



Percheron Telersgenootskap van SA Percheron Breeders Society of SA

PO BOX 1209
MOOINOOI, 0325

Telephone/Telefoon: +27 83 455 6966
E-Mail/E-pos: sapercheron@gmail.com



Showing Guide *for* Percherons in South Africa

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Soci t  Hippique Percheronne de France for granting us permission to use text and photographs from 'Guide de Jugement/ Guide to Judging Percheron Horses'.

  The Percheron Breeders Society of South Africa, 2021
PO BOX 1209
Mooiwool, 0325
Telephone: +27 83 455 6966
E-Mail: sapercheron@gmail.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or held within any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Cover photo no. 1836   Jean Leo Dugast
Typeset in 11 on 16pt FS Albert by IO Publishing CC

Content

1. Showing a Horse	_____	
• 1: Grooming		1
• 2: Halters and snaffles		1
• 3: Standing position: the Model		2
• 4: Moving: gaits		2
• 5: Breeder's dress		4
• 6: Notation scale		5
2. Percherons, a comparison	_____	6

1. Showing a Horse

1. Grooming

The standard presentation for the Percheron breed calls for following the traditional rules, some of which are specific to the breed.



- The mane is braided along the top or on the side with colour wool (avoiding 'fluorescent' colours)
- The tail is braided with wool (avoiding 'fluorescent' colours)
- The forelock can be shaved or simply tucked under the halter
- The feet are groomed or shod and can be covered with black or beige polish
- Chin hairs and hairs in the ears are clipped
- The horse is shown in a healthy condition, neither too thin nor too fat.



NOTE TO JUDGES

The presentation can be penalised in the grid after calculating the final score. In particular, dirty horses and horses with shaved manes shall be penalised. Showers not wearing the proper dress may be called to order.

2. Halters and Snaffles

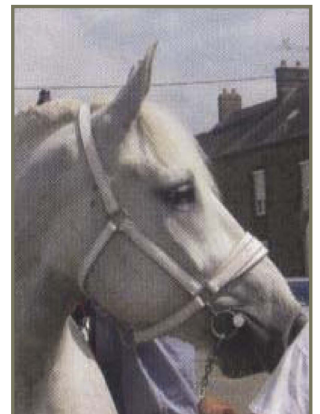
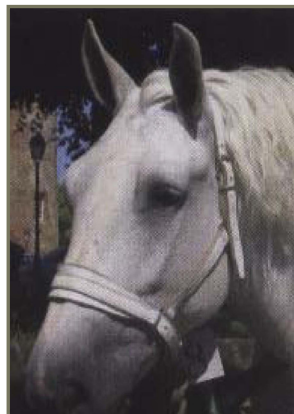
There are various types of halters and snaffles for showing horses.

Hard, Chifney-type bits should be avoided for young horses. This type of bit, as well as straight bits are reserved for adults and stallions in particular.

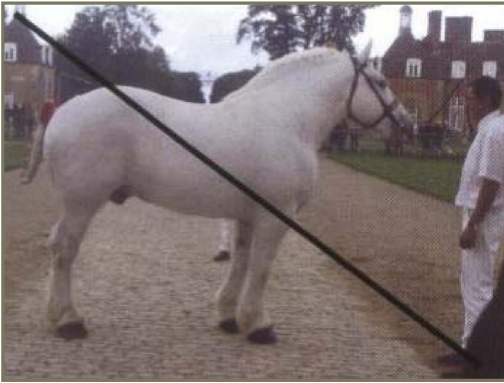
Colts or fillies are shown as early as possible with halter adjusted to their head size. Yearlings can be shown haltered. 2-year-olds and older are shown with show halter and snaffle.

The straps are adjusted (check the length of the vertical straps and the size of the bit). Butterfly and Liverpool driving bits are to be proscribed, with jointed or straight being preferred. Disks are prohibited.

Show halters with the lead line attached at the bottom of the right vertical strap and passed through the bottom of the left strap are preferred: they allow for exerting control on the lower part of the horse's head and nose and not just on the lower part of its mouth.



3. Standing Position: The Model



The horse must be positioned at ten meters(33 feet) from the judges, standing on all four feet and with all four legs visible (from the side, the rear and front legs on the side facing the judged) in the “open” position.

The horse must be expressive, the neck drawn fully up to show its length and arch. There should be no tugging on the bit or the horse’s mouth with the lead line to make the horse raise its head unnaturally high. An assistant may stand in front of the horse to attract its attention.



NOTE TO JUDGES

It is important to ask the breeder to place his/her horse correctly if the horse has not been properly placed. It generally determines the bearing of the horse and thus the overall impression.

4. Moving: Gaits



The horse is shown walking and trotting. Generally, going and coming back at a walk and going and coming back at a trot are required, but it can be reduced to a simple going at a walk and coming back at a trot. A triangular path can also be required which allows for a better view of the horse’s engagement and movement at a trot.

The is at the horse’s left and looks straight ahead, slightly slackening the lead line to allow a natural balance of the horses neck. An assistant can encourage the horse to walk.

