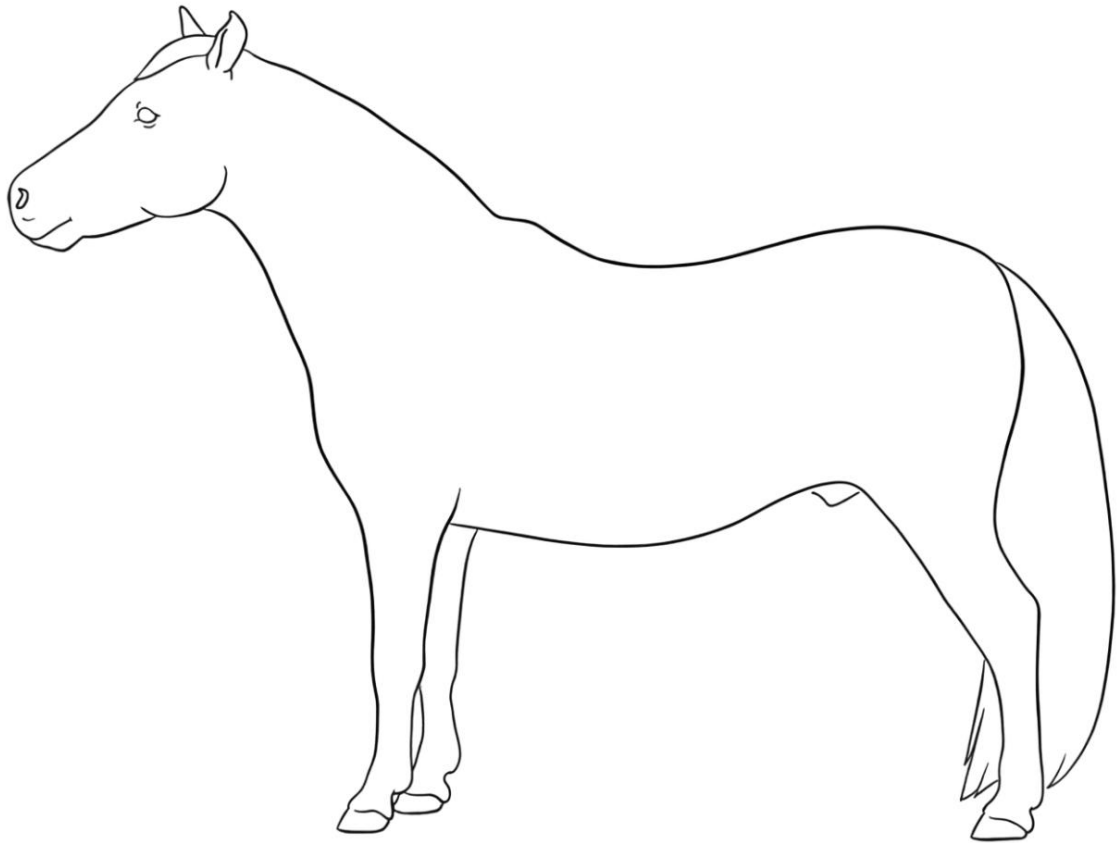


## WESTERN TYPE HORSE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AND HALTER GUIDELINES



**HEIGHTS FOR AGE:** Refer to MHF Miniature Horse, Small Horse and Little Horse height for age guidelines.

**STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE** – The Western Type Horse is a heavier-boned horse than “Open” class exhibits. The following characteristics are desirable in the Western Type Horse

**BALANCE;** Head, neck, forequarters, barrel and hind quarters correctly proportioned and symmetrical with all component parts blending smoothly together resulting in overall balance, style and beauty giving grace and freedom of movement.

**HEAD:** to be in proportion to the body. a. Ears - well shaped and in proportion to head. b. Forehead -flat not domed. c. Muzzle - small with full and sensitive nostrils. d. Eyes - large, wide-set and reflect intelligence and placid disposition. One or two blue eyes acceptable. e. Jaw – well developed with jawbone open under the throat joining the neck with flowing curve. f. Teeth – must have contact between the upper and lower central incisors.

**NECK:** sufficient length and flexibility to be well balanced and give good manoeuvrability. The neck blends well into sloping shoulders and the throat latch is trim and flexible.

**Shoulders:** long and set at an angle of about 45 degrees. Smooth and relatively well muscled. The slope of the shoulder blends into the withers.

**Barrel-Back:** short and close coupled in proportion to the neck and leg length. **Girth:** deep with plenty of heart room and well-sprung ribs.

**Hind Quarters:** should be broad, deep and muscled so that they are full at the thigh, stifle and gaskin and down to the hock: Hind quarters should give the impression of strength and correctness with strong impulsion.

**Rump:** long and sloping gently from hip to tail. **Legs:** the legs are strong and correct when viewed from the front rear cannons and pasterns are straight.

**Temperament:** Intelligent and gentle.

**Movement:** square and true with balanced, flowing movement covering the ground effortlessly with front legs moving from the shoulder with an obvious lengthening stride. High Knee action to be seen as a fault.

**Colours:** all colours and patterns acceptable.

**Halter:** In halter classes the Western Type horse will be presented calmly standing squarely with the head in a natural alert position without stretching legs or over stretching neck. Handlers can use the Quarter Method if desired or standing slightly off to the near side at the front of the horse.

**Workout:** requires a medium working trot showing free flowing movement.

**Western Type Tack:** Horses will be shown in a western or similar to western halters, leads may have chains, but chains may only go under the chin and not over the nose or in the mouth. Razoring muzzles or around eyes is not permitted in western classes. Muzzles and around eyes may be clipped with clippers but not down to bare skin. Eye lashes must not be cut off or trimmed. Body clipping is permitted. Pulled overcut or undercut manes are acceptable. Manes should be natural looking and of moderate length. Tails should be off the ground.

At a show, apart from open performance classes or combined novice classes, Western type horses are not permitted in the open classes and horses entering open classes are not permitted in the Western Type classes.

**Dress Code:** Western attire is preferred but not mandatory. Current rules for the dress code in MHF halter rules are also acceptable.