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TCR SHOWING & GRADING RULES

(Including Breed Standards, Membership & Judges)

1st January 2026 to 31st December 2026

PART 1 – SHOWING RULES

1. THE EXHIBIT

- 1.1. For TCR showing purposes, the age of an exhibit is determined from 1 January of each year.
- 1.2. The exhibit must be clean, well-groomed, and exhibited in a suitable tack that is clean and in good condition.
- 1.3. 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 show ring with the exhibit. It is highly recommended that the exhibitor/handler has a show cane or showing whip to show the exhibit off at its best.
- 1.4. 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).
- 1.5. Mares 3 years old and over must be shown in a show bridle, head collar or white show slip.
- 1.6. Geldings 3 years old and over must be shown in a show bridle.
- 1.7. Foals at foot must be shown in a head collar, or white show slip.
- 1.8. Yearling fillies, colts and geldings must be shown in show bridle or head collar.
- 1.9. 2-year-old colts must be shown in a show bridle.
- 1.10. 2-year-old fillies and geldings must be shown in show bridle, head collar or white show slip.

2. THE EXHIBIT OWNER

- 2.1. The exhibit owner 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.
- 2.2. The exhibit owner is responsible for any injury caused by the exhibit to any animal and/or person at the show.
- 2.3. The exhibit owner is responsible for any damage caused by the exhibit to any property and/or to any vehicle at the show.
- 2.4. The exhibit owner must accept that the decision of the judge (or judges) is final, and that because judges can differ in their opinions, if the exhibit not places first, on another day the exhibit could be placed first.

3. THE EXHIBITOR & LATE ENTRIES

- 3.1. Exhibitor 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.
- 3.2. The exhibitor 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.
- 3.3. The exhibitor is responsible for ensuring that the exhibit enters the show ring before judging starts. If an exhibitor arrives late for the exhibit's class (after the judging has started) then the steward will refuse the exhibit entry into its class. The steward will then inform the judge of the late arrival and give the exhibitor's reason for being late. It will be at the discretion of the judge to decide whether or not to accept the late entry. If the judge accepts the late entry, it will not create a precedent for late entries because the reason for accepting the late entry must be documented and treated as an individual case with a justified reason for having accepted the late entry. However, once the judge has commenced placing the exhibits the judge cannot accept a late entry under any circumstance.
- 3.4. The exhibitor must follow the instructions of the steward.
- 3.5. The exhibitor must show the judge and steward respect and also accept that the whole aspect of showing is to catch the judge's eye and therefore to ensure that they show off the exhibit to the best of their ability so as to get noticed by the judge.
- 3.6. Young exhibitors are allowed to have a parent or instructor assist them in the show ring.
NOTE: No one under 18 years of age will be allowed exhibit a stallion in a TCR showing class or parade.

4. THE SHOWING PROCEDURE

- 4.1. When the exhibit enters the show ring the exhibitor must be leading the exhibit from its near (left) side.
- 4.2. The exhibitor must 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.
- 4.3. The exhibitor will continue to walk the exhibit in a right-hand circle around the arena until the steward asks the exhibitor to stop.
- 4.4. 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.

- 4.5. For individual judging of each exhibit the exhibitor 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.
- 4.6. While the judge is assessing the exhibit according to its appropriate breed standard, the exhibitor must position the exhibit and themselves as instructed by the steward. If the exhibit is deemed by the judge to be abused during the showing procedure, then the exhibitor will be asked by the steward to leave the show ring with the exhibit.
- 4.7. 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.
- 4.8. 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.
- 4.9. After all of the exhibits have been individually judged and lined up, the steward will ask the first exhibitor 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.
- 4.10. 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.
- 4.11. 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.

5. 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.

6. NON-DISCRIMINATION

TCR does not discriminate against anyone's disabilities or religious beliefs. TCR respects every owner, exhibitor and exhibit at every TCR how or parade.

SHOWING CLASS BREED TYPE GROUPS

7. TRADITIONAL COB SHOWING CLASS BREED TYPE GROUPS

- 7.1. GROUP 1 – TRADITIONAL IRISH COB & GROUP 1B – IRISH COB
- 7.2. GROUP 2 – GYPSY COB
- 7.3. GROUP 3 – MINI COB/MINI GYPSY COB

8. TRADITIONAL COB BREED TYPE SHOWING CLASSES

8.1. TRADITIONAL COB CLASSES

Traditional Cob in-hand classes are for all three Traditional Cob breed type groups (Irish Cob, Gypsy Cob, and Mini Cob/Mini Gypsy Cob). Traditional Cobs (Irish & Gypsy) shown in Traditional Cob in-hand classes must have a natural/unplaited mane, full leg feathering and a full tail which can be trimmed to above ground level.

