

# Heritage Horse Classes

## Judging Criteria

**GENERAL IMPRESSION** – An attractive horse where everything is proportionate and all parts tie in smoothly. All gaits are smooth and purposeful exhibiting natural athleticism. Horses are judged on balance, structural correctness and sex characteristics. Of these, balance is the most important.

**STANCE** - The New Zealand Miniature Horse Association's Heritage Horse normally stands at ease with his legs perpendicular to the ground and parallel with each other. The horse should exhibit a balanced stance and stand on the corners of his body, as opposed to being spread too far apart or crowded too close together or parked out.

**HEAD** - The head of a Heritage Horse reflects inquisitive intelligence. He has a short, broad head that is straight or slightly dished topped by small to medium ears hooked towards the center line at the tips; kind wide-set eyes; large nostrils; small muzzle, and firm mouth. A domed forehead is a fault.

**BITE** - When viewed from the side, the meeting point of the center incisor teeth should be equal and even. A deviation of no more than half the width of the tooth's surface is permissible without fault.

**NECK** - The head of the Heritage Horse joins the neck at a roughly 45-degree angle, with a slender throatlatch allowing him to move easily in any direction while maintaining his balance. The medium to long neck should be slightly arched and blend smoothly into sloping shoulders.

**SHOULDERS** - The Heritage Horse's short strong back is created by deep sloping shoulders tying in well back.

**CHEST AND FORELEGS** - As demonstrated by the heart girth and relatively wide-set forelegs, the NZMHA Heritage Horse is deep and broad in the chest. Smooth joints and short cannon bones are set on clean fetlocks and medium length pasterns are supported by healthy hooves. The forearm tapers to the knee, whether viewed from the front or back.

**BACK** - The short back of the Heritage Horse is full and strong across the loins. The barrel is formed by deep, well sprung ribs which extend to the hip joints. The underline, or abdominal area, should rise cleanly to the flank. The point of the croup should be no higher than the top of the withers. The tail is set off a long, rounded croup.

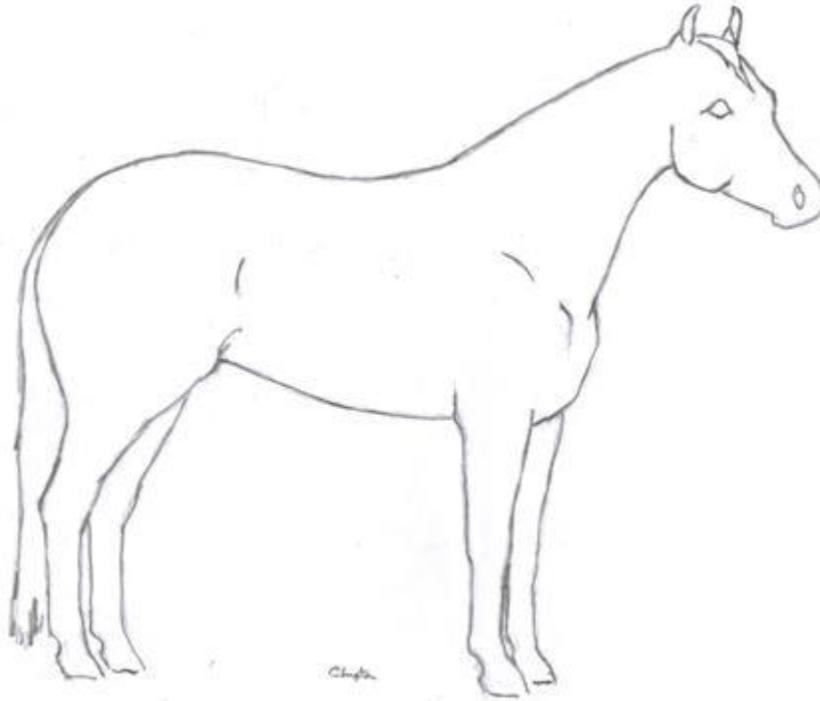
**HINDQUARTERS** - Viewed from either side or the rear, the hindquarters are broad, deep and adequately muscled through the thigh, stifle and gaskin down to the hock. When viewed from the rear, there is adequate width extending evenly from the top of the thigh to the gaskin. The hocks are wide set, deep and straight.

**BONES, LEGS AND HOOVES** - Flat, strong bones, smooth joints and proper angulations form a leg that is attractive and functional. The hooves are proportionate to overall conformation

**MUSCLING** -The Heritage Type Horse should have muscling adequate to function, but is not a heavily muscled breed. Overly heavy muscling is a fault.

**MOTION**- Heritage Type horses track straight and true with a ground covering motion. At all times they should appear confident, balanced and athletic. Excessive knee and/or hock action is a fault and will be penalized.

## Heritage Illustration



### **Heritage Classes**

Given the feedback from members about the need for a different “type” of class to encourage more members to show their horses, and the international trend of associations introducing ‘Heritage/stock type’ classes to their schedules, NZMHA has decided to introduce a trial set of Heritage classes to our National and Showcase 3 program.

We are aware there are mixed sentiments about this section; however Council wish to provide options for those saying they have nowhere for their horses to compete This potentially gives options to those clubs who may wish to offer alternate classes in future.

Members have the choice on whether they choose to enter these classes – they, like other specialty classes are offered in addition to our regular classes and have their own National Grand or Grand Champion award.

Classes will be offered in both Category A and Category B.

Members can enter the specialty classes in addition to the standard age classes.

We will be looking for feedback after the shows to see if the members like these classes and any areas to improve. The number of classes in the future will obviously depend on what is supported.

## **Standards & Style**

- Horses showing in Heritage classes are to be shown in a 'Natural' manner with the horse standing still, calm and square without overstretching the neck.
  - Shown in Stock type/western show halters.
  - Leads may have chains, but chains may only go under the chin and not over the nose or in the mouth.
  - Shaving or razoring of heads is allowed but will be penalized.
  - Clipping is permitted but not mandatory.
  - Pulled, overcut or undercut manes are acceptable.
  - Manes should be natural looking and of moderate length.
  - Tails should be off the ground.
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- Entering the heritage classes does not preclude the horse from entering the open classes.
  - Current rules for handler's dress will apply.
  - Standard Workout will apply