulder/chest (Greater Tubercle) should therefore be set higher than the riding cob which therefore has the effect of placing the forelegs in a more forward position than the riding cob. Because the chest can be very ample, powerful, well-muscled and broad, the chest can be "bullish" in appearance.

BACK - should be short, straight, broad, well covered in muscle and flesh and slope gently upwards towards the croup.

HINDQUARTERS AND HIND LEGS – should be very generous, well-rounded, broad and powerful with a well-muscled croup that can be a little short (but not too short) and have a slightly steep angle to the tail (too steep an angle from croup to tail set is a fault). The second thigh can be a little short but should be coupled to good, straight, very powerful, ample hocks. The hind legs should be well boned and muscled.

BODY - should be short and compact with ribs that are well sprung to barrel shape.

FORELEGS - should be powerful and not too short. The forearm can be a little short but should be reasonably muscled and the shins (cannons) should be generously boned.

KNEES AND HOCKS - should be well developed and flat boned and be of generous dimensions. The knees and hocks should be in balance with the proportions of the horse.

FETLOCK JOINTS - should match the other joints in power, size and build.

PASTERNS - should be of sufficient bone and not too long (straight or over angled pasterns are a fault).

HOOVES - should be well shaped, neat, balanced and of a size capable of carrying the frame of the horse without stress.

LEG HAIR/FEATHERING - Ample, thick, straight leg hair/feathering is a characteristic and decorative feature of the Gypsy Cob. Leg hair/feathering should fall from the back of the knees and hocks, down to a thick covering of hair/feathers on the heels. Leg hair/feathering should also fall over the front of the hoof, from at least the coronet. Thick leg feathering can also fall from the front of the knees.

MANE AND TAIL - should be straight, thick, luxuriant and capable of growing to a substantial length.

MOVEMENT - should have good action and appear sound and free from obvious hereditary defects.

COLOUR - The Gypsy Cob can be any colour.

NOTE

A Gypsy Cob is still a Gypsy Cob even if it has had its mane and/or leg hair/feathering removed.

HISTORY OF THE GYPSY COB



Original Gypsy Cob (Traditional Gypsy Cob)

To understand the Gypsy Cob Breed Standard – which was written for the original Gypsy Cob (Traditional Gypsy Cob) – it is important to know the history of the breed and therefore why the original Gypsy Cob (Traditional Gypsy Cob) is a driving cob that can be ridden.

After World War II the Traditional Cob of Ireland (Irish Cob) developed in Ireland by Irish Travellers as their perfect caravan horse, was used by the Romani people in England as the foundation breed to develop the original Gypsy Cob (Traditional Gypsy Cob) as their perfect caravan horse.

NOTE: Although the Traditional Cob of Ireland (original Irish Cob) and the Traditional Cob of the UK (original Gypsy Cob) share the same unique Traditional Cob breed characteristics – a powerful compact build with ample muscle and bone, an abundance of leg hair/feathering and a luxuriant mane and tail capable of growing to a substantial length – the main difference between the two Traditional Cob breed types is structural. Whereas the Traditional Cob of Ireland (original Irish Cob) is a riding cob that can be driven, the Traditional Cob of the UK (Gypsy Cob) is a driving cob that can be ridden.

Modern Gypsy Cob

Since the 2000s the original Gypsy Cob (Traditional Gypsy Cob) has become modernised. Not only does the modern Gypsy Cob have a wider range of colour, but it is also regarded as more refined than the original Gypsy Cob.

Although the original Gypsy Cob has been modernised, the modern Gypsy Cob has retained the driving cob structure (the dimensions and proportions attributed to the driving cob including the driving cob shoulder and chest) of the original Gypsy Cob (Traditional Gypsy Cob) and therefore also the emphasised movement action of the original Gypsy Cob. Although the modern Gypsy Cob has a sweet head it may not be quite as sweet as the head of the original Gypsy Cob (Traditional Gypsy Cob).

STEPPING COB BREED STANDARD

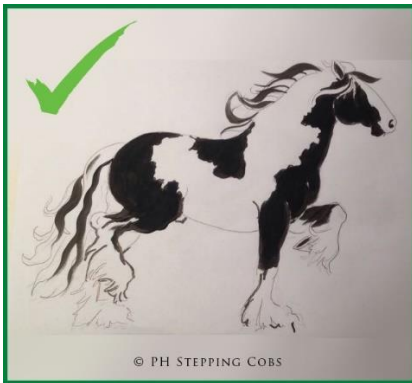
Author: The Stepping Cob Association

What is a Stepping Cob?

A Stepping Cob is a Traditional Cob with a natural ELEVATED knee and hock action.

Description of Elevated Action

This action should be visible at a steady trot as it is not a forced action, therefore, they do not need to be moving at a fast pace to show the ELEVATION. The Stepping Cob sometimes display this action from birth and others as they mature, the action develops. It is not a forced action and becomes more pronounced as they become more balanced and mature.



THIS IS A CORRECT EXAMPLE OF A STEPPING COB

Head carriage up working into the bit but soft, high balanced level knee and hock action. The hind quarters engaging from behind in an upward elastic motion. Forward front action is suspended for a moment, thus seen as a suspended folding placement down to the ground.



INCORRECT MOVEMENT

This movement is normally seen in a horse that is being forced to step, thus moving out front only. They are unable to engage the hind quarters, note the back foot still almost on the ground. The horse has the profile or look of a horse pulling a heavy load.