8.2. IRISH COB CLASSES

Irish Cob in-hand classes are for one Traditional Cob breed type (Irish Cob). Irish Cobs shown in Irish Cob in-hand classes must have a natural/unplaited mane, full leg feathering and a full tail which can be trimmed to above ground level. However, Irish Cob geldings (14.2hh and over) can be hogged.

NOTE: The reason an Irish Cob gelding can be hogged for an Irish Cob in-hand class is because although an Irish Cob gelding with a full mane in an Irish Cob in-hand classes represents the breed as non-breeding Irish Cobs, the job of a hogged Irish Cob gelding (14hh or over) in Irish Cob in-hand class is to promote the breeds traditional use as a show cob (including RDS show cob), hunter, riding club horse and work horse etc. Although an Irish Cob gelding (14hh or over) can be hogged for an Irish Cob in-hand class, it must have its full leg feathering (its Irish Cob breed defining characteristic) for an Irish Cob in-hand class.

8.3. GYPSY COB CLASSES

Gypsy Cob in-hand classes are for one Traditional Cob breed type (Gypsy Cob). Gypsy Cobs shown in Gypsy Cob in-hand classes must have a natural/unplaited mane, full leg feathering and a full tail which can be trimmed to above ground level.

8.4. MINI COB CLASSES

Mini Cob in-hand classes are for one Traditional Cob breed type (Mini Cob/Mini Gypsy Cob). Mini Cobs/Mini Gypsy Cobs shown in Mini Cob in-hand classes must have a natural/unplaited mane, full leg feathering and a full tail which can be trimmed to above ground level.

9. TRADITIONAL COB BREED TYPES AND PART BRED TRADITIONAL COBS

9.1. TRADITIONAL IRISH COB (EMERALD GREEN)

The Traditional Irish Cob is the original (1990s) Irish Cob that was created in Ireland by Irish Travellers (historically referred to as Tinkers) and some Irish farmers. The Traditional Irish Cob is predominantly piebald (black and white) and is medium to heavy boned and therefore medium to heavy feathered. The Traditional Irish Cob height ranges are: Standard (14.2hh to 15.2hh), Large (15.3hh to 16.2hh) and Oversize (16.3hh and over).

9.2. IRISH COB (LIGHT GREEN)

Since the 1990s the Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) has been modernised – i.e. become more refined (showier) with a sweeter head and a wider range of colours. The modern Irish Cob height ranges are: Small (13.1hh to 14.1hh), Standard (14.2hh to 15.2hh), and Large (15.3hh to 16.2hh).

9.3. GYPSY COB (ROYAL BLUE)

The Gypsy Cob was developed in England/the UK by Romany people/Roma (historically referred to as Gypsies) by selectively breeding the Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) to maximise the stockiness and heavy bone and feather of the Irish Cob, to reduce the height of the Irish Cob, and to add driving cob characteristics attributed to the Welsh Cob – including a more driving cob type shoulder, withers and chest and a sweeter ‘Welsh type’ head. The Gypsy Cob height ranges are: Standard (13.1hh to 14.1hh) and Large (14.2hh to 15.2hh). Although the Standard Gypsy Cob (13.2hh to 14.1hh) is known for its sweet ‘Welsh type’ pony head and very stocky build and heavy bone. The Large (14.2hh to 15.2hh) Gypsy Cob can have more cob characteristics, that can be more akin to the Standard (14.2hh to 15.2hh) Irish Cob, including a more cob type head, longer legs and a more athletic body (build).

9.4. MINI COB/MINI GYPSY COB (RED)

The Mini Cob/Mini Gypsy Cob was developed in England/the UK by Romani people/Roma (historically referred to as Gypsies) from selectively breeding the Gypsy Cob.

9.5. STEPPING COB (YELLOW)

The Stepping Cob was developed in England and Ireland by selectively breeding Traditional Cobs (usually Gypsy Cobs) with elevated knee and hock action.

