



Percheron Telersgenootskap van SA Percheron Breeders Society of SA

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PERCHERON BREED STANDARD

Percherons are preferred for their size, weight, attractiveness, quick and naturally solid speed, alertness, strength and docile behaviour patterns.

Percherons are the best-balanced breed of the larger breeds and can perform any kind of work on the farm due to their sturdiness, capability, strength and easy pace. In fact, it is their outstanding adaptability that makes them the most popular horse for farming purposes.

SECTION A: GENERAL APPEARANCE

The Percherons' ideal height should be 16 to 16.2 hands and must give the impression of weight and strength. It should be well balanced, with an adequately developed bone structure. He should move comfortably with his head lifted high and should be easy to handle. His weight should be more between 900–1200 kg. If the Percheron is used correctly, he is easy to handle, a willing worker and is pleasing to the eye.

1. Colour

Percherons are usually blue-grey or black with a possibility of brown, bay and chestnut within. Grey and black are more preferable. Spots of different shapes and sizes are found. White is often found on the knucklebone and knuckle joint, but too much white is not desirable.

2. Head

This should be medium-sized, relatively long and be wide between the eyes. It should have fine lineaments, with intelligent and lively expressions. Eyes must be big and prominent; ears medium-sized and straight up. The jaw bone must be clearly outlined.

3. Neck

This should be medium-long, fine cut, and nicely attached to shoulders.

4. Shoulders

These should be long and have decline angles of approximately 45 degrees, which enable the horse to carry his neck and head graciously.

5. Breast

This should be broad and deep with well-placed forelegs.

6. Back

This should be short and straight, with ribs strong and broad, over the loins and deep flanks. The middle should be broad.

7. Hindquarters

The croup must be long, more or less straight and well-muscled. Seen from the back, the horse must be as wide over the flanks as over the hips. The thigh and gaskin must be heavily muscled.

8. Legs

Front legs: Forearms should be well muscled.

Knee: Must be broad and deep. The long bone (tubular bone) should be short, clean and well developed. The sinew should be strong and clearly observable.

Knuckle-jaw: Front to back must be wide and the knucklebone should be fairly long with an angle of 45 degrees to allow freedom of movement.

Knucklebone: Must be clean of ringbone and splints.

Feet: Should be large with openings at the hocks.

Back legs:

- From the back, the hocks must be fairly wide apart.
- Sideways, should be straight from the hock to the knuckle bone. The hocks must be big, but not rough. The long bone should be flat and wide to show good quality.

SECTION B: MOVEMENT

The horse should move straight while walking or jogging. The walk is very important as it is the pace with which the horse moves as it executes its work. The pace must be long and the feet must be lifted briskly. The hocks are close to each other when walking or jogging.