INCORRECT MOVEMENT

Although this movement shows front and back hock action, note that the hind leg is out the back, this is known as being behind the movement. This horse is moving at speed to achieve the action, and as such the hind legs is pushed out behind instead of being engaged up and forward.

DRUM HORSE BREED STANDARD

Author: International Drum Horse Association

GENERAL APPEARANCE – The overall impression of the Drum Horse should be one of an elegant heavy horse of great strength and agility. The Drum Horse is a heavy riding horse, and should therefore display the athleticism to allow for competitiveness in all ridden and driven disciplines. The Drum Horse should be a large, well-muscled horses of medium wight, with good quality bone, an athletic body, a kind expression, and an abundance of hair (including heavy feather on the legs).

SIZE – 16 hands and over.

DISPOSITION – The Drum Horse should display good character and be a willing and sensible partner.

COLOUR – The Drum Horse may have any base colour, and may be solid or coloured.

HAIR – Mane and tail should be natural and abundant. Feather is a required characteristic of a Drum Horse. Feathering preferable should begin above the fetlock joints, and start at the back of the knee and hocks, as well as run down the leg to cover the entire hoof. Feather should be silky and soft, and may be either straight or curly. Trimming of the mane, tail, and feather is not desired, unless required for a discipline in which the horse in question competes. Clipping or trimming of bridle paths, belly hair, jaw and ear hair is permissible and up to each individual owner/breeder. Docking of tails is not permitted.

MOVEMENT – The ideal Drum Horse should move naturally, with forward impulsion and presence, during all three gaits.

WALK – Horse should walk flat with a straight for-beat, ground-covering gait. Stride should be consistent and balanced.

TROT – The trot should be coordinated, straight, and balanced. There should be two distinct beats in which front and hind legs are moving diagonally. Action at the knees may be snappy and naturally animated, or regular or extended. The Drum Horse should use his hind end well, and hock should be powerful and work close together.

CANTER – The canter should be a fluid three beat gait, exhibiting balance, cadence and strong use of horse's hindquarters.

HEAD – Should be attractive and in proportion to the body. The forehead and poll should be wide, but not so wide as to lose the appearance of overall proportion to the length of the head. The muzzle and jaw should be square, and tie in cleanly to the rest of the horse. The upper and lower lip should meet, and the horse's bite should be even. The ears should be attractive and in proportion with the head, and carried alertly. The eyes should appear expressive and kind, and should be an appropriate size for the horse's body type.

NECK – The neck should be long, well-muscled, and in proportion to the horse's frame. Throat latch should be clean, allowing for good flexion at the poll. The length of the neck should be well proportioned in comparison to the length and the back, and should tie in smoothly at the shoulder and withers.

Stallions may exhibit a masculine crest in proper relationship to the size and thickness of the neck. Mares should have a more refined, feminine head and neck.

CHEST – The chest should be deep and as broad as the shoulders, balanced in appearance compared to the rest of the body.

SHOULDERS – The shoulders should be set far enough apart to allow for each front leg to be centred under each front point of the shoulder. Shoulders should be level and in balance with each other. The slope of the shoulder and the slope of the pastern should ideally be the same angle (as close to 45-50 degrees as possible).

WITHERS – Withers should be average in height (not too high or low) and well-defined, with a generous layer of muscle. They should be sloping, and preferable lie further back than the elbow, to allow for greater scope of motion in the forelimbs.

BACK, LIONS, AND CROUP – The back should be strong and in proportion with the horse's overall frame and build. The back should be half the length of the underline. The back should tie in well with the lions, which should be wide and strong on the mature horse. The lions should lead fluently into the croup, which should have a straight downward slope. The croup should not be too short or steep/pointed, not overly round.

BARREL – The barrel (or the body).

FRONT LEGS – When viewed from the front, front legs should be set parallel to each other and far enough apart to allow one hoof width in between. When viewed from the side, legs should be straight to the fetlock joint. The knee should be slightly wider than the leg itself, and “flat” as opposed to “round” in appearance. The cannon bone should be half the length of the forearm. Pastern should ideally be half the same angle as the shoulders.

BACK LEGS – When view from behind, the back legs should display a “draft horse hock set”, where the toes can be slightly turned out, but should, but should not be cow hocked or sickle hocked when viewed from the side. When the horse is standing square and view from the side, the hind legs should be set directly under the hindquarters, with the point of the hock directly beneath the point of the buttock. The hock should be flat in appearance with the tendons clearly defined, and ideally a little higher than the front knee. The cannon bone at the rear should be slightly longer than in the front legs.

HOOVES – Hooves should be large enough for soundness, stability and weight-bearing, but not exaggerated in proportion to the horse's build. Heels should be open, and hooves should be well shaped to provide long years of sound use.

DRUM HORSE

The Drum Horse Breed Standard it is based on, and named for, the drum horse of the Life Guards of the British Royal Household Cavalry, which carries the kettle-drummer and large silver kettle-drums, and is usually a Clydesdale or Shire, and often either piebald or skewbald due to crossing the Clydesdale or Shire with the Traditional Cob. The Drum Horse that has become popular as a riding horse is always part Traditional Cob and part Clydesdale or Shire.

TCR Drum Horse registration

For TCR registration purposes, a Drum Horse must be 50% Traditional Cob and 50% Shire or Clydesdale by pedigree or appearance.