9.6. DRUM HORSE (DARK GREY) & CLASSIC DRUM HORSE (SILVER GREY)

Drum Horse: A Drum Horse is either a Large (15.3hh to 16.2hh) Irish Cob, or a Part Bred Irish Cob that has the characteristics required of a Drum Horse – i.e. an athletic draft horse type build with leg feathering that also falls over the front of the hooves, and that is no less than 15.3hh, and that can carry a set of drums smaller than kettle drums. Classic Drum Horse: A Classic Drum Horse is either an Oversize (16.3hh or over) Irish Cob, or a Part Bred Irish Cob that has the characteristics required of a Drum Horse – i.e. an athletic draft horse type build with leg feathering that also falls over the front of the hooves, and that is 16.3hh or over, and that can carry a set of kettle drums.

NOTE: Although there are three pure draft horse breeds (Irish Cob, Shire and Clydesdale) that can be a Drum Horse, and crossings of those three breeds that can be a Drum Horse, the Irish Cob – which has the most athletic build and straightest hocks of the three draft horse breeds and which is also predominantly coloured (piebald or skewbald) can be considered to be the most suitable breed to represent the original Queen’s Household Cavalry Drum Horse. Because the Drum Horse is a type – i.e. an athletic draft horse type build with leg feathering that also falls over the front of the hooves, other breeds have contributed to Drum Horse breeding including the Friesian Horse which is a carriage horse (with high knee action) rather than a draft horse, so using the Friesian to contribute to Drum Horse breeding may not always result in breeding a true Drum Horse.

9.7. PART BRED TRADITIONAL COB (PURPLE)

A Part Bred Traditional Cob is a Traditional Cob (Irish Cob or Gypsy Cob) x any other breed.

9.8. TRADIAN (BLACK)

A Tradian is a Traditional Cob (usually a Standard 14.2hh to 15.2hh Irish Cob) x Friesian.

COLOUR CODING IS OPTIONAL FOR TCR SHOWING PURPOSES

10. SHOWING CLASS HEIGHT DIVISIONS

IRISH COB	GYPSY COB
(a) OVERSIZE (16.3hh and over)	(a) LARGE (14.2hh to 15.2hh)
(b) LARGE (15.3hh to 16.2hh)	(b) STANDARD (13.1hh to 14.1hh)
(c) STANDARD (14.2hh to 15.2hh)	(c) MINI (13hh and under)
(d) SMALL (13.1hh to 14.1hh)	

11. SHOW CLASS LIST

- TCR showing class identification (ID) numbers can differ from TCR showing class numbers.
- TCR showing classes can be selected from the TCR showing class list depending on the needs of a particular show.
- TCR showing classes can also be combined or merged depending of the needs and requirements of a particular show.

TRADITIONAL COB CLASSES

(for Irish Cobs & Gypsy Cobs – the two FULL BRED Traditional Cob breed types)

ID	IN-HAND	ID	IN-HAND
	<u>TRADITIONAL COB (IRISH & GYPSY)</u>		<u>GYPSY COB</u>
01	Broodmare with foal at foot	09	Broodmare with foal at foot
02	Mare 4 y/o and over	10	Mare 4 y/o and over
03	Gelding 4 y/o and over	(a)	Standard & Large Gypsy Cob (13.1hh to 15.2hh)
04	Stallion 4 y/o and over	(b)	Standard Gypsy Cob (13.1hh to 14.1)
		(c)	Large Gypsy Cob (14.2hh to 15.2hh)
	TRADITIONAL COB CHAMPIONSHIP (1)	11	Gelding 4 y/o and over
	All 1 st prize winners from classes 01 to 04 are eligible to compete.	(a)	Standard & Large Gypsy Cob (13.1hh to 15.2hh)
	Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.	(b)	Standard Gypsy Cob (13.1hh to 14.1)
		(c)	Large Gypsy Cob (14.2hh to 15.2hh)
	<u>IRISH COB</u>	12	Stallion 4 y/o and over
05	Broodmare with foal at foot	(a)	Standard & Large Gypsy Cob (13.1hh to 14.1hh)
06	Mare 4 y/o and over (class can be divided)	(b)	Standard Gypsy Cob (13.1hh to 14.1)
(a)	Small Irish Cob (13.1hh to 14.1hh)	(c)	Large Gypsy Cob (14.2hh to 15.2hh)
(b)	Standard Irish Cob (14.2hh to 15.2hh)		
(c)	Large Irish Cob (15.3hh to 16.2hh)		GYPSY COB CHAMPIONSHIP (3)
(d)	Oversize Irish Cob (16.3hh and over)		All 1 st prize winners from classes 09 to 12 are eligible to compete.
07	Gelding 4 y/o and over (class can be divided)		Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.
(a)	Small Irish Cob (13.1hh to 14.1hh)		
(b)	Standard Irish Cob (14.2hh to 15.2hh)		<u>MINI COB/MINI GYPSY COB</u>
(c)	Large Irish Cob (15.3hh to 16.2hh)	13	Mare 4 y/o and over
(d)	Oversize Irish Cob (16.3hh and over)	14	Gelding 4 y/o and over
08	Stallion 4 y/o and over (class can be divided)	15	Stallion 4 y/o and over
(a)	Small Irish Cob (13.1hh to 14.1hh)		
(b)	Standard Irish Cob (14.2hh to 15.2hh)		MINI COB CHAMPIONSHIP (4)
(c)	Large Irish Cob (15.3hh to 16.2hh)		All 1 st prize winners from classes 13 to 15 are eligible to compete.
(d)	Oversize Irish Cob (16.3hh and over)		Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.
	IRISH COB CHAMPIONSHIP (2)		
	All 1 st prize winners from classes 05 to 08 are eligible to compete.		
	Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.		