NOTE TO JUDGES

In case of doubt, the judges have the right to ask to see the horse in action again as many times as necessary, and to demand another shower if that is deemed help full.



Place them end to end

After each horse in the class has been moved at the walk and trot, the judge should have the horses stand end to end with heads facing in the same direction in order to compare all animals from the side view. Judging of Percherons can never be done satisfactorily unless the judge stands the animals in this manner. Such a method not only helps the judge do a better job, but it also helps the spectators follow the judge's work with a greater degree of intelligence. When the horses stand side by side and close together, the judge cannot compare them properly, and those who look on cannot tell how good a job the judge is doing. Almost everyone at the ringside likes to place the horses in his own mind. If those about the ring agree for the most part with the man who is tying the ribbons, the Percheron show is more valuable from an educational standpoint. If it is easier for the spectators to approve of the way the ribbons are tied, they think the work is well done. Spectators should not be too ready to criticise the judging until they have examined the animal closely.

Sometimes, as the final step before making the awards, it is a good plan, when there are a number of horses in a class, to walk them in a circle after they have been judged individually. It is a good habit in making placings, for judges to arrange the animals according to their rank, from left to right, as he stands behind them.

Make two groups

The first thing that a judge should do after he has looked over each horse carefully is to group the heavy-boned, thick-made, deep bodied, short-backed, low-set, up-headed, good-moving horses at the head of the ring preparatory to picking the top prize winners out of this group. He should sort out the tall, light-boned, long-backed, shallow-bodied Percherons and group them at the foot of the ring. These tall, shallow-bodied Percherons are penalised severely these days by the best Percheron judges. The final shifting for the award should not take long when the good, deep-bodied horses have been grouped together.

Give a good impression

It is a serious mistake for a judge to stand in one position for fifteen or twenty minutes or more, looking at two or three horses, trying to make up his mind as to how to place them. If it must take that long, a judge should at least walk around the horses three or four times and move the animals again to compare their action. Spectators lose confidence in a judge who stands in one position too long, or who continues to walk around and around the animals as some do when they have trouble making decisions. Long delays give the impression that a judge does not know what he is looking for, and sometimes that is true. A judge can wear himself out by doing an undue amount of walking, especially on a hot day, with the result that toward the end of the day his mind does not function accurately. This is the reason a judge needs to watch his physical condition carefully if he is judging a big show. If he allows himself to become physically exhausted by noontime, his placings for the rest of the day will not be very satisfactory. A good night's rest should precede the day of judging, his digestive system should be in good working order, and during the hot weather especially, he should be careful not to walk too much while in the ring. He should make an effort to get some rest if possible at noontime and to eat a moderate amount of food.

Inspect the feet

Before tying a final inspection, if the decision is at all close, it is usually a good practice to inspect the front feet of the two top horses by lifting them to see how they are shod, and to note the condition of the frog of the foot. If the animal has a narrow contracted heel, very little frog, and some evidence of thrush, such an animal is not equipped with the kind of foot to carry him about his work in the most satisfactory manner. Thrush is a disease caused due to carelessness. Failure to clean the horse's feet regularly is likely to permit thrush to start. It is a disease of the foot characterised by a softening of the tissues in the cleft of the frog or is the junction between the frog and the bars. It has a very pungent, acrid odour and causes lameness.

Worst faults

The worst faults in a draft horse that a judge should see at a glance are crooked hocks, long legs, a long back, a shorter back rib, a bad gait at the walk, poor, crooked feet, rough shoulders, and faulty wind.

Lesser faults are too light-boned, short, upright pasterns, over on the knees, prominent shoulders, slope of shoulder too upright, too masculine a head in a mare or too feminine a head in a stallion, a short head, a head carried to low, a small eye, ears that are coarse or that hang outward, a dish face, an overly heavy jaw, a thick throatlatch, an overly heavy neck, a sagging back, short droopy croup, legs that stand too wide apart or too close together, hocks too straight, a poor gait at the trot, and a nervous disposition.

Explain decisions

The last question in the judge's mind before he indicates how he wants the ribbons tied should be, "Have I shown the exhibitors and other horsemen who watched my work that that I have decided preferences for the low-down, thick-made, short-backed, strongly-muscled, heavy-boned, up-headed, good-going Percheron with plenty of quality?" If horses of that type are scarce at a show and if a judge has the opportunity, he should explain his placings to the ringside spectators and tell them about the kind of horse he likes. If he does not have several excellent specimens at the show to illustrate the ideal type Percheron, such an explanation is all the more necessary. Many judges are lax in making oral explanations. If judges would defend their decision they would improve their reputations as successful judges. Such explanations would also be most beneficial to exhibitors and other interested horsemen who have an opportunity to watch the judging closely. Sometimes in shows it is not always possible to explain decisions. In large shows there is usually not time enough between classes for a judge to give an explanation of his placings, but if asked for reasons, it should be obligatory on the part of the judge to give them.

5. Breeder's Dress

The breeder is always at the side of the horse wearing correct dress: no shorts, sandals, sleeveless tops.