TRADITIONAL COB YOUNGSTOCK CLASSES
(for Irish Cobs & Gypsy Cobs – the two FULL BRED Traditional Cob breed types)

ID	IN-HAND	ID	IN-HAND
<u>TRADITIONAL COB YOUNGSTOCK (IRISH & GYPSY)</u>		<u>GYPSY COB YOUNGSTOCK</u>	
16	Filly 1 y/o (yearling)	34	Filly 1 y/o (yearling)
17	Filly 2 y/o	35	Filly 2 y/o
18	Filly 3 y/o	36	Filly 3 y/o
19	Colt 1 y/o (yearling)	37	Colt 1 y/o (yearling)
20	Colt 2 y/o	38	Colt 2 y/o
21	Colt 3 y/o	39	Colt 3 y/o
22	Gelding 1 y/o (yearling)	40	Gelding 1 y/o (yearling)
23	Gelding 2 y/o	41	Gelding 2 y/o
24	Gelding 3 y/o	42	Gelding 3 y/o
TRADITIONAL COB YOUNGSTOCK CHAMPIONSHIP (5) All 1st prize winners from classes 16 to 24 are eligible to compete. Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.		GYPSY COB YOUNGSTOCK CHAMPIONSHIP (7) All 1st prize winners from classes 34 to 42 are eligible to compete. Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.	
<u>IRISH COB YOUNGSTOCK</u>		<u>MINI COB/MINI GYPSY COB YOUNGSTOCK</u>	
26	Filly 1 y/o (yearling)	43	
26	Filly 2 y/o	44	Filly 1 y/o (yearling)
27	Filly 3 y/o	45	Filly 2 y/o
28	Colt 1 y/o (yearling)	46	Filly 3 y/o
29	Colt 2 y/o	47	Colt 1 y/o (yearling)
30	Colt 3 y/o	48	Colt 2 y/o
31	Gelding 1 y/o (yearling)	49	Colt 3 y/o
32	Gelding 2 y/o	50	Gelding 1 y/o (yearling)
33	Gelding 3 y/o		Gelding 2 y/o
IRISH COB YOUNGSTOCK CHAMPIONSHIP (6) All 1st prize winners from classes 26 to 33 are eligible to compete. Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.		MINI COB YOUNGSTOCK CHAMPIONSHIP (8) All 1st prize winners from classes 43 to 50 are eligible to compete. Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.	
			Gelding 3 y/o

FULL BRED OR PART BRED TRADITIONAL COB UTILITY CLASSES

ID	IN-HAND	ID	IN-HAND
	<u>DRUM HORSE</u>		<u>STEPPING COB</u>
51	Mare or Gelding 4 y/o and over	55	Mare or Gelding 4 y/o and over
52	Stallion 4 y/o and over	56	Stallion 4 y/o and over
	<u>CLASSIC DRUM HORSE</u>		STEPPING COB CHAMPIONSHIP (11)
53	Mare or Gelding 4 y/o and over		All 1 st prize winners from classes 55 to 56 are eligible to compete.
54	Stallion 4 y/o and over		Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.
	DRUM HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP (9)		
	All 1 st prize winners from classes 51 to 54 are eligible to compete.		
	Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.		

PART BRED TRADITIONAL COB

ID	IN-HAND	ID	IN-HAND
	PART BRED TRADITIONAL COB (Traditional Cob x any other breed)		<u>TRADIAN</u> (Traditional Cob x Friesian)
57	Mare or Gelding 4 y/o and over	59	Mare or Gelding 4 y/o and over
58	Stallion 4 y/o and over	60	Stallion 4 y/o and over
	PART BRED TRADITIONAL COB CHAMPIONSHIP (10)		TRADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP (12)
	All 1 st prize winners from classes 57 to 58 are eligible to compete.		All 1 st prize winners from classes 59 to 60 are eligible to compete.
	Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.		Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.

FRIESIAN

ID	IN-HAND	ID	IN-HAND
	<u>FRIESIAN (KFPS REGISTERED)</u>		<u>FRIESIAN (UNREGISTERED)</u>
61	Mare or Gelding 4 y/o and over	63	Mare or Gelding 4 y/o and over
62	Stallion 4 y/o and over	64	Stallion 4 y/o and over
	FRIESIAN (KFPS) CHAMPIONSHIP (13)		FRIESIAN (UNREG) CHAMPIONSHIP (14)
	All 1 st prize winners from classes 61 to 62 are eligible to compete.		All 1 st prize winners from classes 63 to 64 are eligible to compete.
	Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.		Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.

RIDDEN COB & HORSE CLASSES

ID	RIDDEN	ID	RIDDEN
65	<u>SHOW COB</u> (Irish Cob & Riding Show Cob) Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over NOTE: Stallions, mares and gelding must have any leg feather clipped out and must also have their manes hogged and tail trimmed straight to half way between the hocks and fetlocks.	71	<u>DRUM HORSE</u> Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over
	<u>IRISH COB</u> Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over NOTE: Although stallions, mares and geldings must have their full leg feathering. They can have a full natural/unplaited mane or a plaited mane (a neat row of plaits) a braided mane (a neat single or double braid) or a hogged mane, and a full tail that can be trimmed to above ground level or trimmed straight to half way between the hocks and fetlocks.		<u>TRADIAN</u> Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over
66	<u>IRISH COB</u> Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over NOTE: Although stallions, mares and geldings must have their full leg feathering. They can have a full natural/unplaited mane or a plaited mane (a neat row of plaits) a braided mane (a neat single or double braid) or a hogged mane, and a full tail that can be trimmed to above ground level or trimmed straight to half way between the hocks and fetlocks.	73	<u>PART BRED TRADITIONAL COB</u> Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over
	<u>GYPSY COB</u> Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over		<u>FRIESIAN</u> (KFPS & UNREG) Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over
67	<u>MINI COB</u> Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over	74	<u>BEST TURNED OUT</u> (From classes 64 to 74) Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over
	<u>JUNIOR RIDER</u> (Rider 17 y/o and under) Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over		<u>RIDDEN CHAMPIONSHIP (15)</u> All 1st prize winners from classes 65 to 75 are eligible to compete. Champion & Reserve Champion eligible to compete for overall <i>Supreme Champion</i> of the show.
68	<u>SENIOR RIDER</u> (Rider 17 y/o and over) Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over	75	
	Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over		
69	Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over		
70	Stallion, Mare and Gelding 4 y/o and over		

PART 2 – GRADING RULES

12. 5-STAR GRADING

TCR 5-Star grading is a show quality and show turnout and handling grading

TCR 5-STAR GRADING RESULT		
STAR 1 	TURNOUT & HANDLING (Points 01 to 02 on TCR 5-Star Grading Sheet) The exhibitor's turnout will be scored as well as how well the exhibit behaves and shows for the exhibitor.	STAR 1 AWARD YES / NO
STAR 2 	CONDITION & PRESENTATION (Points 03 to 04 on TCR 5-Star Grading Sheet) 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 1 AWARD YES / NO
STAR 3 	BREED TYPE (Points 05 to 08 on TCR 5-Star Grading Sheet) The exhibit will be scored on how well it conforms to its breed standard – i.e. on how it represents its breed.	STAR 1 AWARD YES / NO
STAR 4 	CONFORMATION (Points 09 to 20 on TCR 5-Star Grading Sheet) The exhibit will be scored on its conformation how well it conforms to its breed standard. The exhibit will lose points for conformation faults.	STAR 1 AWARD YES / NO
STAR 5 	MOVEMENT (Points 21 to 22 on TCR 5-Star Grading Sheet) 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	STAR 1 AWARD YES / NO
	GRADING RESULT:	NUMBER OF STARS
PLACE:	DATE:	
TO BE COMPLETED AFTER TCR 5-STAR GRADING SHEET HAS BEEN COMPLETED		