For national competitions, classic show dress is composed of:

- a white shirt
- white trousers
- dark shoes (preferably)
- a tie (preferably red)
- an accepted outfit or suit.



6. Notation scale

10	=	Excellent
9	=	Very Good
8	=	Good
7	=	Pretty Good
6	=	Satisfactory
5	=	Sufficient
4	=	Insufficient
3	=	Not good
2	=	Bad
1	=	Very Bad
0	=	Nil

NOTE TO JUDGES

It is important to know how to apply all notation on the scale and not to hesitate to penalise faults and compensate qualities.

2. Percherons, a comparison

With reference to size, the Percheron is fully up to the requirements set by the drafter standard.

In size and weight, the Percheron ranks third among the leading draft breeds. The Shire and the Belgian are more draftees in their proportions and are heavier. The Clydesdale is fewer draftees and as a breed is smaller.

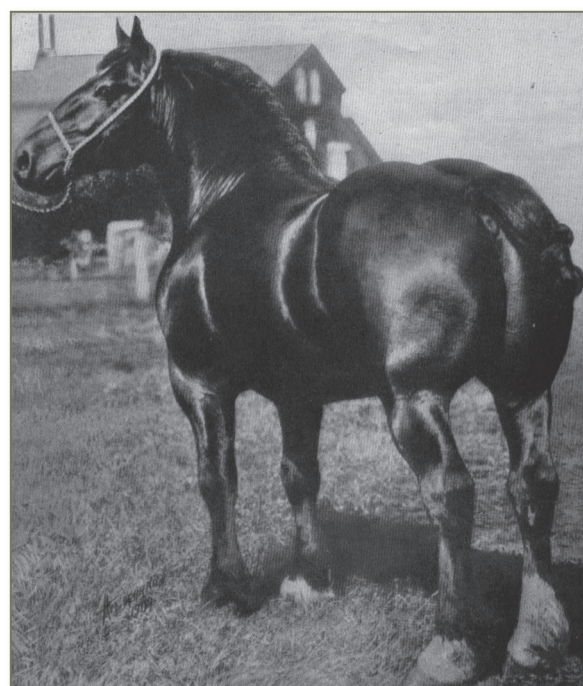
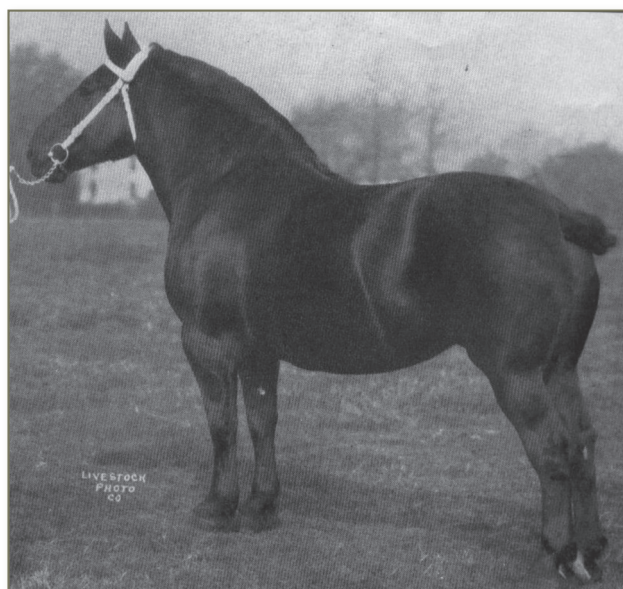
In conformation, Percherons as a breed have more length of neck and more range of body than the Belgians. Percherons as a breed are not so square-ended, compact, low-set, and deep-ribbed; nor are they as uniformly draftee as the Belgians. However, the most typical Percherons cannot be said to lack draftiness because they are too leggy, too light-waisted, and too light-quartered. As a breed, the Percheron shows cleaner-cut features in head and neck, has more finish, and is more stylish than many of the Belgians.

The Percheron and the Belgian are known as the clean-legged draft breeds, while the Shire and the Clyde are known as the feather-legged or hairy-legged breeds. The most popular colours for Percheron stallions and mares are grey or black. Chestnuts, bays, and roans appear, but these colours are undesirable. Spots of different shapes and sizes are found. White is often found on the knuckle-bone and knuckle joint, but too much white is not desirable.

The most popular Belgian cools are sorrel, chestnut, and roan. Bay and black are discriminated against, black more than bay.

The ideal type percheron stallion

Calypso 25017(44577) was a line bred Brilliant, a son of the noted Theudis and out of a daughter of Brilliant III. He was not of the largest type, stood about 16.3 hands high and weighed 1900 pounds in breeding condition. He was remarkable well proportioned, beautifully balanced throughout. His underpinning could not be surpassed, and his style, quality and action were hard to equal. Calypso was so unusually active that in a group of 50 horses coming over a plank runway, his hoof beats could be distinguished from all others.



The ideal type percheron mare

Carnona V 158285 was chosen as the ideal type Percheron mare. She is the short-backed, thick-bodied, deep-ribbed type. She is black, was bred by W.S Corsa of White Hall.