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. PREMIUM GRADING (GRADING BY PROGENY)

TCR Premium Grading is a breeding status grading

Because TCR Premium grading is a breeding status grading, a TCR Premium grading can only be achieved if proven to have produced TCR 5-Star graded (show quality) 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. Because TCR Premium grading is a 'grading by progeny', a TCR-registered stallion or mare does not have to be graded in order to achieve a TCR Premium grading.

16. BREED STANDARDS

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.

HISTORY OF THE IRISH COB



The original ('1990s') Irish Cob (aka Traditional Irish Cob)

The original Irish Cob was 14.2hh and over

The Irish Farmer Cob (the Irish Cob foundation cob)

Before World War I, cobs (horses from 14.2hh of cob type) were bred in Ireland by Irish farmers as working cobs (for field/agricultural work and carriage work) and as riding cobs (including for hunting). The Connemara Pony and Irish Draught Horse contributed significantly to breeding the Irish Farmer Cob. It is because the Connemara Pony and Irish Draught Horse are not just Irish native breeds, but are also performance (sport) breeds, that the Irish Farmer Cob was an athletic cob with a good riding cob shoulder.

It is said that a number of Spanish Armada ships wrecked along Ireland's west coast were carrying Andalusian Horses that escaped and bred with the native ponies and horses to produce the elegant and athletic Connemara Pony. Historical records show that during the 1588 Spanish Armada, multiple ships wrecked along Ireland's west coast, particularly during the "Great Gale" of September 1588. Notable examples include three ships—La Juliana, La Lavia, and Santa Maria de Visón—that were wrecked at Streedagh Beach in County Sligo, resulting in over 1,000 deaths. Other wrecks occurred in counties Clare and Donegal. It is also said that the Fell and Dales ponies from England may also have contributed to breeding the Irish Farmer Cob. The Irish Farmer Cob and Irish Farmer Cob crossed with the Clydesdale Horse from Scotland and the Shire Horse from England were also used in the cities of Ireland as work horses.

The Irish Cob

Irish Travellers used the Irish Farmer Cob crossed mainly with the heavier boned and feathered Clydesdale Horse from Scotland and Shire Horse from England to produce (create) the original Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob). However, it is the influence of the Irish Farmer Cob (with its Connemara Pony and Irish Draught Horse influence) that gave the original ('1990s') Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) its elegant and athletic 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 ('1990s') Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) a riding cob that can be driven.

Because the Irish Farmer Cob could also be coloured (piebald or skewbald) and because coloured horses were not wanted as army horses and because there was no market (demand) for the coloured the Irish Farmers Cob, most coloured cobs produced by Irish farmers were sold to Irish Travellers for little money. However, Irish Travellers used those coloured Irish Farmer Cobs as the foundation cob for the unique the Traditional Cob of Ireland (Irish Cob) that is predominately black and white (piebald) and that Irish Travellers therefore simply referred to as the 'Piebald'.

It is the athletic and versatile from 14.2hh all-purpose (ride and drive) original ('1990s') Irish Cob (Traditional Irish Cob) from Ireland, with its handsome straight head and riding cob structure, that from 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 Ridden Cob showing classes in Ireland and England.

Even though the Irish Cob is a draught horse, what makes the Irish Cob unique as a draught horse is that it has a riding cob structure (the dimensions and proportions attributed to the riding cob including a good riding cob shoulder and chest and straight hocks). The Irish Draught Horse is also unique as a draught horse because it has a riding horse structure (the dimensions and proportions attributed to the riding horse including a good riding horse shoulder and chest and straight hocks). It is Ireland's draught horses, that are also 'light of their feet' riding horses, that has made Ireland renowned worldwide for producing unique leisure and sport horses.

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 – under 155cms (not exceeding 15.2 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 cob structure and therefore 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.

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.

HISTORY OF THE GYPSY COB



The Gypsy Cob (aka the Traditional Gypsy Cob)

The Gypsy Cob is typically, 13.2hh to 15.2hh

The Mini Cob/Mini Gypsy Cob is 13hh and under

The Gypsy Cob was developed in England/the UK by Romany people/Roma (who were historically referred to as Gypsies) by selectively breeding Ireland's Irish Cob to maximise the stockiness and heavy bone and feather of the Irish Cob, to reduce the height of the Irish Cob, and to add driving cob characteristics attributed to the Welsh Cob – including a more driving cob type shoulder, withers and chest and a sweeter 'Welsh type' head.

NOTE: Although the Irish Cob and the Gypsy Cob share the same unique Traditional Cob breed characteristics – a powerful compact build with ample muscle and bone, large joints and an abundance of leg hair/feathering and a luxuriant mane and tail capable of growing to a substantial length – the differences between the two Traditional Cob breed types are size and structure. Whereas the Irish Cob is a bigger riding cob that can be driven, the Gypsy Cob is a smaller driving cob that can be ridden.

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.

PART 3 – MEMBERSHIP

17. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is optional for TCR registration and TCR showing purposes

17.1. MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

LEVEL A – TCR Registry & Show Club Member (€50)

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

LEVEL B – TCR Registry Member (€30)

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

LEVEL C – TCR Show Club Member (€30)

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

17.2. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

All TCR members (Registry & Show Club) can:

- Attend and contribute suggestions and TCR member 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 on TCR website.

17.3. 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 in 14 days of receipt of notification of cancellation. After 14 days all fees are non-refundable.

17.4. MEMBERSHIP 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).

17.5. 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.

17.6. 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.

PART 4 – JUDGES

18. EXPERIENCED JUDGE'S APPLICATION

The TCR Judges Application is intended for use by judges with sufficient knowledge and/or experience to judge at least one of the breeds or types registered by TCR.

IC	Irish Cob
GC	Gypsy Cob
PB	Part Bred Traditional Cob
TD	Tradian (Irish Cob x Friesian)
SC	Stepping Cob
DH	Drum Horse and Classic Drum Horse

A TCR judge is a member of the TCR judges panel for the year in which they submitted their TCR Judges Application.

18.1. JUDGE LEVELS

LEVEL 1+ – Grading judge as well as in-hand and ridden show judge. May also be a driving show judge.

LEVEL 1 – In-hand and ridden show judge. May also be a driving show judge.

LEVEL 2 – In-hand show judge only. May also be a driving show judge.

LEVEL 3 – Ridden show judge only. May also be a driving show judge.

18.2. TRAINEE JUDGE'S APPLICATION

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 stewards 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.

18.3. 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 or owners immediately before or at any time during the show.
- Not consult the catalogue at any time before or during the show.

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

18.4. NON-DISCRIMINATION

A judge who is already on the judges panel of another organisation can also apply to be on the TCR judges panel. However, because TCR is a Traditional Cob (Irish Cob and Gypsy Cob) registry, if a judge who is already on the judges panel of another Traditional Cob (Irish Cob or Gypsy Cob) registry applies to also be on the TCR judges panel, and after consideration TCR takes the view that accepting that judge also on the TCR judges panel could cause a conflict of interest, TCR would reserve its right to refuse that judge's application to also be on the TCR judges panel.

PART 5 – ANIMAL WELFARE

19. LEGISLATION

19.1. IRELAND

TCR is based in Ireland, where animal welfare is primarily governed by the [Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013](#), which places a duty on owners to protect the welfare of their animals and prohibits cruelty and abandonment. If the organiser of a show or fair in Ireland is concerned about the possibility of animal welfare issues occurring at the show or fair, then they can request to have animal welfare officers attend the show or fair because they have the power to enforce the animal welfare act should animal welfare issues occur. Although TCR does not have animal welfare officers at any of its shows, if abuse or cruelty of an exhibit (and therefore breach of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013) is apparent in the show ring, then the TCR judge is legally entitled to ask the exhibitor to leave the show ring with the exhibit.

19.2. THE 20% RULE

How much weight a horse or pony can carry without it being considered cruelty or abuse is currently not governed by the animal welfare acts (legislation) of any country. For this reason, these TCR Showing & Grading Rules do not include (provide for) application of the 20% rule because it is not governed by any law. However, where a TCR judge considers that a rider in a TCR ridden class is too heavy for the horse or pony they are riding, then the TCR judge has the right to apply the 20% rule AT THEIR OWN RISK – i.e. to risk the possibility that the rider may be aggrieved because there is no law that would prevent them from riding that horse or pony in a ridden class and therefore possibly take action against them for discrimination and/or humiliation etc.